

Week 2:

No Revival Without Repentance



Questions

1. This is a key week to split men and women into separate groups for discussion. Do so now if you haven't already.
2. Because we will be sharing sensitive matters this week, take a moment to decide as a group of men or women if you are committed to keeping what is shared here confidential. Here's an example of what you could agree to:

What is shared in this group stays in this group. We commit to guarding each other's vulnerabilities as a sacred trust, praying for one another instead of discussing matters elsewhere.
3. Share any pages from the Devotional or ideas from the sermon that have spoken to you or encouraged you.
4. Read Matthew 22:37-38. What is “the first and greatest command,” according to Jesus in this passage? Has this Revival study been increasing or decreasing your love for God? Describe.
5. Read Psalm 51:1-4 aloud. Read 1 John 1:9. Has God revealed to you any obvious sin that has grown between you and the Father? Have you been trusting in money, busyness, career or other people, instead of trusting in Him? Has your family become an idol that you worship above Him? Take a moment to share honestly.
6. Each time we sin or struggle to put God first, we are actually in a moment of great opportunity. We have the opportunity to confess and restore the relationship. Through Jesus' work on the cross, we get to do this over and over. Have you ever considered “repentance” through this lens of relationship? Describe what feelings and thoughts you used to have about the word “repentance.”
7. Read John 21:15-17. If Jesus asked you three times, “Do you really love me more than you love the other people in your life?” What would your answer be today?
8. Read Nehemiah 1:4-7. What if God is waiting for you to repent, in order for Him to revive the people you love the most? If that is the case, are you willing to repent and put God back into first place in your heart and life—for His glory and for the good of those people you love?
9. Each person should leave the group with a buddy. Groups of 3 to 5 who will pray together daily by phone or text, and will check in with each other. Identify your group of 3 to 5 now.
10. Identify the most frequent sin struggles in your life.



11. Read Matthew 6:13. Have you ever prayed daily, “Lord, lead me away from temptation, and deliver me from Satan and demonic influence?” Take a moment to pray this aloud right now, with each person praying it.
12. Read Hosea 10:12b. In order to experience full revival, your heart must be “broken up” just like the hardened soil must be broken up. Share what God is doing in your heart.
13. Read Psalm 30:5. This joy and rejoicing follow the pain of repentance. It takes faith to walk through the pain of repenting, believing that joy waits on the other side. Share if you are in the painful or joyful stage of repentance. Then take a moment to pray for one another. Ask God to give endurance and faith to each specific person in your group. (see also Psalm 51:12)

Takeaways

- Revival = revived love for God
 - Revival Practices:
 - 1: A posture of urgency and dependence
 - 2: Ongoing repentance for relationship
- Repentance is turning from your sin in order to turn to God.
- What can you do with your shame, regrets, and failures?
- **Psalm 51:1-4, 7-9 (NIV)**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
- Bring your shame and regret to God in repentance. He alone can wash you, restore you, and lift you up.
- Revival begins with repentance.
- **1 John 1:9 (ESV)**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Ongoing repentance – for relationship – leads to a life of revived love for God.
- 3 Truths about Repentance that Lead to Revival
 1. It's about relationship, not perfection.
 2. It ends in joy, not shame.
 3. It's about going out to obey God, not just avoiding sin.



- **Hosea 10:12b (ESV)**

break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

- **2 Corinthians 7:10 (NASB)**

For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- **Psalm 30:5 (NIV)**

For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

- Repentance is not about shaming yourself. It's about continually telling God you love Him more than any sin or distraction.

- Ongoing repentance as a lifestyle is a hallmark of a mature Christian.

- **Psalm 51:12 (NLT)**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

- **Acts 13:22b (NIV)**

God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

- Every failure is an opportunity for you to choose God again.

- **John 21:16 (NIV)**

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

- We run to God with our mistakes because His unconditional love is bigger than our failures.

- We run to God with our failures because the joy of restored relationship is more powerful than the guilt and shame of hiding and isolating.

- Before Peter became the spokesperson for God's Revival in the book of Acts, his final recorded interaction with Jesus is one of repentance for reconciliation and restored relationship.

- Ongoing "repentance for relationship" leads to a life of:

- Revived love for God
- Joyful friendship with God
- Overcoming evil
- Helping others
- Experiencing God's power

- This kind of repentance for relationship can become a way of life.

