

2021 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

October 31

Pastor Aaron continues his series on the Book of Revelation. A book that can blow away so many of us and overwhelm just as many. In week 5 the Church of Sardis will be covered. Just as the other four churches they all represent many churches that have existed in similar conditions throughout history. The Title of this weeks message is: "Wake up and Walk."

Sardis

- Received the shortest message of all the 7 churches.
- The church was active and busy with activity.
- Commentators believe this was the biggest of the 7 churches.
- It was possibly the wealthiest of all the churches: jewelry found in local cemeteries, gold and silver first minted here.
- Claimed to have discovered how to dye wool.
- Located on cliffs 1,500 feet above the valley floor.
- A patron deity was believed to possess the power to restore the dead to life.

Community Prayer:

Gracious Father, we seek to draw closer to you today by reading, studying, meditating and applying your Word to our lives. As we study the Church of Sardis help us to see where we might find similarity, differences, and how we can learn more about ourselves and our relationship with you; in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Opening Questions

1. Have you ever felt you were more spiritually mature than your peers but discovered you were not?
 - a. How did the Lord correct you, and then use you more following His loving correction?

EXPLORATION

Read the passages below...what can you learn about what it means to follow Jesus from these passages? (Have someone read from their bible)

Revelation 3:1

7 Spirits of God = 7 is the number of completion and perfection, the real Spirit of God and all the fullness.

2. What does this say about the power of Jesus Christ?
3. What is the significance of describing Jesus in various ways?



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7 stars = the messengers (angels/pastors) (See Revelation 1:20)

4. Describe how you can be physically alive but spiritually dead as a follower of Jesus?
5. How does this person get a reputation for something he/she is not?
6. What does the phrase "Playing Church" mean to you?

Revelation 3:2

Wake up and be watchful

- Jesus is saying to Christians in the city of Sardis, that much like the citizens 600 years earlier, once again they are in danger of being asleep in the midst of danger.
7. Why is it important for you to wake up and be watchful as a follower of Jesus?
 8. Why is being lulled to passivity by comfort and ease so dangerous for you and your faith walk?
 - a. Have you ever recognized a season of your life where you had become passive in your faith?
 - b. What is the best antidote for this?

Strengthen What Remains

9. Why is it important for you to strengthen the good things you are doing on behalf of our Lord, even though you are still wrestling with obedience in other areas?

Unfinished

10. What are some things in your life that you feel are unfinished or incomplete? Why?
 - a. What do you need to do, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to bring them to completion?



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Revelation 3:3

Remember (Keep on remembering and don't forget)

11. What benefits do you receive by remembering how good God has been to you?
12. Why is it important for you to have selective memory and focus on God's power and not your past?

Hold it fast – Obey

13. How does your obedience to God show that you love Him?

****To persist in obedience. To obey, keep on keeping it****

Repent (Stop, Turn around, embrace what you know)

14. Have you ever had to repent for the same sin numerous times?
 - a. Why do you think you didn't stop and go in a different direction?

Revelation 3:4-6

15. Why is it important for you to stay faithful to God even when family and close friends are challenged by your relationship with God?

The reference to blotting out a person from the Book of Life is not a case for predestination or losing your salvation, but not presuming that you really belong to the community of faith just because you are close to the community yet choose to live in ways that oppose what it actually means to belong.

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THE TAKEAWAY

"The complacent church of Sardis, dying and almost dead, must recognize Jesus as the messianic king who has the life-giving Spirit of God, which they desperately need in order to live once again." ---- Jeffrey A.D. Weima (The Sermons to the Seven Churches of Revelation)

Wake up before it's too late!!

It is ALL about YOUR relationship with JESUS:

- NOT about the name of the church you attend
- NOT the name of your grandma who had faith
- NOT the name of the country you are from
- NOT the generic name 'God' or in the name of religion

Parents' Corner

The church in the city of Sardis was not watchful and it became spiritually complacent. It's easy to do the same as parents if we're not careful. Parenting is filled with joy, but there are also seasons when it can seem overwhelming. In the struggle to keep up on school, sports, friends, activities, etc. it is easy to become complacent about spiritual growth. The discussion questions this week focus on being careful to look out for both our own growth and that of our children.

16. How are your kids doing?
17. How well are you doing at encouraging your kids to grow in their relationship with the Lord? Spend some time as a group discussing what you used to do to encourage their spiritual growth, and how you can help your kids grow deeper in their relationship with the Lord in their current season of life.

How are *you* doing?

If you are comfortable being a bit vulnerable, discuss where you are at personally in your relationship with the Lord. Are you growing, stagnant, becoming complacent? What helps you grow and what can you do this week to get or stay on track? (The questions below might be helpful.)

Do any of these areas apply to you specifically in this season of life?
If so, in which way is God speaking to you?

- God is calling me to "wake up" from a spiritual slumber.
- God is encouraging me to "strengthen what remains" of my spiritual life.



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- God is asking me to “remember” what He has done and who He is.
- God is strengthening me to “hold fast” and keep going the direction I am.
- God is prompting me to “repent” (change of mind that results in action) in a specific area.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please join all of us as we pray for our new Community Pastor, Kelly Roth. You can [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the introduction video if you missed it.

