

revive

9/7 - 9/21



FaithWestwood UMC Study Guide September 2025

After focusing on evangelism in July & August, let's put what we've learned into practice and continue to be **Invitational**. The **Revive** sermon series provides a **revival** of one's **worship** (faith), **study** (hope), and **service** (love).

If you need this, remember that someone else does too!

(*there is a pre-sermon series message on August 31)

This guide may be utilized by FaithGroups and/or Individuals.

If you would like to connect with a FaithGroup on-site and/or online, please check out the latest **GROW Catalog** on our website faithwestwood.com

Mission Offerings & Activities / Family Activities:
look for the **"GOLDEN"** banner at the end of each lesson.



© 2025, Study Guide by Rev. Cindi Stewart for FaithWestwood
United Methodist Church, August 31 + September 7-21, 2025
Mission Offerings & Activities by Director of Caring Ministries Vikki O'Hara
Family Activities by Director of Family Ministry Leah Dinoso

Week of August 31 / Revive Us, Again! (Pre-Sermon Series)

Message Focus: The psalmist says, “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?” How can we ground ourselves in the love, grace, and mercy of God?

Psalm 85 / *For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.*

- ¹ You, Lord, showed favor to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- ² You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.
- ³ You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.
- ⁴ Restore us again, God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.
- ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
- ⁶ Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
- ⁷ Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation.
- ⁸ I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people,
his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly.
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.
- ¹² The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.
- ¹³ Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

Opening

- Intro: Think of a time in your life when you needed **renewal, restoration, revival** – where did you best experience this (prayer, devotions, Bible study, songs, etc.)?
- Pray: **Creator God, will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation. In your holy name we pray, AMEN.**

Observing

- Psalm 85 is a **psalm of hope** for the glory of God to be revealed through **restoration**. Read **Psalm 85:1-3**. What were the iniquities of the people (pre & post-exile)? How do these verses reveal God’s **restoration through forgiveness**?
- Read **Psalm 85:4-7**. How would God’s people experience **hesed** (steadfast love) versus anger? How do these verses reveal God’s **restoration through salvation**?
- Read **Psalm 85:8-9**. What does **shalom** look like (peace, wholeness in every aspect of life)? How do these verses reveal God’s **restoration through peace**?
- Read **Psalm 85:10-13**. How is God’s glory and **restoration** revealed in these *best things*: **love, faithfulness, righteousness, and peace**? And how is a **way** provided for people to follow in God’s footsteps through these things?

Reflecting

- Where do you **most** see God’s glory and **restoration** being revealed right now through **love, faithfulness, righteousness, and/or peace** (family, church, community, nation, world)? Where is God’s glory and **restoration** needed most right now?
- Which **verse** speaks / **verses** speak most to your need for any **renewal, restoration, and/or revival** right now? Any specific one would you claim as a **breath prayer** for the next month?
- In terms of **worship, study, & service**, which aspect do you most need to revive in your spiritual life? What steps will you commit to for the next month?

Sending Forth

- Challenge for the Week: Invite someone to an upcoming **worship** service – be intentional about the message focus and other details (like Hymn Sing / Bells / Bible Blessing / Communion on 9/7).
- After sharing your **prayer requests**, close with the **Lord's Prayer**.

Week of 8/31: Mission Offerings & Activities and Family Activities

Mission Offering: Outside the Walls

Be sure to sign up to volunteer at **Outside the Walls** on **Saturday, September 27**, and **Sunday, September 28**, and contribute to today's Mission Offering which will help us gather all the supplies needed to make each project a success! **Also**: consider signing up on **Meal Train** to bring a meal to feed the 10 members of our Wednesday evening **GriefShare** group:

www.mealtrain.com/trains/lve0kw

For the Family: Have you ever been tired, need to rest? After resting, you feel better, more energy, revived. God love us so much that he wants our lies and faith family to be revived – but we also need to be active in that revival. God doesn't just zap us full of energy like an energy drink, we need to participate in it. We can pray and ask for things and then we need to prepare for what we ask for. If we pray for rain, we need to bring an umbrella. When we pray we need to actively listen for God too. When God says go or do – we need to listen and go and do. God loves you so much and He wants you to live your best life with him and work with him, participate in his plan for you.

Family "Take Action" Activity: Draw or cut out a heart. Write down areas of your life that need a revival, need a boost, or need healing, on the heart. Pray for those things and then as a family put a band-aid on your heart. Write REVIVE on the band-aid. Talk with your family about the actions you can take to prepare for the things you've prayed for.

***Prepare for Worship on 9/7: Pray for Worship / Helping Hands Mission Offering / Third Grade Bibles / Bible Blessing for All (Bring YOUR Bible) / In-Pew Communion**

Week of September 7 / Revive our Worship!

Message Focus: Jesus says to the woman at the well, **"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."** Worship is necessary to revive our faith.

