



OPENING NEW DOORS

12 weeks of prayer

WEEK 3

*an open
door*

*no one
can shut*



INTRODUCTION

Week three focusses on a promise Jesus gave to the church in Philadelphia. Jesus wrote seven letters to seven churches, and Philadelphia was one of them. They were a church that had little strength left after facing many trials and constant opposition. It may have felt like they were pushing against doors to a future that wasn't opening up for them. They were a good church, they loved Jesus and stayed true to him for a long time. But it was hard going.

READ REVELATION 3:7-13

Unlike five of the seven churches Jesus wrote to, the church in Philadelphia were not corrected but only encouraged. God loved how they had stayed true to Jesus and persevered in his calling despite the difficulties they faced. It may have seemed that their opponents and discouragers were right, that they wouldn't last, but things were about to change radically for this church.

Jesus placed an open door before them, that no one could shut. What Jesus decrees can't be undone. A new era of massive opportunity was before them, and the former trials were going to diminish as a special reward for their faithfulness. Rather than being crushed, they would be immovable pillars in God's house. They would be vindicated in front of their enemies, and their influence would be far reaching and life changing.

This promise is for The Grove. The doors opening soon will lead us into a new season where we experience greater peace. Where Heaven's army stands guard around the city on a hill. The church will therefore be a refuge for all who enter. The Grove will also have opportunities for the gospel, like we only dreamed about. We need to be expectant, and enter the doors with full hearts from the encouragement of Jesus for us.

pray

- Spend time praising God for his faithfulness to his church at The Grove. Give thanks for all the people who have been part of the story and stayed true to Jesus.
 - Pray with faith about the open door Jesus has placed before us. May we see it and enter through, knowing his decree cannot be undone.
 - Pray that we would take the opportunities before us. That we would use all the Lord has given to us for the extension of his kingdom and spread of the gospel.
 - Pray that The Grove would be a refuge in our community. That all who step foot on the property, would experience the peace and presence of God in a powerful way.
 - Pray for those feeling they have little strength left. That they would be encouraged and know they are pillars in the Kingdom.
 - Pray for our children and teenagers. That all of them would be among those who know they belong to Jesus. Pray for the next generation in our local schools.
- Seek the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to show us how to use the building for his glory and for mission and ministry. May many receive words and ideas from God.
 - Pray that all the leaders we need for 2021 would hear and respond to God's call.

for kids and families

game

Get 3 plastic cups and a marble (or similar). Place the marble under one of the 3 cups that are lined up, and then move them around changing their positions for 20 seconds. See who can choose the cup the marble is under.

read

REVELATION 3:8

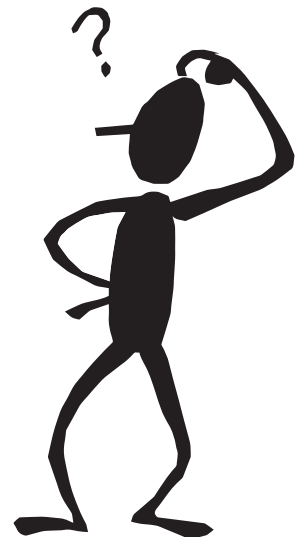
See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.

chat

We have a lot of choices to make in life. Some are small like what will I wear today? What brand of sandals will I buy? But other choices are much bigger. What sport will I choose? Who should I become good friends with? What does God want me to do when I grow up?

Q1. Talk about small and big choices you have to make. How do you know what to do? Are you afraid about making the wrong choice and why?

Sometimes, making decisions is like choosing which door among many to open. That can be hard. But we need to remember that Jesus has the best plans for our lives and he will always open the doors for us if we choose to follow him.



Jesus gave a promise to a church in Revelations 3:8 that he opened a door for them, and no one could shut it. The door led into a place where they would feel stronger, and where they would see more people come to believe in Jesus.



Q2. How does it make you feel that Jesus has really awesome plans for you? How can you recognize the doors he opens and the ones he doesn't? Talk about God's promise that no one can shut what he opens.

pray

Thank Jesus that he has good plans for our lives.

Pray that he would help us make good choices in life and choose his way.

Pray for each person to not be afraid about the future, but to trust Jesus to lead them.

prayer

This is a season to listen to God personally and as a church. If you receive something from the Lord for The Grove, please write it down and pass it to a pastor or church council member.

12 weeks of prayer

