**Calibrate: Thyatira**

**Leader Guide**

**Breaking the Ice**

1. What is something you did for fun this past week?
2. What is a ‘guilty pleasure’ that you have? Some examples of ‘guilty pleasures’ may be watching a particular tv show, eating ice cream every night, or shopping on QVC too often.

**Getting Started**

1. Read Revelation 2:20. When is toleration appropriate? When does it interfere with the Christian faith?

Tolerating sin, deceit, misleading others, etc. will always interfere with the Christian faith. This does not mean that Christians should silo themselves off from the rest of society, but it does mean that we have a different standard for what is true and good.

The tolerating that is indicated in verse 20 shows that the church in Thyatira was likely a model church from the outside. But on the inside, they were allowing corruption to exist.

1. Read Revelation 2:21. What does this say about Jesus’ character?

Jesus is merciful and gives lots of grace.

1. Read Revelation 2:22-23. What does this say about Jesus’ judgement over those who commit to the ways of Jezebel?

‘Cast her on a bed of suffering’ - some versions say ‘sickbed’. It could simply be an image of affliction, or it could be literal sickness that Jesus allowed in the lives of Jezebel and her followers as chastisement. This may also speak to the natural consequence of sexual promiscuity which is disease.

‘Strike her children dead’ - Likely referring to those that follow in her ways.

**Digging Deeper**

1. Jezebel is likely a title more than a name. For example, if someone were to call someone else a ‘Judas’, we would all understand they are calling the person disloyal. What are the identifying traits of a Jezebel?

It seems to be an influential person who is leading many astray in Thyatira that Jesus refers to as ‘Jezebel.’ It’s likely this is not her actual name, but a title. If someone called someone a ‘Judas’ or a ‘Hitler’, we would all know what they mean and realize this was the equivalent of calling someone disloyal or evil.

Jezebel was accused of leading people astray, toward sexual immorality and worshipping idols.

1. The group that was tolerating (and even following) the ways of Jezebel was not necessarily a large group. Read Revelation 2:24-25. What does Jesus tell them to do? Do you think it’s fair that the reputation of Thyatira was tainted by a few? Why or why not?
2. Read Mark 9:42 and Revelation 2:22-23. How do these two passages relate to one another? What do you notice about the character of Jesus?

Jesus gives a stark warning to someone who would lead his children astray in Mark 9:42 and then holds true to his word in his judgement of ‘Jezebel’ in the church of Thyatira.

**Bringing It Home**

1. What are some areas of your life that you are tolerating; what effect is it having on your relationship with Jesus?
2. Jesus’ judgement may seem harsh in this letter, and yet his grace is also communicated throughout. How do you reconcile this picture of Christ’s judgement with his grace and mercy? Do you think that Christians have lost sight of what it means to be holy because of a focus on God’s mercy? Discuss what a healthy balance of righteousness and grace looks like in Christian living.