

Homework

Revive: First Love

Spring 2026 | Week 5

Message Date 5/3/2026

MY STORY

- 1) What's a hobby, fad, or food obsession you went ALL IN on at the beginning – and then completely lost interest in within a few weeks?
- 2) You have to plan a picnic for 20 people using only items currently in your kitchen right now. What are you bringing, or making?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Read Revelation 2:1–7 (NLT)

¹Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands:

²I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars.

³You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.

⁴But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first!

⁵Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

⁶But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do.

⁷Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God.

- 4) Jesus introduces Himself as the One holding the seven stars in His right hand and walking among the seven gold lampstands. What does this picture of His active presence tell us about how He sees His Church right now?
- 5) Jesus commends the Ephesians for hard work, patient endurance, and doctrinal discernment — yet still tells them, “You don't love me or each other as you did at first.” How is it possible to be doing all the right things on the outside and still have lost your first love?
- 6) Jesus' remedy is straightforward: “Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.” What do remembering, repenting, and returning practically look like for someone whose love has cooled toward God or toward people?
- 7) Indifference rarely shows up as one big moment — it shows up as small drift. Where do you see indifference creeping into the lives of believers today, and where might it be quietly creeping into yours?

Read Psalm 51:1-17 (NLT)

“Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. For I was born a sinner — yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me — now let me rejoice. Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you. You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.”

- 8) When David finally came to his senses, he didn't try to defend himself, blame anyone, or manage his image. What does his prayer teach us about what real repentance actually looks like?

- 9) David asks God to “restore to me the joy of your salvation.” What's the connection between honest repentance and the return of joy in our walk with God?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

- 1) Where in your life is indifference quietly winning right now — with God, with a person close to you, or with the church? What would the very first small step of “turning back” look like this week?
- 2) Take a few minutes alone with God and ask the Holy Spirit, “What about my first love am I missing right now?” Sit quietly, long enough to actually hear an answer, and write down what comes to mind.
- 3) Pray Psalm 51:10-12 over yourself every day this week as a personal prayer of return, rather than a one-time ask. Watch what God does with a heart that keeps coming back.