

Fall 2009
SERMON BASED
SMALL GROUP SERIES:

Radical Road Trip: Revelation 2 and 3

Discussion Guide
Week #5

Small Groups 
Transforming Community @ RBCPC

Week #5 Wake Up!

Revelation 3:1-6 (NRSV)

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. 2Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. 3Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. 4Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. 5If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. 6Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Ezekiel 3:16-21 (NRSV)

16At the end of seven days, the word of the Lord came to me: 17Mortal, I have made you a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 18If I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die," and you give them no warning, or speak to warn the wicked from their wicked way, in order to save their life, those wicked persons shall die for their iniquity; but their blood I will require at your hand. 19But if you warn the wicked, and they do not turn from their wickedness, or from their wicked way, they shall die for their iniquity; but you will have saved your life. 20Again, if the righteous turn from their righteousness and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before them, they shall die; because you have not warned them, they shall die for their sin, and their righteous deeds that they have done shall not be remembered; but their blood I will require at your hand. 21If, however, you warn the righteous not to sin, and they do not sin, they shall surely live, because they took warning; and you will have saved your life.

Notes For Reflection:

Facilitator's Guide

Facilitator's Tip of the Week:

Do you know what kind of people are hard to get along with? Ordinary people. And do you know what kind of people usually end up in small groups? Ordinary people again. Last question: do you know what kind of people are probably in your small group? I'll let you answer one. (But they're probably ordinary people ...).

That's why building authentic fellowship in small groups is much easier said than done. Because once you get past that "we're all Christians so we all have to like each other" stage, the reality sets in that some people in your group are annoying. And some are sarcastic. And some talk too much. They're all ordinary people, in other words, and that includes you.

That's why small-group leaders need a plan for developing genuine fellowship between members. You can't force friendships and deeper connections, of course, but you can create an environment in your group that helps foster those friendships and connections.

What can you do, as a facilitator, to transition from an ordinary group of people, to a committed fellowship of friends focused on transformation?

Adapted from www.smallgroups.com

Remember to pray for your group before you meet!

Week #5 Wake Up!

START IT

- Is it more difficult for you to fall asleep, or to wake up? Why?
- When is it difficult for you to wake up?
- What's your routine after you wake up?

STUDY IT

- Read Revelation 3:1-6. What type of message is Jesus giving the church in Sardis? What is the tone of the letter?
- Jesus says that the church is dead, although it has the appearance of being alive. What might that look like, in today's context of a church?
- What does it mean to wake up spiritually? Specifically, what does Jesus instruct the church in Sardis to do?
- What are the implications for a church that appears full of life, yet is asleep to the spirit of God?
- Read Ezekiel 3:16-21. What is a sentinel? What is a sentinel's role?
- What might a spiritual sentinel be in a church? What would a spiritual sentinel say or do?

LIVE IT

- In what ways might you or your family be spiritually asleep? What does that look like for you?
- In what ways might our church be spiritually asleep? (try to make observations without condemnation!)
- What might the message of the sentinel be for you, or for our church?

PRAY IT

- That a revival of the spirit of God would overcome our church.
- That we would become aware to the ways in which we are spiritually asleep, and be burdened to pray and invite in God's spirit.