

Small Group Discussion Guide

Revelation 3:1-13 - Wake Up and Stay Faithful



Know It

1. Wake Up!

Revelation 3:1–6 — The Church at Sardis

Brief History of Sardis:

Sardis was once one of the wealthiest and most powerful cities in the ancient world. It was known for its impressive location on a steep hill that made the city seem almost impossible to conquer. Yet Sardis had been captured more than once because its defenders became overconfident and failed to stay alert.

That history makes Jesus' words especially powerful:

“Wake up!” — Revelation 3:2

The church at Sardis had a strong reputation. People thought they were alive and spiritually healthy, but Jesus saw beneath the surface and said, **“You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.”**

Jesus called them to wake up, strengthen what remained, remember what they had received, obey it, and repent.

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus told Sardis, **“You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.”** What are some ways a Christian or a church can look spiritually healthy on the outside while becoming spiritually weak on the inside?
2. Jesus told them to **“wake up”** and **“strengthen what remains.”** What areas of your relationship with Jesus may need to be awakened or strengthened right now?
3. Revelation 3:5 promises that the one who overcomes will be clothed in white and acknowledged by Jesus before the Father. How should the assurance that Jesus knows you, keeps you, and claims you as His own motivate you to live faithfully?

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2. Stay Faithful

Revelation 3:7–13 — The Church at Philadelphia

Brief History of Philadelphia:

Philadelphia was a smaller city located in an earthquake-prone region of Asia Minor. The city experienced frequent tremors, and residents sometimes had to leave the city because of the danger.

Unlike Sardis, the church at Philadelphia receives **no rebuke from Jesus**. They apparently did not possess great power or influence, but Jesus praised them because they had **kept His Word and had not denied His name**.

Jesus told them:

“I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.” — Revelation 3:8

He also reminded them that He had placed before them **“an open door that no one can shut.”**

Philadelphia reminds us that Jesus is not primarily looking for impressive strength. He is looking for **faithfulness**.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Jesus said the believers in Philadelphia had “little power,” yet He praised their faithfulness. What does this teach us about how Jesus measures spiritual success?**
2. **Jesus said He had placed an “open door” before them. What doors of opportunity might Jesus be opening in your life right now to serve Him, share your faith, or make a difference in someone’s life?**
3. **Jesus praised them because they kept His Word and did not deny His name. What pressures make it difficult for Christians today to stay faithful to Jesus, and what helps us remain faithful when those pressures come?**