

For October 23 to October 29

## Candles #6: Sardis

### Getting Started

Tell a story about someone you have known who had a reputation for being smart/hardworking/punctual/wise/etc., yet your experience with them caused you to wonder how they got that reputation?

### Read the Text Together

**Revelation 3:1-6**

### Discussion

How does Jesus describe Himself to the church of Sardis? What sort of Jesus do these words describe? What does it mean that Jesus “has” or “holds” the seven spirits and the seven stars? What do “seven spirits” and “seven stars” represent? How do you feel about the Jesus of Sardis?

Based on the last part of **v. 1**, what do you think the situation is in Sardis? Do you think they are persecuted or oppressed? Why or why not? Does adding Jesus’ words from **v. 2** help? Based on **v. 1 & 2**, describe the church in Sardis in modern terms (i.e., what would this look like in a church today?)

What does Jesus say, in **v. 3**, that they need to do? What do you think this means? What will happen to this church if it doesn’t heed the warning? What does this mean? Where else has Jesus used similar language in describing His coming? (**Matthew 24:42-44**; see also **1 Thes. 5:1-4** and **2 Peter 3:10**) Do you think **Matthew 24:45-51** gives useful details that could help the believers in Sardis know what Jesus expects from them? Explain.

Based on **v. 4**, are the majority of believers in Sardis getting things right or wrong? In what way are the righteous ones in Sardis contrasted from the rest? What does it mean to be dressed in white as opposed to being soiled?

Is there hope for those who have soiled their garments? (see **v. 5**) How can soiled garments become clean? What is the “book of life”? In what way is the Jesus described in **v. 1** the answer to the needs of the believers in Sardis?

### Wrap Up

What does a sleeping church look like? What does an awake church look like? What is the element or the elements that determines whether a church is awake or asleep?

In what ways does the church in Sardis resemble and differ from: 1) Present-day Christianity; 2) the Seventh-day Adventist Church; 3) the Forest Lake Church

Are you sleeping in Sardis? What does Jesus need to do to wake you up? Are you living up to your reputation of being alive?