

REVIVAL

WHAT IS REVIVAL – Three signs

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

Gather round a piece of paper with the word '**REVIVAL**' written in the middle. Give everyone a pen. Ask everyone to write words or phrases that they associate with revival.

LOOK OVER THE WORDS:

Why do these words come to mind when we talk about revival?

Revival could be defined as 'a spiritual reawakening' or 'the return of something to its true nature and purpose'.

Thinking about our church, our country, our world: Does revival feel like a possibility or far from it?

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3 SIGNS OF REVIVAL:

- Sleepwalkers wake up
- Believers are re-energised by the gospel
- Christians grow in boldness and numbers



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SLEEPWALKERS WAKE UP

Read Mark 13 : 32-37; Revelation 3 : 1-6

These are two sobering Scripture passages:

- How would you sum up what they are teaching us?
- As we start to think about revival, why is it so important for Christians to 'be fully awake'?
- Looking at these passages, what does it look like for us to be distracted?
- What might you say to encourage a friend who appears to be 'sleepwalking' in their faith?



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BELIEVERS ARE RE-ENERGISED BY THE GOSPEL

Read Colossians 1 : 9-14

- What strikes you particularly from this passage?
- Looking carefully at this passage - what does it really mean to live with an understanding of the full gospel? Try to use modern contexts for examples.
- How might revival - spiritual renewal - result if every believer were to live in this way?



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CHRISTIANS GROW IN CONFIDENCE AND NUMBERS

Famous times of revival that have occurred through history have come from bold teaching and have resulted in significant spiritual new birth.

For more on this have a listen to a recent series by Pete Grieg speaking on Revival:

<https://emmausrd.com/series/the-revival-series/>

Have you attended or have you heard about any events where many people have given their lives to Jesus? Tell the group what happened and how it affected your faith.



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Read Acts 2 : 37 - 41

- What was required in order for these amazing events to take place at Pentecost? **Look carefully at verses 37 and 38.**
- Think about the impact that Peter's boldness had on the day of Pentecost.
 - How might we speak out more confidently about our faith - both in church and outside church?
 - What holds us back from doing so?



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PRAY

Look back at the passage from Colossians 1 : 9-14

- The first part of this passage is ‘we continually ask God...’. **Revival starts with prayer.**
- For today, this passage is rich with encouragement and teaching.

Take turns to pray each phrase of this passage for members of our church family.

‘We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way:

bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might

so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.’

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

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CHANGING HEARTS FOR REVIVAL

A broken and contrite heart you will not despise

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

Read Hebrews 3 : 7-8

As the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

- What might cause a hardening of heart which results in spiritual stagnation?
- How do you think we might keep our hearts soft and open to what God wants to teach us?



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Previously, we considered revival:

- as a time when sleepwalkers wake up
- as a time when believers are re-energised by the gospel
- as a time when Christians grow in boldness and numbers.

Today, we are considering how we can prepare:

- Corporately for Revival
- Individually for Revival



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PREPARING CORPORATELY FOR REVIVAL

Read Psalm 85

In the first part of the Psalm, we see the Psalmist looking back at what God has done in the past.

Why do you think it's so helpful to remember what God has done for us in the past as we turn to him with our present and future requests? Think about perspective and focus.

Look more specifically at verses 2-3

What strikes you as you read these verses - both in what the Psalmist remembers about his people in the past, and in the character traits of God that he chooses to recall? Do you find this surprising or challenging?

Think about our verse of the year - **1 John 4 : 10** - or another verse that summarises the gospel message (eg **John 3 : 16**).

Why is it so vitally important that we see ourselves as sinners and God as the one who gives mercy?

Why is this perspective on ourselves as sinners one we may choose to play down, particularly in the world in which we now live?

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PREPARING CORPORATELY FOR REVIVAL

Look at verse 8

In the first part of the verse:

- What does the Psalmist resolve as he once again puts God into his rightful place as Lord?
- What does listening look like for us as a church family?

What is the result and what is the warning in the second part of this verse?

Look at verses 8-13

What do we see emerging as a result of the repentant heart of the Psalmist and his people?



Looking over the whole Psalm

What does this Psalm as a whole teach us:

- about God's character?
- about the place of both repentance and forgiveness when we pray for revival?

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PREPARING INDIVIDUALLY FOR REVIVAL

Read Psalm 24 : 3-6 (NLT version)

v3 - Who may climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?

v4 - Only those whose hands and hearts are
pure, who do not worship idols and never tell
lies.

v5 - They will receive the Lord's blessing and
have a right relationship with God their saviour.

v6 - Such people may seek you and worship in
your presence, O God of Jacob

Ask God to show you places in your life where you do not have 'clean hands and a pure heart' or where you are 'lifting up your soul to an idol'.

You may like to quietly ask the Holy Spirit to draw to mind people, conversations, or situations where you are not walking in a way that pleases him.

As each comes into your mind, ask the Holy Spirit to bring an awareness of the forgiveness that is available because of Jesus. You may like to hold your hands open as an awareness that God takes your sins away when you ask him to **(1 John 1 : 9)** - there's no need to hold onto anything.

