



Pastor Jason King // October 4, 2020

Letters to the Church in Sardis
Jesus's Prescription for Health and Vitality
Revelation 3:1-6 (NIV)

Break the ice: Ask the group, "Do you have a routine that you do before you go to sleep each night?" Share with the group if you feel comfortable.

1. *Live for God's approval, not man's praise.*

Pastor Jason started this week by talking about how the church in Sardis was really impressive. People around them were bragging about how great they were and they had become impressed with themselves. Jesus challenges them by saying, "You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. (Revelation 3:1)

REFLECT & DISCUSS:

- In what ways might you look alive, but really be on the verge of death? This could be relational, proverbial or spiritual.
- As we have said over the past few weeks, Jesus sees everything. Is there something you don't want others to see? Would your character prove to be gold or is some repentance warranted?
- What are some good things that God has done through you that you are still reveling in? Could you have missed some current opportunities due to reveling in what used to be?
- Do you ever do things to be seen and applauded? Do you like recognition or would you rather be anonymous? Why or why not?

2. *Stay awake and be on guard.*

Pastor Jason talked about how falling asleep is a process. Some people have a routine as you heard at the beginning of your group. Most people don't fall asleep instantly, they relax to a place where they can sleep. In our spiritual lives, we can grow complacent, exhausted or disillusioned and start to abandon the parts of Faith that made us excited at first. Yet, Jesus doesn't give up on us. Jesus knew there was still a pulse in the church at Sardis and He was not faint of heart in His admonishment to, "WAKE UP!"

REFLECT & DISCUSS:

- Is there a time in your life that you could share about a wake-up moment with the Lord? Do you need a wake-up moment now?
- Can you identify how you got to a place of sleepiness in your spiritual walk or does it seem like spiritual narcolepsy hits you all at once?

3. Strengthen what you still have.

Jesus knew that the church still had hope. He implored them to finish the things God had called them to do¹ (Revelation 3:2-3) Once again, Jesus challenged His people to repent and come back to their first love. Discipleship is one of the ways that we can strengthen our knowledge of the Lord and His Word.

REFLECT & ACT:

- Consider the individuals in your life. Is there someone that you can ask questions and seek biblical direction and encouragement?
- It could be someone in this group or maybe it's someone else you know. Either way, be bold and reach out to them before the end of the week and start developing that relationship.

4. Live with eternity in mind.

Jesus encouraged those in the church that had done well to keep going and live with eternity in mind. (Revelation 3:4-6) Pastor Jason encouraged us not to live our lives looking backward. It can be tempting to live by reacting to our past pain. Staying in our broken place and not allowing God to bring healing can cause us to live shortsighted. Similarly, we can also be tempted to live and ride on the wave of past accomplishments and accolades. Jesus warned that we cannot rely on the past. We need to be following NOW. We can't just live on the victories of before, we need to be seeking what God has for us in THIS season.

(I am reminded of the scripture in Matthew 7:22 when many will say to Him, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" Jesus says that He never knew them.)

It's imperative that we stay connected. Yes, hard times will come and there is a place for resting and healing. Yet, our eyes have to stay FIXED on Jesus. Our current cultural climate is clamoring for attention and demanding that we be part of the solution. Jason's friend told him once, "It took Jesus to bring unity between mankind and God. The only answer to bring mankind into unity with mankind can be Jesus."

REFLECT & ACT:

- Wrestle with the simplicity of this statement and then let the profound set in. HOW do we walk out our lives in a way that allows JESUS to bring unity in the brokenness around us?
- There is nothing greater than the Kingdom of God. HOW do we practically live that in front of a chaotic world?