



# THE Seven Churches of Revelation

## Rise from the Dead Robert Morris

**Focus** Of the seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelation, the Church of Sardis was considered The Dead Church. God wants to bring life to the dead places of our spiritual lives through His love, joy, and peace. We need to be watchful over our hearts to make sure we don't lose the passion for Jesus that we had when we became Christians. Because of the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit, even if you are dead, the Holy Spirit can wake you up.

**Fun** What qualities do all your friends have in common?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Revelation 3:1–6; Romans 8:11; Matthew 24:12

### 1. Love

The Bible says that in the last days the love of many will grow cold because of lawlessness. We need to honestly assess if our love for the Lord is more alive or less alive today than it was when we got saved. Our love for the Lord and people needs to be growing every day. Love means we are demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit through such things as kindness, self-control, and gentleness. If your love has grown cold, the Holy Spirit wants to resurrect it in your life.

### 2. Joy

The Bible tells us that the joy of the Lord is our strength, but some of us may be going through a sad season. All of us go through hard seasons in life, but God wants us to have joy that endures. If you have lost your joy, God wants to resurrect it by the power of the Holy Spirit. If you need His joy, then get into His presence. The Holy Spirit gives us the joy of the Lord that remains.

### 3. Peace

Jesus gives peace, but sometimes when we are in the middle of a difficult

season, we need to remember that God is in control. God will calm us before He calms the storm we are in. If peace is dead in our lives, the Holy Spirit wants to resurrect it. Get in the presence of the Lord, and He will resurrect peace in every area of your life.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** During this season, Gateway has several opportunities for you to serve others. One is through Operation Christmas Child! If you're building a shoebox, there are only two weeks left to return it to your campus! If you're not near a Gateway campus, you can also build a shoebox online. In addition, each campus has specific things they are doing to serve their communities this season. Consider having your group participate in one of these areas of outreach.

### **Discuss**

1. The Church of Sardis was considered The Dead Church. How would this church look in our modern world?
2. Is your love for the Lord as alive, more alive, or less alive now than when you got saved?
3. Why does our love for God sometimes grow cold?
4. What do you do when you need your joy to wake up?
5. What do you do if you are in the middle of a storm in life and it seems like Jesus is asleep in the boat? Why does Jesus calm us before He calms the storm?
6. What are some practical ways you experience God's presence? How can you cultivate more quality time with God this coming week?
7. Which areas in your life do you think the Holy Spirit wants to resurrect?
8. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

### **Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- God doesn't want us to have dead areas in our lives.
- We need to be watchful over our hearts.
- The Holy Spirit wants to resurrect love, joy, and peace in us.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, please help us to be watchful over our hearts and honest about the areas that have died or fallen asleep. We invite the Holy Spirit to wake us up

so we can be alive in Christ. Thank You for not leaving us alone and for sending the Holy Spirit to awaken us and to lead us into all truth. Help us to live every day with eternity in mind. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Cultivate a safe environment in your group to help others feel the freedom to be authentic. One way to do this is by not allowing gossip and by keeping personal stories or prayer request confidential. Encourage your group members to always do the same.