



REVIVE US

A HEART READY FOR REVIVAL

Session 3 Personal Study Guide

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Adapted from *Revive Us: A Heart Ready for Revival* by Robby Gallaty

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PERSONAL STUDY 1

FASTING

If God brought revival in the context of your life and church, would you be ready for it? Would your church? Why or why not?

We find ourselves in a time in history unlike any other before – globally, nationally, locally, and personally. Our world is living contradiction – we are more connected yet more fractured and alone than ever before. We have the ability to share our thoughts and know everyone else's thoughts within moments. The other side of the coin is that many more feel lonely and disconnected from any form of a real relationship with anyone.

Daniel found himself in a similar situation: he and his buddies were taken away to a different country and culture found to be in dire need of a revival. While most of the Jewish captives got up in the Babylonian culture, Daniel's heart was broken and brought him to his knees in prayer and fasting

*God will pour out His Spirit on a people
who hunger for more of Him.*

HUNGRY TO RECEIVE

Read Daniel 10:2-76. What word did Daniel use to describe fasting? (vs. 2)

How is the practice of fasting tied to mourning and lament?

In time, the king allowed God's people to return to Israel but there was resistance to returning as God's people had built homes and established themselves in the community. They seemingly were sucked into the promises, allure, and pleasures of Babylon.

After three weeks of fasting, what did Daniel experience that the men with him did not?

With his heart set purposefully and intentionally on hearing from God and seeking Him solid for three weeks, Daniel saw the Lord. Don't miss this: God wants to show up. God is not a shrewd businessman, like Scrooge, who wants to hoard all the treasure he can. God desires to give us good gifts to those who ask (see James 1:7, Psalm 84:11, Matthew 7:11). God wants us to draw near to Him so He can draw near to us (see James 4:8, Jeremiah 29:13, Matthew 28:20).

God manifests His presence to those who look for Him.

The men with Daniel fled as they sensed something dreadful was happening. In reality, Daniel saw an angel of God. Maybe God wanted only Daniel to receive the vision. Maybe Daniel was the only one spiritually ready to handle hearing from God.

The men in this passage were all in the same situation but responded differently. Underline any word that describes a response of someone ready to receive revival from God. Put an “X” beside any word that describes a response of someone not ready to receive revival from God.

Desperate	Satisfied	Prayerful	Fasting
Resigned	Dependent	Independent	Broken
Waiting	Settling	Impatient	Hopeful

Now circle any of the words that describe your response to your current culture and context.

Many of us respond to disrupting events from our sinful nature and in our own strength. When we respond in our strength, we dull our spiritual senses and sensitivity to God working in us and through us. The sticky part is we can appear to others and even ourselves to be spiritual when we are, in all reality, actually operating out of spiritual anger rather than spiritual anguish. Responding in spiritual anger can cause us to miss a move of God.

Based on Daniel 10:2-7, what do you need to do to become ready to receive a fresh vision from God?

When God lights a fire, some people stand too far away to get warm. Is that you?

HUMBLER TO RECEIVE

Read Daniel 10:8-11. List words in the passage that describe Daniel as he received this vision of God.

Considering Daniel's commitment to seeking the Lord through fasting and praying, is Daniel's state of being surprising to you? Why?

When Daniel fasted and prayed for three weeks, God showed up. Upon Daniel being in God's presence, Daniel dropped to his knees. He didn't write a song, write a book, take a selfie, stand and shout a war cry, charge the walls of Babylon, or sit with a smile because all his questions and fears had been resolved. The reality is Daniel collapsed to the ground, trembling, powerless, and alone (vs. 8-9).

Why does a fresh vision of God bring human weakness and trembling instead of strength and courage?

For what reason could Daniel stand, even though he was weak and trembling (v. 11)?

The goal of fasting and praying is not that we might self-actualize and realize our power and potential in the world. The purpose of fasting and praying is that we might receive a fresh vision of God, realizing His power and purpose in and for the world. We develop our practices of spiritual disciplines not for greater self-help but for greater acknowledgement of our desperate need for God. When receiving a true vision of God and His holiness, we are sent to our knees.

What are some signs a person has received a true vision of God's holiness?

How does receiving a true vision of God move our faith beyond an intellectual exercise?

When encountering the risen Christ, it is evident to you and others. When our life intersects with God's presence, the God of the universe, a mark is left on and in us. The problem is many of us would rather define a move of God rather than desire it. We would rather have an explanation than an experience of His presence. If we're not mindful, we'll be a spectator and not a participant.

