

# REVIVE

A HEART READY FOR REVIVAL

# US

ROBBY GALLATY

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Robby is the Senior Pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, TN. He was radically saved from a life of drug addiction on November 12, 2002. In 2008, he formed Replicate Ministries to equip and train men and women to be disciples who make disciples. He is also the author of multiple books.

# HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

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This Bible study provides a guided process for individuals and small groups to experience revival. Six sessions of study work through the process of personal and spiritual revival. Through the study we hope and pray that God will make our hearts ready for revival.

## **GROUP STUDY**

Regardless of what day of the week your group meets, each session of content begins with the group session. Each group session uses the following format to facilitate simple yet meaningful interaction among group members and with God's Word.

## **START**

The group session will begin with a few questions designed to help you introduce the session's topic of study and encourage everyone to engage with the study.

## **WATCH**

This space provides Robby's teaching outline as well as blank space to take notes as you watch the video teaching. Codes to access the teaching videos are included with your purchase of this book and can be found on the insert located at the back of this book.

## **DISCUSS**

This section is the main component of the group session. The questions provided are designed to facilitate the group study of the session's topic. The goal is to better understand the process of spiritual revival and begin to see it in your life and church.

## **PERSONAL STUDY**

Three days of personal study are provided after each group session to help individuals think biblically about the session's topic. With biblical teaching and introspective questions, these lessons challenge individuals to grow in their understanding of God's Word and to respond in faith and obedience.

## **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY 1 AND 2**

The group and personal studies are complementary. These studies are meant to deepen your understanding of the revival and give you more concentrated time to reflect upon and apply what you learned in the group session.

## **GOING DEEPER**

The personal study section ends with a guided prayer activity where you're spending time alone with God in silence and solitude to hear His voice more clearly. Being silent before God prepares us to hear from God.

## **LEADER GUIDE**

A cutout leader guide for each session is provided on pages 128–142, which highlights key points from each session and offers helpful considerations for leading a group discussion. Additionally, you'll find tips for helping you lead a small group.





SESSION 1

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# DEFINING

# GROUP STUDY

## START

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*Welcome everyone to session 1, "Defining."*

Ask participants to introduce themselves. As they do, invite them to share one reason why they decided to join this study on the topic of revival.

Have you ever experienced a revival of some sort? For example, maybe you experienced a personal revival of commitment to your job, marriage, friendship, or God. Or maybe it was a revival that spread beyond yourself—in your home, workplace, church, or community. Explain.

We all know what it is like for something that started off as exciting and fulfilling in our lives to become dull and uninspiring. When what was once a *get to* becomes a *have to* it's tough—especially when it involves an area of life that is essential to living in the best possible way.

This truth applies no where else more than in our relationship with the Lord. A relationship with the Lord is the ultimate reality—absolutely essential to everything else in our lives. That's true both personally and communally. So if we are going to move forward in faith, we can't simply know we need to change—we must experience change. We need God to revive us. We'll begin our study by taking a look at what that really means.

How would you define spiritual revival?

Do you have an expectation for spiritual revival? Why or why not?

*To prepare for video session 1, pray that God will help each person understand and apply this truth:*

**Revival is available to all who seek God's presence.**

## WATCH

---

*Use these statements to follow along as you watch video session 1.*

Revival is a heightened awareness of the presence of God.

**EXODUS 33:18**

Before we can have this intimacy with God we have to know Him personally.

**PSALM 46:10**

Before we can experience revival we must know Jesus.

**JOHN 1:14**

To access the teaching sessions,  
use the instructions in the back  
of your Bible study book.



# DISCUSS

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*Use these questions and prompts to discuss the video teaching.*

**Robby said, *You have as much of God as you want in your life, and there is so much more.* How does that statement hit you personally?**

We learned a few ways to define revival in today's video teaching:

- To breathe life into something that's either dead or dormant
- To give strength or power to something
- Simply Jesus
- A heightened awareness of the presence of God

**Which of these definitions stand out to you the most right now? Why?**

**Is it possible for you see that outcome become a reality in your life?  
If so, how can it take place?**

**What are some ways well meaning believers and/or churches might try to work to manufacture revival? How do we discern whether revival is from God or manufactured?**

In our very best human efforts, we cannot bring about true revival—not personally and not corporately. God Himself brings about revival. He accelerates His work on earth by igniting the hearts of His people through His Holy Spirit.

