CAMP VENTURE

Hey Pals,

Today we get to talk about the best letters of all—the ones from Jesus Himself! In each of the seven letters to the churches, Jesus gives an encouragement or a warning. My favorite letter from Jesus is to the church in Laodicea. He warned them to turn from being "lukewarm" in their actions. Jesus loves us so much that instead of being angry at us for our sins, He warns us to change our ways. He promises a reward in heaven to those who overcome and stay faithful to Him. Some of the rewards will be the crown of life, the white stone with a new secret name, and the morning star. He also mentions the right to rule over nations, to eat from the tree of life, to walk with God in white robes, or to sit with God on His throne. Which one of these rewards would you enjoy most? (Campers respond.)

Remove the scroll from the mailbag and read Revelation 3:20. What did Jesus promise to do if we open the door when He knocks? (He will come in.) He waits for us to invite Him into our hearts. That means choosing to believe in Jesus and to live His way every day instead of choosing to live our own way. If you have never invited Jesus to come into your heart, you can pray a special prayer to do that now. If you are not ready to pray that prayer, know that Jesus is always standing and knocking at the door. Whenever you are ready, you can invite Him to come into your heart. Remove the ABC Prayer postcards from the mailbag. If a camper expresses a desire to pray, lead him or her in repeating the prayer. Give a postcard to any camper who prayed the prayer today, has prayed it in the past, or would like to think about praying it in the future.

Anyone who prays a prayer like the ABC Prayer will have the Holy Spirit in his or her heart forever. But, sometimes believers get too focused on other things and forget to put Jesus first. When that happens, remember He is still standing and knocking at the door of your heart. Even after we belong to Him, it is important to keep inviting Him in to lead us in every choice we make, to forgive us, and to bring us closer to Him. Let's take 60 seconds of silence to do that now. If you don't want to pray, spend this quiet time thinking about who God is and what He has done.

Remember, Jesus is always with us. He is always ready to come into our hearts and our lives and bring us even closer to Him. Even after we have decided to follow Jesus and believe in Him, He continues to knock at the door of our hearts to be closer with us every day.