***John 4:19-26 /** ¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ **"Woman,"** Jesus replied, **"believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."**

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, **"I, the one speaking to you—I am he."**

Opening

- Intro: Share about a **transforming worship experience** in your spiritual journey.
- Pray: **Creator God, will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation. In your holy name we pray, AMEN.**

Observing

- This passage is found within the greater context of **John 4** where Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at the well and engages in a deeply spiritual conversation. Think about the context of this scene and the implications for **her / Jesus / disciples**.
- Read **John 4:19-26**. The woman sees that Jesus is a prophet and points out the difference in religious belief in terms of where to **worship**. Think about these differences and others between Samaritans and Jews.
- If the “time” is coming for true worshipers to worship the Father in Spirit and in truth, what does this **salvation** “look” like and “sound” like?
- The woman knows that the **Messiah called Christ** is coming. How does this indicate how the Samaritans, like the Jews, anticipated and longed for the Messiah?
- Which aspects of the **Messiah** do you believe they needed most (restoration, peace, justice, etc)?

Reflecting

- If this story were being told **in our day** – who might the “woman at the well” be, and what **implications** does that have on our understanding of this story?
- Our communion liturgy says: **And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.** How do you and I best live into this **promise** as we wait for Christ’s return?

Sending Forth

- Challenge for the Week: Think about something from your **worship** experience this weekend (on-site and/online) that you can share with someone – family member, neighbor, friend, etc.
- After sharing your **prayer requests**, close with the **Apostles’ Creed** (Ecumenical Version): **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

Week of 9/7: **Mission Offerings & Activities** and **Family Activities**

Mission Offering: Helping Hands

Give generously to today’s Mission Offering which helps fund our **Helping Hands** fund that offers short-term financial support for people in our own church family. **Also:** consider donating new puzzles, games, and activity books for **Family Ministry’s Giving Tree** in September.

(Week of September 7)

For the Family: What is real love? Is it a helping hand? A box of chocolates? A commitment? Flowers? Getting a gift? Giving a gift? Real love is about giving. We show God we love him when we worship. Worship is actively praising God with our words, songs, and actions. We are revived and our faith grows when we worship God. We are giving back to God and at the same time we are also filling our hearts with love as our praises overflow.

Family “Take Action” Activity: Worship with your family at home. Sing some praise songs together, pray aloud together, and then talk with your family about how that made you feel.

***Prepare for Worship on 9/14: Pray for Worship!**

FaithWorks Pantry Mission Offering (bring money, detergent and/or “Four or More”)

Week of September 14 / Revive our Study!

Message Focus: The people said in response to Jesus, **“Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”**

Study of the Word of God is necessary to revive our hope.

***John 7:37-44 /** ³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, **“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”**

³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. ⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, **“Surely this man is the Prophet.”** ⁴¹ Others said, **“He is the Messiah.”** Still others asked, **“How can the Messiah come from Galilee? ⁴² Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?”** ⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

Opening

- Intro: Share about a **favorite Bible study** and/or **spiritual class** that you have taken.
- Pray: **Creator God, will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation. In your holy name we pray, AMEN.**

Observing

- Read **John 7:37-41**. Jesus and his disciples were at the Jewish **Feast of Tabernacles** (indicated earlier in John 7) commemorating the Israelites’ 40-year journey through the wilderness from the exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land. (Look up “Feast of Tabernacles” in an internet search or Bible reference book for details). What does it mean that **Jesus shared his words** in this **context** of the festival?
- Jesus says, **“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.”** What does it mean that Jesus spoke this on the **last and greatest day of the festival**?
- In what ways were the people hearing these words **spiritually thirsting** for what Jesus could offer?
- Jesus says, **“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”** As Jesus is speaking of the **Spirit**, how does this imagery of water resonate with the **life-giving Spirit** flowing within the people?

(Week of September 14)

- The people respond with questioning about Jesus' identity as **prophet / Messiah / from Galilee?! / from David's descendants and from Bethlehem?!** No wonder the people were divided: how can Jesus be *all these things* and yet *so much more*?

Reflecting

- Think about a time when you were **physically thirsty** – what quenched your thirst?
- Think about a time when you were **spiritually thirsty** – how did Jesus quench your thirst – and how was this different from being physically thirsty?
- **Jesus' identity is important** – what do you claim most about Jesus today? Which **names of Jesus** mean the most to you?

Sending Forth

- Challenge for the Week: Look up additional scripture passages speaking to the identity of Jesus as the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53); Word become flesh (John 1); and/or other "I AM" statements in the Gospel of John. **Share what you learned** with someone who may need to claim Jesus' identity.
- After sharing your **prayer requests**, close with praying with the following affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39 (UMH #887): **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword? No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! AMEN.**

Week of 9/14: **Mission Offerings & Activities** and **Family Activities**

Mission Offering: FaithWorks Pantry

Support today's Mission Offering for our **FaithWorks Pantry** which allows us to purchase items in bulk to stock the pantry shelves. And remember to bring items from the green "**Four or More**" list each month to help our pantry meet the increasing needs of those facing food insecurity in our community. **Also**: Pantry is collecting **detergent** in September.

