

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.

Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway! Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker

Have you overslept? What happened? Did you miss a test or an interview?

Read Revelation 3:1-6

A Dead Church:

Question: What is the church in Sardis doing wrong? What danger comes with that?

Question: There are things (often, good things) that can give us a reputation of life, but if we trust in them, we're dead. Have you seen people put their trust in:

- Their kind words?
- Their financial generosity?
- Their church attendance?
- Their good intentions?
- Other: _____

If we've been in the church for a while, we've likely heard the term *legalism*. Legalism can teach us that our actions bring forth good things from God.

Often, legalism can take the form "I can be saved through my good works." but often, it's more subtle. We can believe that God's providence- and our worldly blessings- are dependent on our actions.

Question: how can we be legalistic about:

- Family life and marriage?
- Financial security?
- Social standing?
- Inner peace?
- Other: _____

What will be the fruits of this legalism (v3)?

A Revitalized Church:

What is the charge for the church in Sardis?
What must they do?

If we are to give a message to a dying world, we should consider Spurgeon's famous words "if [sinners] perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay."

Who have been some examples of strong, Godly evangelists in your life? What have you learned from them?

This letter urges us to consider what is more important: reputation before man, or reputation before God.

There are times where we all have been held captive by the fear of man; what has proved helpful in your walk in overcoming this fear? Have you seen fruit from it?

What promise is given to those who are victorious? How does this mirror what was said earlier in the passage?

See who acknowledges our name before God (v5). Christ reminds us that our salvation, and any work we could do, has already been completed by Him. How do we see Christ's salvation:

- In His incarnation?
- In His ministry?
- In His death?
- In His resurrection?
- In His rule?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