It's so important to understand not only the gravity of our sin but also the joy of sins forgiven.

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PREPARING INDIVIDUALLY FOR REVIVAL

Read Psalm 24 : 3-6 (NLT version)

Look at verses 5-6

Spend time thanking God for the blessing and the right relationship that is restored when we seek to walk as people who are no longer held back by our past.

If you have time, look at the whole Psalm. Notice that the verses 'book-ending' the Psalm lead into and out of the Psalmist's prayer in the middle



Talk to each other or pray about what struck you during this quiet time with the Lord

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PRAY

**LOOK BACK AT THE STARTER FROM
TODAY'S STUDY AND PRAY TOGETHER**

**that God would continue to give us,
both as a church and as individuals,
the soft and humble heart that
he looks for in his people.**



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PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

- How would you answer someone who claimed: 'Prayer is just a formal recital of words that helps Christians to feel better about themselves'?
- How have you experienced prayer differently?



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Read Luke 11 : 9-10

“So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

This study has been taken from the Thy Kingdom Come resources. We will be using the Lord’s Prayer to help us to pray as we continue to ask God for revival.



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PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

PRAY

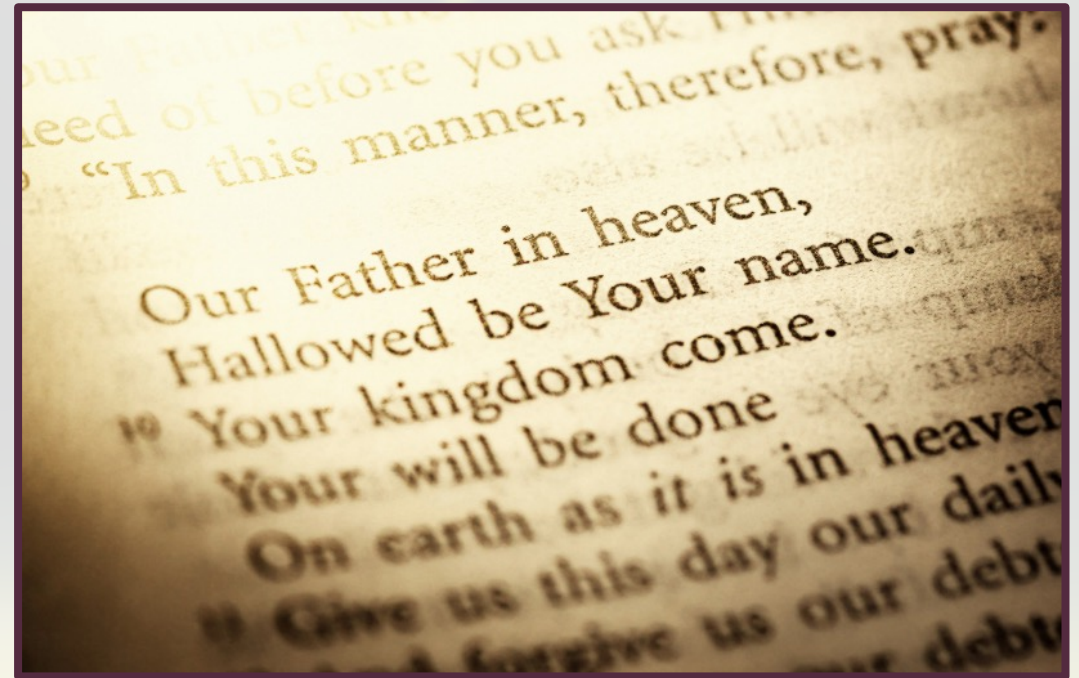
Pray as you start by saying the words of the Lord's Prayer together.

Our Father in heaven

If your homegroup are up for it, sing a song together to start, or listen to a song recording, that expresses the love of God our Father. Or if your group are happy to do so, talk about how you experience the love of God as a parent.

Hallowed be your name...

- Give thanks for who God is and what He gives us.
- Share a testimony to God's faithfulness.



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PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

PRAY

Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

- Pray for God's love to direct all of our relationships and conversations where we live and work so that many will encounter Jesus.
- Ask for our homes and churches to become places where more people of all ages discover God's love and mercy.

Give us today our daily bread

- Pray for those who are vulnerable in the parish/ community to be reached by God's love.
- Ask for God's provision for all those working to bring in His kingdom in our parish/community.



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PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

PRAY

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

- Invite confession for the times when we have not reached out with love; when our hearts have been fearful.
- Ask for new boldness to talk about the difference Jesus has made in our lives.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

- Pray for some of the needs of our parish/community.
- Ask God to show you up to five people to pray for so they may encounter Jesus.



REVIVAL

PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

PRAY

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and for ever**

- Pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit on His church this Pentecost season.
- Pray that many people will discover the truth about Jesus across our nation.
- Pray for God's blessing on each other, and on every church and every household in our parish/ community.



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PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

PRAY

A FINAL BLESSING

“May the Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26