*We have adopted an intellectual faith in place of –
and at the expense of – an experiential faith.*

**Which resonates most personally: intellectual faith or experiential faith?
What do pride and humility have to do with your faith reality?**

HELPED TO RECEIVE

Read Daniel 10:12-14. Why did the Lord's angel come to Daniel?

From the first moment Daniel began humbly seeking and desiring a fresh vision from God, God heard his prayers. Simply: your prayers have power. God hears your prayers and will answer them. Don't give up!

Why did it take three weeks for Daniel to receive a fresh vision of God?

The angel was held up for twenty-one days in the spiritual realm. That didn't stop Daniel from fasting and praying. We should learn from Daniel. Instead of giving up, we should be on the guard for attacks. When God moves, expect a countermove by Satan.

*Everything that happens in the natural realm
first happens in the spiritual realm.*

We cannot fight a spiritual battle with natural weapons. Prayer for God's people is just like oxygen for our bodies.

Because Daniel did not stop seeking the Lord, what help did the angel come to give (v. 14)?

Those who receive an outbreak of revival from God are those who are committed to humbly praying to God. Prayer is the greatest and most powerful thing you can do. Pray for your family, yourself, your pastor and church staff and their families. Pray for your small group, worship team, coworkers, neighbors, community, and country. Pray for the world. Pray for God to move. The great news is that He will move! God has sent His Spirit who dwells within us, ready to help us receive revival.

Read the following verses and record what help we receive from the Spirit when we pray.

Acts 1:14, 2:1-4, 38-41

Acts 2:42-27

Acts 4:31

*The Holy Spirit will never impose Himself on you.
He won't enter unless you welcome Him in.*

The moment you turn to Jesus in faith, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. We must be mindful to not grieve nor quench the Holy Spirit. You won't walk in the power of God with casual praying. Experiencing the manifestation of the Spirit of God will not be possible with a discount devotional life.

Are you whole-heartedly willing to pray until God comes? Do you desire and long to humble yourself and be open and honest to admit you've tried to live without God? Is your heart broken over sin and the lostness of your community to the point of crying out to God until He shows up?

Personal Study 2

INTERCEDING

Who has interceded for you in some way? How did he or she do that?

Who do you feel compelled to intercede for now? How?

First introduced in 1968 on the London Underground, the term “Mind the gap” or sometimes “watch the gap” is a warning phrase issued to rail passengers informing them to be cautious while crossing the gap between the train’s doorway and station platform. This is the origin to the American phrase “watch your step.”

In many ways this is the role an intercessor plays. An intercessor stands in the gap. They warn and caution others about the steps they are taking in hopes to prevent eternal injuries. Intercessors give their time and energy to help others.

*An intercessor is someone who stands before
the Lord on behalf of other people.*

Read Luke 4:18 and Romans 8:1-4. How has Jesus acted as an intercessor?

Read Galatians 5:1, 13-18 and 1 Timothy 2:1-6. Since Jesus has already provided the freedom we need, why must we now intercede for others?

AN INTERCESSOR KNOWS GOD

Read Genesis 18:16-19. What do you learn about Abraham's relationship with God?

Genesis 18 reveals the first example of intercessory prayer. When you look closer, something important happens before that intercessory moment takes place – Abraham was known by God and seeking to know God. Verse 19 contains God's words about Abraham: "For I have chosen him." Another translation of the Hebrew can be "For I have known Him" or "For he is my intimate friend." The Hebrew verb used in verse 19 is from the word *yada* and encompasses a range of meanings related to knowledge and understanding. It is used to describe intellectual awareness, experiential knowledge, and intimate familiarity. In the biblical context, *yada* often implies a deep, personal, and relational knowledge, such as the intimate relationship between God and His people or between individuals.¹

God called Abraham a friend. That's a title not to be taken lightly (James 2:23).

Who in your life would say embraces his or her calling to be God's friend?

What about Him or her makes you think that?

Do you embrace your invitation to be God's friend? What does/would that look like in your life?

¹ See <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3045.htm>

Many hunger for spiritual vitality, but they look in all the wrong places. Some wear crystals, keep stones in their pockets, spend money on books, gurus, or coaches. Still some consult horoscopes or transcendence through any number of supposedly spiritual practices. It is reasoned they have tried religion but want/desire something more. Sadly for other, Christianity has become a check list of things to do – Sunday has become a day simply to check off on a calendar.

Why does intercession necessitate friendship with Jesus (John 14:6)?

