to the church

September - October Teaching Series



Group Guide

A Study on the Word of Jesus to the
7 Churches of Revelation

Sardis

Week 6

Reflect

Take some time to process together as a group on last week's practice:

- How did you start practicing what we talked about last week?
- How was your experience in your practice?
- Where did you feel God most present and distant this week?

Overview

Jesus' message to the church in Sardis reminds us that there can be a difference between how we appear to others and what Jesus sees in our hearts. **We can be successful, active in ministry, and faithful in attending church while slowly drifting away from our relationship with Him.** Jesus lovingly calls us to wake up, strengthen what remains, remember His Word, hold fast, and repent. He invites us to make Him not only our Savior but also our Source, King, and Lord, surrendering our plans and priorities to His will. As we seek His Kingdom first, we become a people who love Jesus, remain faithful to Him, and prepare ourselves as His Bride. Ultimately, what matters most is not the reputation we build before people, but the relationship we cultivate with Jesus and the life of faithful obedience that flows from it.



ABBALOVE

Reading

Revelation 3:1-6 NIV

1 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. 2
Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have
found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. 3 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. 4 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. 5 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. 6 Whoever has ears, let them hear
what the Spirit says to the churches.

Discussion

1. What does Jesus see in the church of Sardis? What does He command them to do?

2. What do you think it means to look spiritually alive on the outside but be spiritually dry on the inside?

3. What things do you or other people usually depend on to feel secure, successful, or valuable?

4. What might it look like for Jesus to be King over your finances, family, relationships, work, or ministry?

5. Is there an attitude, habit, relationship, or priority that Jesus may be asking you to surrender or change?



Practice

Stillness: "Be still and know that I am God" (5-10mins)

Sit comfortably, place both feet on the floor, and open their hands in their laps as a posture of surrender.

Take a few slow, natural breaths. With each breath, silently pray:

"Jesus, you are my source. I surrender to you. I rest in you"

Pause, be still and let God bring up what have been occupying your mind and heart. Rest in him and surrender it to him.

Closing Prayer

"Abba Father, thank You for loving us and calling us back to You. Forgive us for the times we have cared more about our reputation than our relationship with Jesus. Wake up our hearts, renew our love for You, and help us surrender our own plans. Jesus, You are our Source, King, and Lord. Teach us to trust You, obey You, and seek Your Kingdom first. Help us become a faithful people who love You and reflect Your Kingdom in our homes, our church, and our community. In Jesus' name, amen."

Further Resources

Watch: To the Church Teaching Series - Abbalove Church
Watch: Revelation Teaching Series (2026) - Abbalove Church
Read: Revelation for the rest of us - Scot McKnight
Read / Listen: 5 Strategies for reading revelation - Bible Project



Dear Church



“Write on the scroll what you see and send it to the church”

- Jesus

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