



SUMMER 2026 // WEEK 1

GrowGroup Questions

Sermon Based Groups // May 31, 2026

Pastor Pat Finley // Revelation 3:1-6

Sardis: The Dead Church



Introduction

This Sunday our message is brought to us by Pastor Pat. As we study the seven churches of Revelation we continue to see the same pattern: The greeting, the title for Jesus, the reminder, the commendation, and the challenge. Sardis was a wealthy city, on a major trade route, known for garments and a massive cemetery, due to the worship of the pagan god Cybele, whom followers believed could restore the dead back to life. They also had one of the largest Jewish synagogues of the day. Although they were an active church, they had become complacent and did not exhibit much spiritual power. There are many lessons we can learn from Sardis still today.

We encourage you to take some time to read through the questions on the following pages and jot down your thoughts before meeting with your group. Many people also find it helpful to use these questions as a guide for taking notes during the sermon. Many of these topics will be touched upon. The purpose of these questions is to spark reflection and encourage meaningful conversation. Remember, you don't need to work through every single question each week—focus on the ones that are most helpful for you and your group.

Getting Started

Transition into group discussion.

- 1) Open group discussion with prayer.
- 2) Choose someone to read the passage(s) aloud for the group.

Study Questions *(Suggested time: 30-40 min)*

1. Imagine getting a letter directly to you from Jesus. What would your initial response be? Do you think you would be surprised by the contents, why or why not?

2. Revelation 3:1 says of the church in Sardis that they have, “a name that you are alive, but you are dead.” What might that look like in the modern day church?

3. Pastor shared how due to the large number of Jews in Sardis, the church there, in all likelihood had become compliant and perhaps fearful of consequences. Have you ever felt forced to comply or keep silent at work, or at a family event, etc? Was it the right choice, why or why not?
4. In John 6:63 Jesus says, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life," and Paul writes, "for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (2 Cor. 3:6). How would you explain these verses to a person who had not received Christ yet but was questioning?
5. Read Matthew 10:32-33. What do you think it means to "confess" Christ?
6. God always encourages us to remember what we have received and heard. He continually invites us to walk closer to Him. Even this dead church is invited to, "strengthen the things that remain."(v.2) How should each believer do this? What are some tangible steps we can take?

Personal Spiritual Exercises

Scripture Focus: take some time this week to read Revelation 4, Daniel 7, Ezekiel 1, and Isaiah 6 and explore the context of each of these passages.

Prayer *(Suggested time: 10-15 min)*

A meaningful part of "coming together" is being open and genuine about our lives. For some, praying in a group may feel very natural, while for others it may feel new or uncomfortable. If you would prefer not to pray aloud, you're welcome to pray silently and simply say "Amen" when you're finished, signaling the next person to pray. Whether spoken or silent, every prayer is part of this shared time in God's presence.

1. Pray for the church to have a sense of urgency in sharing Jesus.
2. Take a few moments to think about a prayer request. What are you currently going through that you are still waiting to see how God is going to be glorified? Consider making a prayer request.

" whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life?
It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

James 4:14, NKJV