



## Revelation 3:1-5 Small Group Discussion Questions

---

- Have someone in your group read Revelation 3:1-5. What do we learn about the church in Sardis? What is this church like?
- How does Jesus introduce Himself in this passage?
  - Ben said that the “seven spirits of God” and the “seven stars” are symbolic for the Holy Spirit and the church, respectively. Why does it matter that Jesus is the one who gives the Holy Spirit?
  - What does Jesus’ control of the churches and gift of the Holy Spirit do for us in our day-to-day lives?
- What is the problem with the church in Sardis, as Jesus describes at the end of verse 1 and the beginning of verse 2?
  - What does it mean, do you think, that this church has a “reputation for being alive” but is actually dead?
  - What does it tell us about their condition that Jesus tells them to “wake up?”
  - Have you seen or been a part of churches that are asleep like this?
  - Imagine you walked into a church that is asleep like Sardis— what do you think it would be like? What does this kind of church feel like when you’re there?

- Jesus rebukes Sardis because they had a reputation for being alive, but in reality, they were spiritually dead (Rev. 3:1). How do we see this today in churches that emphasize good deeds but lack biblical truth?
- Why do some churches drift toward outward good works while neglecting the gospel?
- What is the danger of this kind of spiritual sleepiness?
- How can we ensure that our church remains faithful to both biblical truth and good works done in Christ's name?
- We've talked about what it might look like for a church to be spiritually asleep; have you ever felt spiritually sleepy yourself—going through the motions but not truly alive in Christ? What were the warning signs? How did you respond?
- How can we guard against living for appearances rather than truly walking with Christ?
- In what ways might we be tempted to trust in our own good works rather than live a true spiritual life in Christ?
- What are signs that you personally may be drifting into spiritual complacency? When have you ignored these warning signs in the past?
- Jesus tells the church to “wake up!” What steps have you taken practically in your life to wake up after a season of sleep?
- What is one habit or sin that has dulled your spiritual life? What action will you take this week to wake up spiritually?
- Ben said that “cultural Christianity” is one modern-day analogue to the church in Sardis. What is “cultural Christianity”? Have you ever experienced it?
  - What is the problem with Christianity that is *cultural* but not *spiritual*? What needs to change so that your faith is more than just routine?

- If you have ever known cultural Christians—or if you were ever one yourself—what broke you out of your slumber? How do we help people who are dull to the message of the gospel realize their need?
- Jesus lays out the solution for the church in Sardis in verses 2-3. What does this solution entail?
  - Jesus calls us to strengthen what remains. If you feel spiritually weak, what specific steps can you take this week to strengthen your walk with Christ?
  - Why does Jesus tell the church to “remember”? How does remembering help us in times of spiritual sleepiness?
    - What does it look like to practice remembering God’s work in our lives? How do we do this?
    - Why do you think remembering our past with God helps to warm our hearts and rouse us from sleep?
  - Why is repentance a part of the process of waking up? How can we cultivate a heart of repentance that keeps us spiritually awake?
  - How does regularly recognizing and confessing sin keep our faith alive?
- What do verses 4-6 mean? What do those who endure to the end receive from Jesus?
  - What does it mean for this person to be dressed in white and to have Jesus confess their name before the Father?
  - How do these rewards relate to the gospel? Why does a sincere love of the gospel keep us from spiritual sleepiness?