



Session 8: LET THEM HEAR
Suggested Week of Use: July 26, 2015
Core Passages: Rev. 2:7,11,17,26-29; 3:5, 12,21

News Story Summary

According to a July 9, 2015 article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (online), a recent graduate from London's Royal College of Art (RCA) has designed a set of headphones that allow cyclists to listen to music without blocking out traffic noise. The Safe+Sound headphones clip to cycle helmet straps, transferring vibrations through the cyclist's cheekbones to the inner ear. Rather than blocking out environmental and traffic noise, and therefore reducing cyclists' awareness, the headphones merely add another layer of sound. The volume is not loud enough to mask the external noise, allowing the eardrum to pick up the sound of nearby vehicles and potential obstacles.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "Bone-conduction headphones help cyclists hear music")

Focus Attention

As the group arrives, conduct a quick survey of how many people prefer complete silence when they are working or studying, versus how many have music playing in the background. Expand the discussion to driving and exercising.

Share the news story summary and discuss why it would be important for runners or cyclists not to drown out the noises around them. Point out that in the letters to the seven churches that make up today's Bible passage, each letter contains the phrase, "Anyone who has an ear should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches." *The Message* translates this phrase poignantly: "Are your ears awake? Listen." Challenge the group to listen attentively to the promises given in the letters to the seven churches.

Challenge

Remind group members of the story about the special headphones for cyclists. Comment that just as cyclists need to be tuned in to the warning sounds around them, we need to be aware of the Holy Spirit's warnings as well as His encouragement. Ask: What is one thing you could do this week to help you hear the Spirit's voice better?