For the Family: Have you ever been so thirsty that all you could think about is finding some water to drink? Do you remember how it felt when you finally got a drink of water? It's amazing, isn't it? It revives you. Our bodies need water to survive. Jesus said that he is the "living water." Just like our bodies need water to survive, our hearts need Jesus to survive. To learn and grow, we need to learn more about Jesus. We can participate in God's plan for us to learn by reading the Bible and listening for the Holy Spirit to guide us, those little nudges that guide us. And it doesn't stop there; God wants us to share what we learn with others too. We can actually remember more of what we learn about Jesus by sharing it with others.

Family "Take Action" Activity: Talk with your family about your favorite way to learn.

Do you like to read? listen to stories? draw or write things down? or do physical activity? Find a family devotion or Bible study that you can do together. OR ask Ms. Leah for – she has lots of free resources available. OR check out the new Children's Library for family devotions that you can use. Set a time for your family to learn together every week.

Prepare for Worship on 9/21:

Pray for Worship / Iglesia Comunitaria Mission Offering

Week of September 21 / Revive our Service!

Message Focus: As Peter writes to believers, he says, “If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”

Service is necessary to revive our love.

1 Peter 4:8-11 / ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening

- Intro: Share one of your **favorite spiritual places to serve** (the church counts too).
- Pray: **Creator God, will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation. In your holy name we pray, AMEN.**

Observing

- Read **1 Peter 4:8**. Peter emphasizes how Christians need to **love each other deeply**. What does it mean that **love covers over a multitude of sins**?
- Read **1 Peter 4:9**. Why do you think Peter had to emphasize **hospitality** without *grumbling*?
- Read **1 Peter 4:10**. As Christians use their gifts to **serve others**, they are instructed to be **faithful stewards of God’s grace** in its various forms. Which *forms of God’s grace* could Peter be referring?
- Read **1 Peter 4:11**. Powerful words of instruction: **speak with the very words of God and serve with the strength God provides**. Why is this so important?
- Peter concludes this part of his letter with, “**To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.**” What does this emphasize most with the Christians who are hearing this letter?

Reflecting

- Peter emphasizes important themes in this passage: **love, hospitality, service, God’s grace**. Which of the above verses provides the **most challenge** to your **discipleship** right now?
- We sing, ♪ “**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love...**” Love = Service / Service = Love. How do you most enjoy putting your **love** into **service**?
- How might we **humble ourselves** to **speak** and **serve** with the best of our abilities for God’s glory?
- How do Christians **discern** when they are in **God’s will versus their own will**?

Sending Forth

- Challenge for the Week: As FaithWestwood prepares for **Outside the Walls** on **September 27-28**, have you signed up yet to **serve**? And have you invited someone to join you to **serve**? Participating in Christian **service** is an amazing entry point for someone into the life of the church, so **invite someone** to join you!

(Week of September 21)

- After sharing your **prayer requests**, close with the **Modern Affirmation** (UMH #885): **Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare: We believe in God the Father; infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. AMEN.

Week of 9/21: Mission Offerings & Activities and Family Activities

Mission Offering: Iglesia Comunitaria

Give generously to today's Mission Offering for **Iglesia Comunitaria**, our mission partner and sister United Methodist congregation in South Omaha. Iglesia recently celebrated their fourth anniversary, and they believe they are finally able to consider having a part-time secretary. Today's offering will be used to help purchase a computer for this new role as the only computer currently the pastor's personal laptop. **Also:** remember to donate items to our **FaithWorks Pantry & The Furniture Project**.

For the Family: What things are you really good at doing? We call those your "gifts."

God gives each one of us special "spiritual gifts," but they aren't to keep to ourselves, they are to share with others. We can participate in God's plan for us and show God's love to others when we share those gifts by serving others.

Family "Take Action" Activity: Talk about your gifts, tell other family members what you think some of their gifts are. Take a spiritual gifts test if you haven't already. See Ms. Leah for some Spiritual Gifts test or check out these links online:

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/take-this-spiritual-gifts-test-with-your-family/>

<https://theprayercovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/children-and-student-spiritual-gifts-test.pdf>

As a family, come up with a way to go and serve this week or sign-up for **Outside the Walls**, which is happening next Sunday at church.

Prepare for Next Weekend, 9/28: Pray for Worship /

Outside the Walls on Saturday & Sunday – you can still sign up to help!

On Sunday, worship at 9 am (thank you for bringing your tithes & offerings).

