

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

## SERIES INFO

### **Revelation Series Overview:**

The Revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ drafted by the apostle John, to whom Jesus gave this message through an angel, is a “peeling back” of what is to take place at the end of the biblical story so that it might be a source of hope for Christians amid trouble and suffering. Apocalyptic literature draws much symbolism from the Old Testament narrative, such as the books of Daniel and Ezekiel. There is a great deal of figurative and symbolic language throughout. Correct interpretation is very important in understanding clearly who Jesus is and what is to take place. While some things are left to mystery, much of what is in the book of Revelation can adequately and carefully be understood with accurate interpretation. This is not a book of mysteries. While the text is complex, it is full of truths that every disciple of Jesus should learn and practice. Let’s take courage and find new hope in our faith in Christ as we face a world of trouble and suffering.

## PERSONAL FUN FACTS

What is something at your house that looks great on the outside, but doesn’t work very well anymore?

## TAKEAWAYS

What was a major takeaway moment during the sermon this week?

## DISCUSSION

### **1. Sardis**

#### **Scripture: Revelation 3:1-6**

We will focus on two of the three churches in this week’s study ... the first being Sardis. Sardis was one of the wealthiest cities in the ancient world. But they needed to “wake up!” Jesus said that they had become “spiritually asleep.” Jesus actually told them that they were dead! That had all the external religious activities going, but they had no spiritual vitality. A church can be busy but empty ... active but asleep ... have all the biblical and theological knowledge but be passionless.

1) Why is it difficult to recognize “spiritual deadness?”

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

## DISCUSSION CONTINUED

2) What are some signs that a church or a believer may look spiritually healthy outwardly but inwardly be drifting away?

### 2. Laodicea

**Scripture: Revelation 3:14-22**

Laodicea, while a very wealthy city, had a water problem. Water arrived through aqueducts from hot springs and cold mountain streams, but by the time the water reached Laodicea, it was lukewarm. Jesus uses their own environment as a spiritual metaphor. Because they were lukewarm, Jesus said that He would spit them out of his mouth! Jesus is condemning useless spirituality. The church in Laodicea had become spiritually ineffective.

1) What does lukewarm Christianity look like today?

2) What are ways that Christians subtly become self-sufficient instead of dependent upon Christ?

3) Why can “comfort” become dangerous to our spiritual formation?

### 3. Jesus Knocks at the Door

**Scripture: Revelation 3:20**

The beautiful reality in this message is the fact that, while the churches are not as effective as they should be and are spiritually asleep, Jesus still knocks at the door of the church. This passage is often used evangelistically, but in context, Jesus is speaking to the church. He doesn't kick the door down and He doesn't walk away. He invites ... pursues ... and calls the church to be in communion with Himself.

1) Is there an area of your life where Jesus is knocking, inviting deeper surrender and dependence? What is Jesus lovingly trying to awaken in you?

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

## DISCUSSION CONTINUED

2) Besides church attendance and being a member, what does genuine communion with Jesus look like?

## APPLICATION

- Where am I most spiritually vulnerable right now? Am I more like Sardis or Laodicea?
- Have I become more concerned with spiritual appearance than spiritual intimacy and maturity?
- This week, spend at least 10 minutes of silence and read Revelation 3:20 slowly? Ask Jesus where He is inviting you into deeper communion with Him.

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

Keep us from merely looking alive while drifting inwardly from You. Wake us from spiritual sleep. Rescue us from lukewarm faith and self-sufficiency. Give us tender hearts that hear Your voice when You knock. Form within us a deep love for Your presence above reputation, success, or comfort. May we become people who walk closely with You in honesty, humility, dependence, and joy. Amen.