

## Growth Group Discussion Questions—Oct. 18-24

1. Warm up. Which candy best describes your past week and why?  
(a) Good and Plenty; (b) Starburst; (3) Rocky Road; (4) Nutrageous.
2. What is a company, organization, or sports team that you know of that started out with a bang but now is gasping for air? What factors sowed the seeds for their downfall?
3. In his message, Dave talked about seven symptoms of a Christian on life support. Have one member of your group read the list slowly and out loud. Then pick one item that you're making progress in. (We need to celebrate progress!) Then pick one that you need to improve in. Go around the room and share your strong and weak point with your growth group pals.
4. We learned in the message that some Christians love (and demand) to be spiritually fed. They listen to five messages a week, read lots of Christian books, and go to multiple church services. The problem is that *"too much spiritual food without exercise will make believers spiritually overweight and unhealthy."* How can we make sure to turn spiritual *food* into spiritual *fuel* that empowers service and mission? How does 2 Tim. 3:16-17 affirm that the Bible is both food and fuel for believers?
5. Have someone in your growth group read Rev. 3:2 out loud. What is the reason why they need to *"Wake up!"* and *"Strengthen what remains"*? Now read Eph. 2:10 out loud. What does this verse have in common with the first verse, and how does it encourage you?
6. Group spiritual mentoring. Members from the church at Sardis are visiting your growth group for the evening. They're sick and tired of being sick and tired. They want your help to get back on track. Brainstorm a spiritual prescription involving both the inner and outer life for how they can make a miraculous recovery.

## Eight Warnings from the Book of Revelation The Church on Life Support - Sardis

### Background

The history of the city was **\_\_glorious\_\_**.

The location of the city was **\_\_strategic\_\_**.

The wealth of Sardis was **\_\_legendary\_\_**.

The worship of idols was **\_\_plentiful\_\_**.

The glory days of the city were **\_\_over\_\_**.

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

Revelation 3:1

**I. The **\_\_Criticism\_\_**.**

I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Revelation 3:1

**II. The **\_\_Charge\_\_**.**

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.

Revelation 3:2

**Wake up = **\_\_show yourself to be watchful, be on your guard\_\_****

... "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."  
Ephesians 5:14

The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.  
Romans 13:11

**I have not found your deeds complete in my sight = not fulfilled, not finished.**

But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.  
Revelation 3:3

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.  
Matthew 24:42 - 44

### III. The **Challenge**\_\_\_\_\_.

Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.  
Revelation 3:3

A. **Remember**\_\_\_\_\_

B. **Repent**\_\_\_\_\_

Repent = **make a U-turn**\_\_\_\_\_

### IV. The **Celebration**\_\_\_\_\_.

Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white.  
Revelation 3:4 & 5

**Soiled their clothes = stained, spotted, defiled**\_\_\_\_\_

A. **Walking with**\_\_\_\_\_ **Jesus.**

**They will walk with me = to walk with someone is to have intimacy with them.**\_\_\_\_\_

**Walking with God is also a word picture of victory.**\_\_\_\_\_

B. **Dressed in White**\_\_\_\_\_.

**They will walk with me dressed in white = represents purity, holiness and faithfulness**\_\_\_\_\_

C. **Listed on the heavenly registry**\_\_\_\_\_.

... I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.  
Revelation 3:5

D. **Acknowledged**\_\_\_\_\_ **by Jesus to God the Father.**

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.  
Matthew 10:32-33

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