The gospel requires no additions nor alterations. Anything or anyone adding to the gospel – anything added to a relationship with Jesus – is no longer Christianity (Galatians 1:6-9). It is entirely possible that those who search for something more than Jesus, sadly, never really met Him in the first place. When we meet Jesus, nothing more is desired or wanted.

Read Matthew 7:21-23. Is Jesus real to you? How do you know?

Knowing about Jesus isn't enough – never has been. Faith in Christ is not just increasing a collection of knowledge about Him. Those who have been born again spend time with Jesus because want to know His heart. True intercessors have conversations with God because they want to grow in their relationship with Him and do His will.

*You'll never be an intercessor without
spending time in God's presence.*

What are some activities you are tempted to choose over spending time with God?

What is the danger in those temptations?

Being known as and called a *friend of God* requires being wise and intentional with our time. It is said *time* is the gift you can give but not hold on to. Time is a limited resource that you are asked to allocate each day. Friendship grows through time and regular intimacy, so it's worth looking at your schedule to see where your time goes. A friend of God who is growing in faith and interceding for others knows God – because they spend time with Him.

AN INTERCESSOR STANDS IN THE GAP

Read Genesis 18:20-33. What did Abraham step forward to ask God?

How would you characterize Abraham's question of God in this situation?

(Circle all that apply)

impertinent

prideful

courageous

faithful

untrusting

trusting

humble

surprising

At the onset, it might seem like Abraham has some audacity to approach God so boldly. Deeper examination reveals God's desire for Abraham to press into Him through prayer. God expected Abraham to dialogue with Him, and even expects that same of you, me, and everyone Jesus has freed from sin's bondage.

What factors or feelings might have held Abraham back from interceding for people in this way?

What factors or feelings hold you back from interceding for revival on behalf of others?

Intercessors need to be strengthened, because they will:

- Take the arrows of the enemy
- Bear the burden of the people
- Fight the battle
- Risk their own lives
- Plead with God to move
- Keep the flame lit and stoke revival

In Isaiah 59, the nation was falling apart, and God was looking for someone tough to intercede. Read Isaiah 59:14-16. What kind of a culture did Isaiah experience and describe?

In Isaiah's day, religious leaders were corrupt. The order of the day were conspiracies. Rios and violence filled the streets. City officials were not who the people thought they were – wolves in sheep's clothing was the reality. The poor and oppressed were being robbed on a regular basis. There was no justice.

How did God respond?

*When there is not an intercessor, God
Himself becomes an Intercessor.*

Jesus took the form of human flesh and stood in the gap because God couldn't find an intercessor (Philippians 2:5-11). Jesus came because no human could adequately or effectively fulfill that role. We mess up. We are weak. We are insufficient and incapable. We fall short (Romans 3:23). We can't save ourselves (Ephesians 2:8-9).

So God sent His Son, Jesus, to stand in the gap when He went to the cross. He continues to stand in the gap and intercede for us still today (1 John 2:1-2).

Read Hebrews 7:25. What does Jesus live to do?

You and I cannot be tough enough to take the arrows of the enemy, bear others burdens, fight the battles, risk our lives, pleased with God to move, keep the flame lit, and stoke revival on our own. On your own power, you cannot be the intercessor the world needs, but Jesus can through you. When the words escape you in what to pray, the Spirit will intercede for you. When you don't know how to pray, the Holy Spirit does . . . and will (Romans 8:26-27).

This is the gospel. We have One who intercedes for us. We have One who absorbed ours ins. We have One who died in our place.

Read Acts 1:8. What does the Holy Spirit intercede for you to receive?

Prayer, powerful prayer, is the key to a victorious Christian life. Our assistance or input is not needed by God. God desires our attention. He is looking for men and women who will commit to pray. Will you be the one to tell others *mind the gap*? Will you be the one to stand in the gap and intercede for others to receive revival?

SILENCE AND SOLITUDE

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

God continually pursues and revives you. He has forgiven you and brought reconciliation to your relationship with Him, and He desires to take your relationship with Him as deep as you'll let Him. The onus is on you to desire to develop that kind of relationship with God. One critical way to do this is to be intentional with spiritual practices in your daily life.

To this point in our journey, you've learned practices like silence and solitude, confession, repentance, fasting, and intercession. These are the tip of the iceberg: Bible study, journaling, Scripture memorization, generosity, community, and Sabbath rest are just a few to name offhand.

15 MINUTES

This week, increase your practice of silence and solitude to fifteen minutes each day.

As you do, invite God to speak to you about the relationship between spiritual practices and revival in your life. Ask questions like: How should I fast? Who do I need to intercede for?

Use the blank page provided to record what God reveals to you.

