

# Week 5

## Group Discussion Questions - Sardis

### CONNECT

Which category do you fall into?

- I wake up on my own without an alarm clock.
- I hit the snooze button at least two times before getting up.
- I need at least two sticks of dynamite to get myself out of bed.

### CONSIDER

Watch this week's Groups video at [mynorthside.com/dearchurch](http://mynorthside.com/dearchurch). **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?**

### CHRIST

Read Revelation 3:1-6.

The most common definition of the word awake is "not asleep." However, here are a few other definitions of awake:

- to become aware of
- to come to the realization of

Looking at these alternate definitions of what it means to be awake, take the time to answer these questions from a spiritual perspective:

- **Spiritually, what do we need to become more aware of?**
- **Spiritually, what do we need to come to the realization of?**

In verse 1, Jesus says to the church in Sardis, "*You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.*" Reputations can be misleading. Being too concerned with what others think about you can be dangerous. How we interact with society is the primary way we develop our reputation. What we say, where we live, what we wear, establishments we frequent, etc.

- **Would you admit that there are times when you are too concerned with what others think about you?**
- **Has there been a time when you were too embarrassed to admit you were a Christian?**
- **How has social media changed the awareness of your reputation?**
- **What is the best way we can have a reputation that Jesus would want us to have?**

Jesus gives the church in Sardis and us another stern reminder in verse 2 when He says, "*I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.*" **What does Jesus need you to see to completion? Spiritually, do you have any unfinished business?**

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5 as a group.

- Verse 1 says "*there will be terrible times in the last days.*" Following this is a long list of

sinful attitudes people will have at this time. **When you read this list, does it seem we are “in the last days”?**

- Verse 5 says that there will be people who will be seen “*having a form of godliness, but denying its power.*” This sounds a lot like the church in Sardis. *Ellicott’s Commentary* on this verse says there are people who keep up a show of observing the outward forms of religion, but renounce its power and its influence over the heart and that by wearing before men the uniform of Christ, but living a life dishonouring His name, do the gravest injury to the holy Christian cause.<sup>31</sup> **What are some ways we can easily fall into this pattern? How do we protect ourselves from having just a form of godliness, but denying its power?**

### **CALLING**

Another definition of the word “awake” is “to become active again.” **In what area of our spiritual lives do we need to become more active again? How can we put action to our faith?**

### **Daily Devotions**

Take the time to read the daily devotions associated with this study. Then, to continue with this spiritual habit of daily devotion with God, text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in the Northside App to receive devotions on a daily basis moving forward.

### **Further Study & Reflection**

One of the greatest authors and preachers about the topic of spiritual awakening is 19<sup>th</sup> century pastor Charles Spurgeon, who has been called the “Prince of Preachers.” For further study on this topic, read a Spurgeon sermon titled “Awake! Awake!” from 1857, based on 1 Thessalonians 5:6 here: [mynorthsi.de/spurgeon](http://mynorthsi.de/spurgeon)

### **Memorize**

*“Beside this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.”*

**Romans 13:11 (ESV)**

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<sup>31</sup> *Ellicott’s Commentary for English Readers, Volume 3* (Delmarva Publications, 2015) 510