**Since God brings about revival, does that mean we can just sit back and wait for it to happen? Why not?**

**Read Exodus 33:1-6. What was the spiritual condition of Israel?  
What did they need?**

**Read Exodus 33:18-19. Is it strange to you that Moses said, “Let me see your glory,” not “Let us see your glory”? Why would Moses pray for personal revival before corporate revival?**

Robby’s story about seeking God for revival did not start with prayers for revival in his church, community, and world. It didn’t even start with prayers for revival in his home. It started with prayers for God to revive *him*. He explained, *Christianity is not just following Jesus to get a treasure; Jesus actually is the treasure. Christianity is not adding Jesus to an already full life; Jesus becomes your life.*

**How can we know whether we’re following Jesus to get a treasure or to know Him as our treasure? How can you know whether you are adding Jesus to your life or inviting Him to be your life?**

**Look again at Exodus 33:19. Based on God's answer to Moses, what happens when you want to see God’s glory more than anything else?**

Exodus 33:11 gives some insight about Moses’s request and God’s answer to that request. Moses was God’s friend—*the Lord would speak with Moses face to face, just as a man speaks with his friend*. We also need to know the Lord personally.

**Read Psalm 46:10. What do we need to do to know Jesus personally? What does it look like practically to stop fighting and know He is God?**

## **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

*Prayer Requests*

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## PERSONAL STUDY 1

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# A Clear Vision

When you hear the word *revival* what comes to mind? Maybe you associate the word with a church service that takes place under a big tent with fiery preaching. You may think of revivals as spiritual movements that have occurred in other places but never as part of your own personal experience. Maybe you think about a time in your life when your faith had grown stale but was suddenly awakened to become fresh and new. Or maybe you think in terms of the word's explicit meaning: "restoration to life, consciousness, vigor, strength."<sup>1</sup>

The truth is, the word *revival* has many connotations—and those meanings aren't necessarily *wrong*. The problem comes when our understanding is limited to a certain way we have learned about or experienced revival. We might begin to think revival is a spiritual outcome we can produce.

It's not.

True biblical revival isn't something we can program into church or personal life. It is different than organizing a campaign. One is worked up, the other is sent down. Revival is God coming down.

**Read the following passages. Record what happened when God showed up.**

**Genesis 17:1-4**

**Exodus 3:1-10**

**Ezekiel 1:28-2:4**

*One encounter with the living God  
can change your life forever.*

When we encounter God, three things happen—we get a right view of God, a right view of self, and a heart for the world. It happened with Abraham, Moses, and Ezekiel. Let's look now to see how it happened with Isaiah.

## LOOK UPWARD

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### A Correct Understanding of God

Read Isaiah 6:1-8. Describe how Isaiah saw the Lord in verses 1-4.

What are the implications of serving a holy God?

To say God is holy means God is perfect and totally set apart from all other beings. No one is like God. He is separated from sin and sinners; He is without equal.

In this passage, Isaiah found himself swept into the presence of the living God. He found himself face to face with the one true and holy God seated on a high and lofty throne. Note the symbolism the vision uses to reveal a correct understanding of who God is:

**AUTHORITY:** "I saw the Lord seated" (v. 1)

**MAJESTY:** "on a . . . throne" (v. 1)

**WORTH:** "high and lofty" (v. 1)

**GLORY:** "the hem of His robe filled the temple" (v. 1)

**PRESENCE:** "the temple was filled with smoke" (v. 4)

The vision of God Isaiah received speaks both to God's holiness and His unrivaled sovereignty. He is not a helpless deity on a paper-mache throne shaking His head in disbelief because He can't get His people to cooperate with Him. No, God is doing exactly what He planned to do before the world began. And He is doing it well.

Why might we struggle to have a correct understanding of God's unrivaled sovereignty in our lives?

Many don't know God because they have never encountered God. He is the sovereign Lord over the universe—He always has been and always will be.

