

WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK 5

Pastor Jacob shared about the movement that seems to be occurring in many places across the country. The church has had many seasons of revival and many seasons of dryness. Old hymns and songs of worship reveal a deep desire for revival. It starts with a people who are hungry for more of God. This week, we will look at passages of scripture that reflect that kind of hunger and the response of God. Are you hungry for God to move? Pray for revival in your faith, in the church, and around the world.

Peace of Christ, Dr. Mark Youngman Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt. Pray using these words from an old revival hymn.

Jesus, We praise Thee, O God, For the Son of Thy love For Jesus, who died and is now gone above.

Hallelujah! Thine the glory! Hallelujah! Amen! Hallelujah! Thine the glory! Revive us again. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: PSALM 85.6-7

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.

- In this Psalm, the people of God would sing about the times in the past when God had forgiven the sins of the people and restored them. It's filled with hope and desperate hunger at the same time. Like the ancient Israelites, we have hope because of what God has done in the past, and yet we feel the strain of a broken world that requires God's intervention. God has intervened for us through Jesus and has made his Spirit available to us. We need only to wake up from our sleep and seek the presence of God. As you think through your prayer life, when are the times when you have cried out a similar prayer, "revive me again!"?
- You, Lord, have shown favor and forgiveness in the past. I trust that you will move again to bring me back to life today. Amen.

TUESDAY: EPHESIANS 5.13-14

everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

"Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

- This has served as our verse for the year at Providence Church. It is a timely reminder that we can easily drift off to sleep in our faith. These words also take on significance in a time when there are reports of a kind of awakening taking place across our area. What are signs that you are getting sleepy in your faith?
- Jesus, Wake me up! I long to rise from my slumber and live fully alive for you. Amen.

WEDNESDAY: EZEKIEL 37.1-3

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

- Ezekiel was shown a valley filled with dry bones-a place of death and finality. God asked him if bones can come back to life. Oftentimes when we see a desolate place, we find it difficult to imagine life getting better there. God invites us to imagine what it would look like if there was life once again in the places where all hope seems lost. What are the places of dry bones in your life or in the world around you? What would it look like if God were to breathe life back into those places?
- God, fill my imagination with scenes of your transforming work. Fill me with hope that you might move once again. Amen.

THURSDAY: EZEKIEL 37.4-6

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will

attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord."

- If we could observe this scene from the outside, it would surely look silly. A man standing over bones promising breath and flesh and tendons to return. But the promise is too good to laugh off. What once wasn't living could now have breath! And the breath is proof that God is God. If you've ever lost your breath, you know what a relief it is to gain it back. You breathe deeply and appreciate your breathing. Do you think of your breath as a gift from God? Use your breath as a prayer of gratitude.
- (Breathe in) Thank you God (Breathe out) for my life. Amen.

FRIDAY: ISAIAH 64.1-4

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!

As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

- This is another example of God's people experiencing a time of fallenness and sin, remembering God's saving acts, and begging for God to act again. They recall that the mountains have been shaken in the past and fires have burned through the land. They are asking Him to come down and set things right. Their job is to be hungry for God and to wait for him. Have you ever prayed a bold prayer like this? Does it feel risky to invite God to come down and make the mountains tremble? Is the ground trembling now?
- God, remind me of your faithfulness today. Show me memories of your saving acts and refresh

SATURDAY: MATTHEW 24.12-14

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- There is a connection between a call for the inbreaking of the Holy Spirit and "the end". When the Spirit of God breaks through it can feel thrilling and peaceful all at once. It can produce confusion and clarity at the same time. Our task is to stand firm and let God speak. What is your understanding of what the end would look like? Where are the gaps in the proclamation of the gospel in the world around you?
- Jesus, steady my feet as I stand firm on the Gospel of Your Kingdom. Use me as you will to preach the good news wherever you desire. Amen.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read the quote from the founder of the 24/7 Prayer Movement and the Lectio 365 devotion app.

"What's happening at Asbury is not everything but it is something and right now we need something to shock the system so that this generation can experience for themselves the life-changing power of God. We need repentance and holiness. We need the kind of outpouring of the Spirit on campuses that can incubate and detonate a new generation to preach the gospel with greater confidence, fight injustice with greater defiance, and transform society with greater intelligence. Beyond human programs, products and personalities, we need God's power, presence and perspective. In other words we need a sovereign inbreaking of the Holy Spirit. America was built on such awakenings. And they always, always, always begin in precisely this way: with seasons of concerted prayer." -Pete Grieg

- Have you ever prayed for revival?
- Have you ever experienced an outpouring of God's Spirit? If so, what was it like? Who were you with?
- Can you picture the kind of movement that Grieg describes above? What could be different in the world if this were to happen?