

# Revelation 3:14-22

## “The Lukewarm Church”

**Scripture:** Revelation 3:14-22

**Memory Verse:** Revelation 3:20: *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”*

**Lesson Focus:** This last letter may be both the most challenging and the most relevant to us today in the modern American church. Are we lukewarm and sickening to Jesus too? While we hope to make the kids a little uncomfortable with this challenge, we also hope they will see that despite our sin, Jesus stands ever ready to receive the repentant sinner.

**Activities and Crafts:** Jesus Knocking Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Activity for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders: Door Handle Sign

**Starter Activity:** Blind Drink Challenge

Consider starting off with some fun by getting a few of the kids to participate in some sort of blind drink challenge. We will provide you with several blindfolds that you can use. Below are a few options to consider:

- 1) Prepare several little Dixie cups with little portions of drinks that kids like (i.e. orange juice, milk, water, lemonade, fruit punch, etc.). Have kids take turns trying one of them and see if they can identify what it is.
- 2) Bring in two drinks that are very similar (i.e. Coke and Pepsi) and have the kids take turns trying one of each and let them tell you which one they like better. Also see if they can identify which is which.
- 3) To mix in something silly and fun, bring in something that does not taste very good and see if any kids are brave enough to try it. Make sure that you demonstrate drinking it to them first (don't ask the kids to do something you wouldn't do yourself!). \* Or consider saving this one for an object lesson for the lukewarm “drink” that Jesus spits out of His mouth (see below **Revelation 3:16**)!

**NOTE: Be aware of allergies with the above. Make sure kids who participate confirm they have no known allergies to what they are trying.**

Afterwards transition into the lesson by reminding the kids that in Revelation we have been studying these “Show and Tell” letters from Jesus, through John, to the seven churches. A few weeks ago, we acted out several of these letters, we looked at the “loveless” church last time, and now we are going to look at one last letter. In this letter, Jesus describes the church like something you drink! \*

## Bible Study:

**Revelation 3:14a:** This last letter is for a church in an ancient city called Laodicea. Of all of the seven churches that received letters from Jesus, this one may be the most like RMC. Why? Because like most churches in modern America, this church was very rich. \* (**Teachers:** Most kids probably don't think they are rich. Consider talking a little bit about how compared to the rest of the world, the average American has A LOT more wealth. See this [link](#) for a powerful visual. Also consider talking about the Compassion child in your room. We will provide you with quick bios of your Compassion kids. Mention how much money their families make compared to the average American. Stress that having wealth isn't necessarily a bad thing, but as we will see it became a problem for the Laodicean church and can be a problem for us too if we aren't careful) \*

**Revelation 3:14b:** Jesus describes Himself with a few more majestic titles. One was that He is the beginning or "source" of all creation. (**John 1:3**)

This means Jesus created YOU! Jesus is the God-Man Who was with the Father and the Holy Spirit before time began and created all things, including YOU! \*

**Revelation 3:15:** Like we have seen in the other letters, Jesus reminds them that as the all-knowing Son of God, He knows this church and these people inside and out! \* He then describes them like a drink that is neither cold nor hot.

Q: What are some really cold drinks that you love? (i.e. ice water or cold Gatorade after a hot day) Why do you love them? A: Because they bring refreshment! \*

Q: What are some hot drinks that you love? (i.e. hot chocolate or hot apple cider on a cold day) Why do you love them? A: Because they bring warmth and healing!

The cold drink (on a hot day) isn't very good when it gets warm and tepid. \* And the hot drink (on a cold day) isn't very good when it cools off and gets warm and tepid either, right?

This is why Jesus says that He wishes the people in this church were "cold or hot". \* Cold drinks/water bring refreshment. Hot drinks/water can bring healing. But lukewarm? See what Jesus says next!

**Revelation 3:16:** Jesus is so disgusted with them that He wants to spit them out of His mouth like you would a dirty, tepid, stale drink! \* (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in some kind of lukewarm and unpleasant drink for kids to try. Be sure you drink it first!)

While this may sound kind of funny, this is a very, very serious warning \* from Jesus to them. We need to understand that Jesus is VERY upset with this church.

