

## Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church

Life Group notes.

Praying For Revival: In Desperate Need of Revival

Two weeks worth of notes commencing on Sunday  
5 May 2019

Life Group format:  
The 4 W's

**W**elcome

**W**orship

**W**ord

**W**itness / prayer

### Week 1

1. What is your understanding of the word "revival"?
2. Discuss the following definitions of revival:
  - The church historian James Buchanan defined revival as "the imparting of life to those who are dead, and the imparting of healing to those who are dying.
  - Jonathan Edwards who saw revival in his church over 250 years ago explained revival as "God's major means of extending his Kingdom".
  - Edwin Orr defined these outpourings of the Holy Spirit "as a movement of the Holy Spirit bringing about a revival of New Testament Christianity to the church of Christ and its related community." (James Edwin Orr was a Baptist Christian minister, hymn-writer, professor, author and promoter of Church revival and renewal. 1912 - 1987)
  - Revival is "is community saturated with God."
  - December 1866 Spurgeon explained in his magazine *The Sword and the Trowel* what revival is: "To be revived is a blessing which can only be enjoyed by those who have some degree of life. Those who have no spiritual life are not, and cannot be, in the strictest sense of the term subjects of revival .... A true revival is looked for in the Church of God."
  - Evan Roberts, a leading figure in the Welsh revival of 1904 to 1905 said, "My mission is first to the churches. When the churches are aroused to their duty, men of the world will be swept into the Kingdom. A whole church on its knees is irresistible."
  - Rhys Bevan Jones, who preached in Wales throughout 1904, declared that if ever there was a slogan for that revival it was this: "Bend the church, and save the people."
3. Road to Emmaus. **Luke 24:13-33**. Is there anything you can do to "position yourself" to having your spiritual eyes opened? Is it possible to be a believer and be spiritually blind? **2 Corinthians 7:1**
4. Why is it necessary to have both a "personal" revival and a "corporate" revival?
5. What do you understand by the following statement from the sermon, "In revival, the timing is up to God but the turning is up to us?"
6. Relate the above sermon quote with the following scriptures: **2 Chronicles 7:14** and **2 Chronicles 29:36**.
7. Have you experienced anything like a revival church service? If you have, tell the group about what you experienced.
8. Why do you think the church needs a revival?

9. What should we do if we're committed to Christ, cleansed from all known sin, and yet feel spiritually cold?
10. Discuss the implications of the statement, "Commitment to God is the most pressing need in a time of pressing need."

Week 2: Praying For Revival: In Desperate Need of Revival

Life Group format:  
The 4 W's

**W**elcome  
**W**orship  
**W**ord  
**W**itness / prayer

1. Re-look at some definitions of revival from last week. Is there anything new that strikes you about these definitions?
2. Read **Acts 19:23-41** Background: The silversmiths made their living off of the idol-worshiping citizens of the city. The silversmiths rioted out of anger over a lack of customers. They attributed the problem to the influence of Paul's gospel over the entire city. So many people had become Christians that they deserted the temple of Artemis and stopped buying the little silver replicas of the temple. What a powerful testimony to the influence of the Ephesian church in that city. **What are the factors that led to this citywide revival?**
3. **Hosea 10:12.** What actions are we to take and how can we do this?
4. Rev. J. I. Packer lists five Marks of Revival: (James Innell Packer (born 1926), usually cited as J. I. Packer, is an English-born Canadian evangelical theologian. He currently serves as the Board of Governors' Professor of Theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is considered one of the most influential evangelicals in North America. He has been the theologian emeritus of the Anglican Church in North America since its inception in 2009.)
  - A. Awareness of God's Presence
  - B. Responsiveness to God's Word
  - C. Sensitiveness to sin
  - D. Liveliness in Community - A revived church is full of life, joy, and power of the Holy Spirit
  - E. Faithfulness in testimony - an evangelistic and ethical overflow into the world.
5. **2 Chronicles 29:1-11.** Background: We are introduced to Hezekiah as a young man of 25, and we know nothing about his early life except who his parents were. That was not a very hopeful start! His father was Ahaz, and his life in the Bible is well recorded not as a godly man but as a godless man. But we need to look at the quality of Hezekiah's life because revival is always a personal thing, and no one is used in revival who is not first revived themselves. **Looking at the life of Hezekiah, comment on: "It is not possible for the Holy Spirit to come in great power among His people without creating a burning desire to live holy and pure lives."**
6. **2 Kings 18:5-6**
7. In 1858, a minister in Wales wrote of the urgent need for revival and made suggestions as to how revival might come. His suggestions included "a pure ministry .... apostolic preaching .... the awaking must start in the pulpit .... the church must be full of sympathy with the ministry." This emphasises on the

importance of the leaders, it cannot be stressed too much that others must be in harmony and unity with the leadership. Preparing for revival is not the work of the leaders alone. **How can we prepare for revival?**

8. Read the instruction in **1 Peter 1:16**. Why should this be taken seriously? How does holiness contrast to a Pharisees self-righteousness?

9. New Testament concerning personal holiness:

**Matthew 10:16 (NIV)**

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as **innocent as doves.**”

**Romans 16:19 (NIV)**

Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and **innocent about what is evil.**

**1 Corinthians 14:20 (NIV)**

Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. **In regard to evil be infants**, but in your thinking be adults.

**2 Corinthians 6:17 (NIV)**

17 Therefore,

“Come out from them

and be separate,

says the Lord.

**Touch no unclean thing,**

and I will receive you.”

**Ephesians 5:3 (NIV)**

But among you there must **not be even a hint** of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.

**Ephesians 5:12 (NIV)**

It is **shameful even to mention** what the disobedient do in secret.

**Philippians 4:8 (NIV)**

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is **pure**, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about such things.**

**Colossians 3:2 (NIV)**

**Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things.

### **James 1:27 (NIV)**

Religion that God our Father accepts as **pure** and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to **keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

### **Jude 23 (NIV)**

save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—**hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.**

10. Obedience to the Word. **2 Chronicles 29:2, 15. From the life of Hezekiah, what does radical commitment to the Word of God look like? How would that translate into the 21st century?**
11. In the following Scriptures, look at the early churches attitude towards Scripture: **Acts 2:15, Acts 4:25 and Acts 5:15.**
12. An example from Spurgeon: Charles Haddon Spurgeon preached to 6,000 to 8,000 people every Sunday night at the Metropolitan Tabernacle during the nineteenth century and his church experienced continuous revival for many years, with new members each month being added to the membership. Spurgeon claimed no other authority than the Word of God and when he saw the Bible being downgraded by those in positions of church leadership, he opposed their actions fearlessly. The personal attacks that his courage attracted probably shortened his life.
13. **What do you think of the following statement concerning great revival preachers,** “They did not preach what they did not believe, and they did not believe what they did not obey.”
14. 2 Chronicles 29:36 (NIV) “Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.” 2 Chronicles 29:36 (NKJV) “Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly.”
15. **What do you think of John Wesley’s statement?:** “Give me 100 men who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I will shake the world.”
16. Spend some time praying for revival.