

The Church in Sardis

Revelation 3:1-6

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Series: Revelation Series

Reflect

Outline: Recap

Realize

Points to Ponder

Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

REFLECT

Our culture has a fascination with zombies. There are a steady stream of movies that come out where humanity has to fight against the living dead. We even see trucks with bumper stickers letting us know that the driver is part of the “Zombie Outbreak Response Team.” At the very least, a zombie is something that is dead, but looks alive. Unfortunately a church can be like this. Sure they meet together, maybe even often and in large numbers, but when Jesus looks at that church, He sees that they are spiritually dead. We will be challenged to examine our hearts as we study the Church in Sardis in Revelation 3.

REALIZE

1. Don't judge a book by its cover

- **Scripture Reference:** 1 Samuel 16:7
- **Leader Notes**
 - Jesus says that the church looks alive but it is really dead.
 - We all make judgments based on what people or things look like, but God looks at the heart instead.
 - We aren't responsible for others, but we should always be asking God if this is talking about us.
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How can I ensure that I don't misjudge based on appearances?
 - Does your reputation and the way you look on the outside exceed who you really are on the inside?

2. Seven keys to revival

- **Leader Notes**
 - Be watchful
 - Strengthen the things that are going well
 - Complete your works by moving into maturity
 - Remember what God has done and spoken
 - Hold fast to Jesus
 - Repent by agreeing with God and turning away from sin
 - Walk with the Lord in purity
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - What would a personal revival look like in my life?

- What are the things God has done in your life that you tend to forget?

3. Be cleansed

- **Scripture Reference:** Psalm 51:1-2, Romans 10:9-10
- **Leader Notes**
 - This cleansing comes from God, not from ourselves
 - Sin leaves us with stains and we all need cleansing from God
- **Questions for reflection**
 - Where do I need Jesus' forgiveness specifically?