

“All In”

Week 5 – The Dead Church

warm-up

Group Ice Breaker: *DISTRACTION*

Ask each person to think of 2 specific people – the first person should be a famous person that they do not personally know, and the second should be the person they are closest to. Make a list of adjectives to describe each person. Reveal your answers to one another, and discuss what it means to actually KNOW a person, rather than just KNOW ABOUT them.

word & application

Revelation 3:1-6

*“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Sardis. This is the message from the one who has the sevenfold Spirit of God and the seven stars: I know all the things you do, and that **you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead**. Wake up! **Strengthen what little remains**, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that **your actions do not meet the requirements of my God**. **Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again**. If you don’t wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief. Yet there are some in the church in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes with evil. They will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”*

Hosea 6:6

*“I want you to **show love, not offer sacrifices**. **I want you to know me** more than I want burnt offerings.”*

Matthew 9:12-13

*“When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: **‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices**. **For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.**”*

Discussion & Application: *Explore these questions through in-depth conversation.*

Living a life of love means that we humbly, yet powerfully, know God intimately. And as a result of this true intimacy with God, through Jesus Christ and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our lives become an overflow of this powerful and passionate relationship. As we embrace this kind of relationship with God that flows into the world around us, we will naturally embrace an attitude of mercy toward others, rather than pride in our own self-righteousness.

- What does it mean to you to truly feel spiritually alive?
- What does a passionate and powerful relationship with God look like – not to the world – to **you**?
- In what ways do we try to replace our reliance upon God with pride in our own ‘dead’ works? Do we ever try to look good to God through our works, instead of relying on Him to live through us?
- How can we correct this in our lives? (Hint: “REPENT” actually means to ‘change your perspective’)

prayer

Share recent “God moments.” Pray over requests. Pray that we can completely surrender to the Holy Spirit, with a dependence on Him to fill us, overflow through us, guide us and inspire us to live a truly passionate spirituality that is irresistible to the world around us. Pray that as we embrace this call, our lives are transformed to reflect the love, mercy and vibrant life that Jesus calls us to.