

October 4: Revival

Gather: Bible, paper, pen

Introduction:

Last week we talked about finding streams in the wasteland and how God brings rejuvenation. Today we are exploring more about the revival that God is bringing and how we can be a part of it.

Reflective Exercise: Listen and respond to the song *Revival* by Stars Go Dim.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=XhQjYbK9mAs&feature=emb_logo

Revival

What is revival?

A few of the words used to describe revival by many authors and dictionaries include: restoration, reawakening, reinvigorating, renewal, bringing back, strengthening, coming back to life.

Jesus was sent to bring revival. What type of revival did he bring? (See Isaiah 61:1 for a hint!)

While people had turned from God and the nations were spiritually dead, God was preparing to bring revival and draw his people back to him again. When Jesus came, we see this happen as many people throughout his time and after came to believe in Jesus as God.

We also see revival at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit comes. If you're unfamiliar with this story, pause and read **Acts 2**.

Throughout history we have seen nations turn from God, and many times turn back to God. Now looking at your life, have you experienced this same trend?

What about in the people around you? In your school? City? Country?

Revival In Our New Normal

You may have noticed a kind of revival as people returned to work, school, and grew their cohorts. Or maybe you noticed the hardships that seem more obvious now. Whatever you experienced coming back to school and as our world has changed, there are places and people experiencing revival while other places are still feeling trapped in trials.

Throughout the pandemic of COVID-19 many people have been seeking answers and help to get through the hardships. One article published earlier this year says that online searches for the word "prayer" has significantly increased. It says:

“Using daily data on Google searches for 95 countries, this research demonstrates that the COVID-19 crisis has increased Google searches for prayer (relative to all Google searches) to the highest level ever recorded. More than half of the world population had prayed to end the coronavirus...the rise is due to an intensified demand for religion: We pray to cope with adversity.”

To read more and find out what this researcher thinks, read the article at:
https://www.economics.ku.dk/research/corona/Bentzen_religiosity_covid.pdf

“In Crisis, We Pray: Religiosity and the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Jeanet Sinding Bentzen. May 2020

People are actively seeking a higher power during this unknown time. What if you could be a part of helping them find the One True God? You could be an example to them of how God helps us through, stands by us and helps to revive the people around us.

What can you do this week to show your own reliance on God? Or if you are having trouble relying on God, what can you do or who can you talk to, to help you do that?

Whether you are struggling to rely on God during these times or are finding yourself able to rely on him, take a moment and write down what you know about God that helps you rely on him: (for example: he keeps his promises)

If you are seeing people that are still struggling, how can you be part of bringing revival to them? If you don't know where else to start – start with prayer!

Memory Verse: Isaiah 43:20-21 “The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.”

Prayer: through Scripture. Using Psalm 85:6-7, pray:

“Won't you revive us again, so your people can rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.”

Challenge: Look up a verse related to revival each day this week. Then spend time in prayer.

Monday: Isaiah 64:1-3
Tuesday: Hosea 6:1-3
Wednesday: Psalm 85:4-7
Thursday: Psalm 80:14-18

Friday: James 5:16
Saturday: Isaiah 57:14-16
Bonus verse: Habakkuk 3:2