

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- Would you say waking up is easy or hard for you? What would your family say? What extreme measures have you used to make sure you wake up at a specific time? Has anyone gone to extreme measures to wake you up? How did that go? Do you normally wake up excited for the day or dreading the day? Why?
- Read Ephesians 5:14-16. What does it mean to be awake spiritually? Would you say you are awake spiritually? What does it mean that the days are evil? How do you live practically in light of the fact the days are evil?
- Read Revelation 3:1-6 from the Message Guide. Jesus gives a serious message to most of the church at Sardis and an encouraging message to a few. What message would he give to SCC? How about you?
- Where have you recognized gaps in your life? Think about praying, "Lord, help me to see the gaps in my life." What do you risk by praying that prayer? What do you risk if you don't pray it?
- There are three bullet points referring to Jesus holding and knowing. At first glance they could be taken negatively; how can they be taken positively?
- After asking Jesus to reveal your gaps, you can pray, "Lord, help me to close the gaps in my life." Which area needs the most attention in your life? Will you give it attention? Think about the statement, "Closing these gaps comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable." How should God be responding to what is going on in your life according to that statement?
- Read Luke 12:13-21. What false security should you let-go of? How does the story of the wealthy farmer speak to living with false security?
- How does the Lord promise for you to ultimately overcome the gaps in your life? What is the source for overcoming (see 1 John 5:4-5)? A part of the Good News of Jesus is *Overcomers overcome!* Why is that so hopeful to you? How can you live in that hope?

Next Steps: To close possible gaps in your life, read the letter to the Ephesians. It shouldn't take more than 30 minutes. You could break it down to a chapter or so a day. Make notes as you read through it to note areas in your life that may be a gap. Next, plan to address them one or a few at a time. Let's close the gaps in our lives as individuals and as a church family so that we live out Ephesians 5:14-16.

Changing Your Mind: This week, commit to heart Ephesians 5:14-16.



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



¹Write the following to the messenger of the congregation in Sardis, for these are the words of the one who holds the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know all that you do and I know that you have a reputation for being really "alive," but you're actually dead! ²Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. ⁴Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The one who [overcomes] will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶Everyone who hears this should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.***

Revelation 3:1-6 TPT, NIV, ERV***

Waking up can be a _____ or a _____.

¹⁴This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." ¹⁵Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:14-16 NIV

Three Prayers to _____ Up _____

➔ Lord, _____ me to _____ the _____ in my life. (3:1)

➤ Jesus holds the seven Spirits - Holy Spirit

²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord. Isaiah 11:2 NIV

You _____ the _____,
but does He _____ you?

²⁰...Samson woke up and thought, "I will escape as I did before and free myself." But Samson did not know that the Lord had left him.
Judges 16:20 ERV

➤ Jesus holds the seven stars - messengers

We need God's _____ heard
through God's _____.

➤ Jesus knows the _____ between
_____ and _____ concerning...

... what you _____ and what you _____.

... your _____ and your _____.

... where you _____ and where you _____.

☞ Lord, _____ me to _____ the _____ in my life. (3:2-3)

➤ _____ !

➤ _____ what _____.

➤ _____ what you have heard.

➤ _____ and _____.

⁹Now I'm glad—not that you were upset, but that you were jarred into turning things around. You let the distress bring you to God, not drive you from him. The result was all gain, no loss. ¹⁰Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain. But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets, end up on a deathbed of regrets. ¹¹And now, isn't it wonderful all the ways in which this distress has goaded you closer to God? You're more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible. Looked at from any angle, you've come out of this with purity of heart.
2 Corinthians 7:9–11 MSG

_____ these gaps _____ the _____
and _____ the _____.

➤ Let _____ of your _____.

²⁰"God said to him, 'What a fool you are to trust in your riches and not in me. This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get all the wealth you have stored up for yourself?' ²¹This is what will happen to all those who fill up their lives with everything but God."
Luke 12:20–21 TPT, MSG

☞ Lord, you have _____ that I will _____. (3:4-6)

¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will **not overcome it**.
Matthew 16:18 NIV

Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26

⁴You see, every child of God overcomes the world, for our faith is the victorious power that triumphs over the world. ⁵The person who wins out over the world's ways is simply the one who believes Jesus is the Son of God.
1 John 5:4–5 TPT, MSG

Bottom Line:

_____ !

⁴You see, _____ child of God _____ the world, for our _____ is the victorious power that triumphs over the world.

⁵The person who _____ out over the world's ways is _____ the one who _____ Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:4–5 TPT, MSG

Resources for this message include material from
Liquid Church and Saddleback Community Church

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps,
consider using the Think It Over section on the back.