

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Revelation 3:1–6

Background

- The city of Sardis appeared undefeatable but had been conquered twice because of a lack of watchfulness.
- Worshiped the mother-goddess Cybele and no one could approach the temple with soiled garments.
- Sexual immorality was rampant in the city especially during times of festivals.
- Being a Christian community in this city would have been challenging given the connections people would have from their previous way of life.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter.

- Do you remember a time when you were told to wake-up or pay attention? What happened?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get thinking.

- When looking at the background to this passage how does it help you understand what Jesus was saying to this church?
- What struggles do you think this church may have had in this city? What pressures and temptations may have been on them?
- How do you hold fast to your faith? What role does the community play? What role does Scripture play?

Choose a question to create openness.

- How does 1 John 1:9 help you understand this passage?
“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Pray Boldly

Jesus, you have called me into this amazing new way of life, transformed by your Spirit. In my life give strength and courage to love you first. Give me the wisdom to recognize and flee from those things that will cause me to “sleep.”

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Start the [Revelation Explained Part 7 | All Things New | Devotional Reading Plan | YouVersion Bible](#)
- Consider how you could love others by serving at Westwood or in our community.