Because, remember at the beginning we mentioned that among the seven churches in Revelation, this one may be the most like RMC? Yikes! We need to understand why He is so upset and whether He might be upset with us. The next verse tells us why.

**Revelation 3:17:** They are so rich and wealthy, that they have forgotten about Jesus! They think that because they are rich, they don't need anything else, including Him! And they don't even know it!!! This is why Jesus was so sickened with them!

Jesus said in **Luke 12:34**, "*where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.*" What He means is that what you treasure most controls everything about you. Jesus also said in **Luke 16:13**, "*no servant can serve two masters...you cannot serve both God and wealth.*" One will win. It seems like in Laodicea, they had chosen wealth over Jesus. \*

**Revelation 3:18: Even despite how sickened Jesus was by their sin,** He was still willing to give them what they actually needed. \*

Q: What do you think these white garments are? A: They represent purity and covering of sin. They think that all is well because of their riches, but God sees their sin. You cannot buy forgiveness and salvation with money. Only through faith in Jesus can you get these white garments!

**Revelation 3:19: Even despite how sickened Jesus was by their sin,** He reached out to them in LOVE. Many times, the most LOVING thing to do is to bring correction.

Many of you might have a 2-year old bro or sis. Let's say your little bro/sis has a biting problem. Q: What do you think is more LOVING: To let him continue biting other kids or to bring correction? A: LOVING parents will teach your bro/sis that this is not OK! \*

**Revelation 3:20: Even despite how sickened Jesus was by their sin,** He remained willing to receive them back, if they would only repent (v. 19) and welcome Him in!

Q: How many of you have your own room? \* Who are some people that you would invite into your room? A: Friends, cousins, grandparents (and **maybe even** your little bro/sis!). By knocking they indicate they want to be with you, and when you let them in, you indicate you want them to be with you too. As this verse says, this is very much like what happens when we respond to Jesus's knocking and welcome Him into our lives!

**Revelation 3:21: Even despite how sickened Jesus was by their sin,** He even invites them to come over into His room (the throne room of the Almighty)! WOW!

**Revelation 3:22:** Here is that challenge that we've seen before repeated one more time. We all need to hear what the Spirit is saying to us at RMC today.

**Key Point:** We talked about letting people into our rooms. Would you let Jesus into your room? I think most of you would say, yes! But what if Jesus came in and said, "***I need to do some cleaning!***" Remember, He is the Son of God, the Almighty Creator! \*

**Even despite how sickened Jesus may be by your sin,** Jesus wants you. He is knocking and wants to come in and be your King. But He also wants you to surrender. Are you ready to surrender to Him today?

# Bring It Home

Download at: <https://rncalvary.org/volunteering/childrens-ministry/family-resources/>

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**Teachers/Parents:** Since Jesus referred to the Laodicean church as a drink, we thought it would be fun to get our lesson started with a blind drink challenge. Ask your kid if they remember what some of the drink challenges were. Can you think of a drink that you had that was so bad that you actually spit it out? 😊

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **Revelation 3:16**. This is perhaps the strongest rebuke Jesus has given among all of the seven churches in Revelation. What do you think it looks like to have a “lukewarm” faith?
- 2) Read **Revelation 3:17**. What is at the heart of the problem of the Laodicean church? See **Jeremiah 2:13** and **Hosea 13:6** for other examples.
- 3) In class, we talked about how among the seven churches in Revelation, the modern American church may be more like Laodicea than any other. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- 4) In **Revelation 3:19**, who does Jesus say He rebukes or corrects? Read **Proverbs 3:11-12**. How does “loving” correction look different from “unloving” correction?
- 5) Read **Revelation 3:20**. This verse beautifully paints the picture of Jesus wooing His way into the hearts of men. Have you welcomed Jesus in? If so, share with one another how Jesus came into your life.
- 6) Read **Revelation 3:21**. Despite how sickened Jesus was with the church at Laodicea, what is He still graciously offering?
- 7) Jesus described the church of Laodicea as a “lukewarm” church. What can you do to help RMC not be such a church?