

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 30-August 5, 2023

“SARDIS: THE DEAD CHURCH”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What’s your go-to strategy for trying to sneak into a meeting or event unnoticed when you’re running late?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Revelations 3:1-6

1. How would you describe a dead church? What, in your opinion, characterizes that kind of a church?
2. Is having a good reputation wrong? Reflect on the importance of reputation versus true spiritual vitality. Can focusing on appearances and reputation hinder genuine spiritual growth? What is the balance?
3. In verse 2, Jesus mentions the church’s deeds being unfinished in the sight of God. What might these “unfinished deeds” refer to, and why is it essential for believers and churches to fulfill their God-given callings?
4. In this passage, Jesus calls the church in Sardis to “wake up.” What might this mean in a spiritual context, and how does it apply to individuals and churches today? How would you define spiritual complacency? How can complacency creep into a person’s life or a church community? Can you think of specific examples?
5. The church in Sardis shows us that it’s possible to be busy in the things of God and yet be doing nothing for God. In a world filled with distractions and temporal pursuits, how can you keep your focus on eternal values and God’s kingdom purposes? What adjustments might you need to make to align your priorities accordingly?

6. Revelation 3:4-5 talks about the blessings of the overcomer. Discuss the motivation behind a Christian’s good works. Are our actions driven by a desire to earn God’s pleasure or a response to his love and grace? How does a Christian balance between apathy and legalism?

7. NEXT STEPS

It’s possible to be busy in the things of God and yet be doing nothing for God.

- I will prioritize my spiritual walk and devotion to the Lord.
- I will be alert to things that will cause me to lose sight of Jesus.
- I will be quick to remember, hold fast and repent.
- I will be faithful to Jesus.

Don’t forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for revival and/or renewal in your heart.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

July 31	Matthew 5:3-10
August 1	1 Corinthians 12
August 2	Psalms 91
August 3	Romans 7:15-25
August 4	Proverbs 22:1-12
August 5	Matthew 22:34-39
August 6	Revelations 3:7-13