



Dear Church...

COME ALIVE

FOR DISCUSSION:

- What is your favorite aspect of Forcey Bible Church? Or, what do you most appreciate about your church?
- Many churches close or decline each year. What do you think might be the cause of church decline and closing in America?
- Describe a time in your life when you felt especially alive spiritually. What contributed to you feeling this way?

ENCOUNTER *read God's Word so that He can speak to you - Revelation 3:1-6*

EXPLORE HIS WORD *asking questions of what you saw.*

- 1) Evidently Sardis has quite the “name” or “reputation” (v. 1). What might individuals from inside and outside of the church be saying about Sardis?
- 2) Jesus often talked about how people have a certain “form” but a very different “function.” Take a few minutes and read Mark 7:1-15. How does Jesus feel about those who have a strong reputation but whose hearts are far from Him?
- 3) Jesus says he has found the deeds of Sardis to be unfinished or incomplete (v. 2). What do you think might have been lacking in their works?
- 4) Have you had any experiences in churches or religion in general that have felt “dead” or “empty” instead of “alive”? Describe your experience.

- 5) Read vv. 2-3. What are some of the things Jesus calls the church of Sardis to do? Based on these commands, what do you think some of the problems were in Sardis that caused the church to die?
- 6) Jesus calls them to “Wake up.” What are some things they had probably stopped being attentive toward that we must pay attention to today in order to be a vibrant church?
- 7) Jesus calls them to “Remember.” What are some things they probably forgot that we need to remember today in order to be a vibrant church?
- 8) Some might suggest churches change their teachings in order to be more acceptable to the world so they don't drop in attendance. Read the article at the link below. What conclusions should we draw?
https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2017/01/04/liberal-churches-are-dying-but-conservative-churches-are-thriving/?utm_term=.47ea173148c4
- 9) Smyrna was a poor and persecuted church that was very much rich and alive before God. Sardis seems to be a wealthy and comfortable church that is very much dead before God. What should we learn from such a comparison?
- 10) Jesus calls them to “Repent.” It's easy for people and churches to see a need for repentance in other people and churches. Why not take a risk and spend a few moments right now in prayer together and ask God to show you what you might need to repent of?! Determine to follow through at a later time in seeking forgiveness from God and others as necessary!

11)

Together we are entering a new season of God's work in and through Forcey Bible Church. What are you most excited about as you think of what God might do? What might we have to be most careful about in the course of the journey?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION/DISCOVERY:

- ⇒ Listen to "Come Alive (Dry Bones)" by Lauren Daigle - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XAeyFagceQ>
- ⇒ Watch the movie *Woodlawn*
- ⇒ Romans 13:11-12 – ...The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.
- ⇒ 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 – But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.
- ⇒ Ephesians 5:14-15 - "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise...