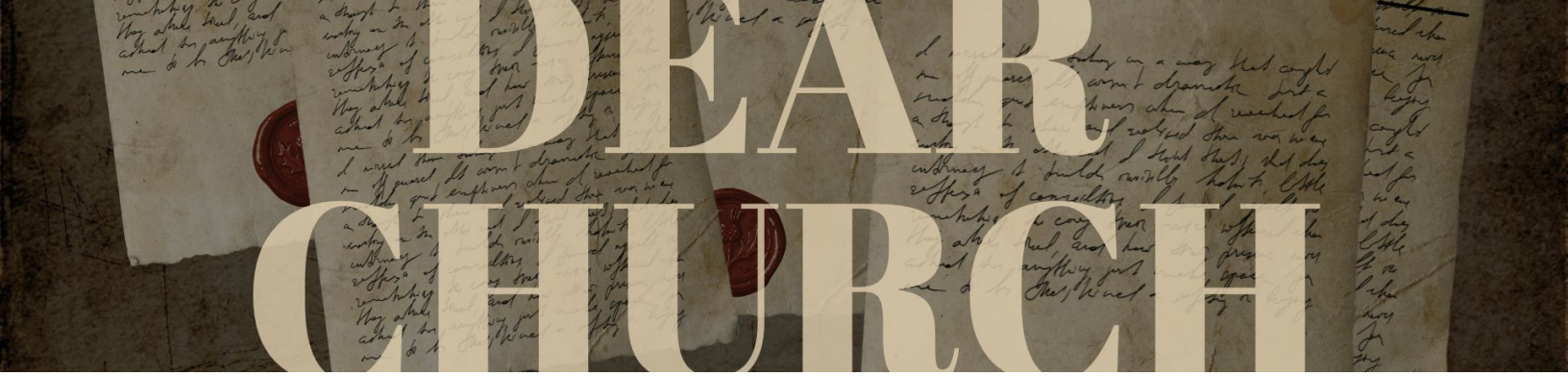


Discussion Questions 11/15/26

Dear Sardis

Intro: In his letter to the church in Sardis, Jesus warns against the danger of appearing spiritually alive while actually being dead. A church can have a great reputation, impressive activity, and all the outward signs of faithfulness while failing to live out the work God has called it to do. Jesus calls the church to wake up, remember what they have received, obey it, and repent of their apathy. Ultimately, the reward isn't simply the blessings that come with following Jesus; the reward is Jesus himself.

Story: How has Jesus brought vibrancy to your life?

Read: Revelation 3:1-6

1. What do you think it looks like for a person or a church to have the appearance of spiritual life without actually being spiritually alive?

2. Jesus warns the church that he may come like a thief in the night. What do you think it says about a church when Jesus would be more like an unexpected intruder than a welcomed guest?

3. All the rewards offered to the churches in Revelation ultimately come down to one prize: Jesus himself. Why do you think it's sometimes easier to get excited about the blessings of following Jesus than about Jesus himself?

4. Two years after David neglects the situation with his kids, Absalom comes up with a plan to avenge his sister Tamar by killing his half-brother Amnon. Read 2 Samuel 13:23-38. David's failure to respond to the evil committed by his son Amnon demonstrated how his own sin had affected his ability to pursue justice. How can our own sin, pride, or apathy keep us from responding appropriately when we see injustice around us? (Family tree below)

5. The church in Sardis existed in a city that was a regional center for the Roman slave trade, yet Jesus found little worth affirming in the church. What are some injustices or needs in our own community that the church should be more attentive to?

Pray:
- For The Well.
- For spiritual vibrance.
- Against injustice.

