



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of February 23, 2026

1. What is the difference between a HEART ATTACK, a STROKE, and a CARDIAC ARREST? Have you ever been present when a person was on the razor's edge between life and death? What happened? Share your story with the group.
2. Read Revelation 3:1-6. How would you summarize the "big idea" of Jesus communication to Sardis? Would you say it is positive or negative? Explain your answer. Are there any positive words of commendation in verse 1?
3. It is possible for a church to get a "reputation" in its community, either for good or for bad. What are some of the things a church might gain a reputation for? Give some examples.
4. What was the reputation of the Sardis church in their community? What did Jesus say about the true state of the church? (see verse 2). If a church has people, programs, and popularity—how could it possibly be dead? Explain your answer.
5. What are the FIVE active commands that Jesus speaks to this church in verses 2-3? How would you explain them in your own words for the 21st century? (blanks below are from the NIV translation)
 - a. _____ *up!*
 - b. _____ *what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished...*
 - c. _____ *therefore, what you have received and heard...*
 - d. _____ *fast to it...*
 - e. *and* _____
6. When Jesus speaks of the very few Christians at Sardis who "...have not soiled their clothes", what do you think He is referring to? Can you give some examples of how Christians today could potentially stain their Christian lives and testimonies with sinful corruption or cultural compromise? (see also 1 John 2:16)
7. Did Jesus have unlimited patience with this dead church? What would be the result if the church didn't embrace His instructions for reviving at the end of verse 3? What two (2) rewards did Jesus promise to the faithful few who embraced sound doctrine and exercised holy living? How would you explain the "white clothes" and the "Book of Life" to another person?
8. If a church has big attendance numbers, a large campus, or a full schedule of activities, does that mean that it is spiritually healthy? Explain your answer. What can or should Wrightsdale do to maintain true, spiritual health as we go forward into the future?

A dead church doesn't lack people or programs, just a passionate pulse for Jesus.