Is He Lord over your life? Is He calling the shots? Are you doing things His way? Is He the center of your life? That only happens when you get a true glimpse of God.

*Your greatest need is a clear vision of who  
God is in the person of Jesus Christ.*

## **LOOK INWARD**

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### **An Honest Assessment of Self**

Reread Isaiah 6:5. How did Isaiah respond to this clear vision of God?

Why do we need a correct view of God to have a correct view of self?

Until Isaiah saw God for who He is, he couldn't see himself for what he was. Being in God's presence helped Isaiah see his unworthiness. Isaiah's cry, "I am ruined," really means, *I am being unmade*. The holiness of God not only means you might die, but it also means you should die; it presents a problem of forgiveness.

**If Isaiah's encounter with God ended with the words in verse 5 alone, why would God still be worthy of our worship and praise?**



Because God is holy, we are responsible to Him for every sinful action, every careless word, and every evil thought. Seeing who God is causes us to realize who we are, which is exactly what happened to Isaiah.

Notice that Isaiah didn't say, "Woe is everybody else," He cried out, "Woe is me" (v. 5). He realized the wickedness of his heart. He knew the pride in his life. He understood the immorality in his mind.

**Why is it sometimes easier for us to point out the sin in other people's lives than it is to see our own?**

**Why is it wrong to decide who we are before God by comparing ourselves to other people?**

Human nature presents obstacles to seeing ourselves correctly. We don't want to acknowledge how bad we are—we'd rather point out how bad other people are. We do not see ourselves as *ruined*. We don't believe we are unclean. We think we're not that bad. A clear vision of God gives us a clear vision of ourselves.

**Can revival take place without an honest self-assessment? Explain.**

**Read 1 John 1:7-10. In light of the holiness of God, what honest self-assessment do we each need to make?**

Revival starts individually. When you stand before God, He will not compare you to your spouse, your parents, your coworkers, your neighbors, or your friends. He will compare you to His Son, who is the epitome of perfection.

**Reread verses 6-7. Where do we see the gospel in these verses?**

**What honest self-assessment could Isaiah make when this event took place?**

God had every right to destroy Isaiah, but He saved him. The only way a sinful human being can come into the presence of a holy God is to be cleansed of all unrighteousness. This is why Jesus is the cornerstone of the Christian life. He is the only One who can save us from our sins—and He does! You are more sinful than you ever dared to believe and more loved by God than you ever dared to hope.

**A PRINCIPLE FOR PERSONAL REVIVAL**  
*If you cover your sin, God will uncover it.  
But if you uncover or confess your sin, God  
will cover it with the blood of His Son Jesus.*

## **LOOK OUTWARD**

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### **A Clear Picture of the Mission**

**Read Isaiah 6:8. How did Isaiah respond to the clear vision of God and himself that he received?**

**Has true revival taken place if it does not result in missional living? Why?**

The type of forgiveness Isaiah received and we receive demands a response. While Isaiah's lips were still burning from the holiness that set him free, he cried, "Here I am. Send me" (v. 8). Isaiah had seen and felt the mercy of God, and it changed his entire life.

**When Jesus is Lord of your life, you'll go wherever He sends you and do whatever He asks you. What is your gut reaction to that statement? How does it scare you? How does it excite you?**

Because it is the Lord's responsibility to protect us, we don't have to worry about a thing—we just have to fix our eyes on Jesus, with a clear picture of His mission. If someone does us harm, He will settle the score. His job is to care for us, feed us, clothe us, and provide for our needs. He will lead us, guide us, and instruct us along the way.

**How would your life change if you truly walked in full assurance of the following statement: *Because God's concern is to protect and direct my way, my only concern is to know and do God's will?***

True revival happens when we gain a right view of God, a right view of self, and a heart for the world. Knowing who God is calls us into action for His name. Studying God's character is not an abstract discipline for a select group of gifted Christians but the responsibility of every believer. When we see who God is, we must respond. We must go, full and filled from the forgiveness we have received in Jesus Christ.

We don't experience revival because we've been content to live without it. We need a fresh vision of God. He can do more in a moment than any man, machine, or method can mass-produce in a lifetime. Are you ready?

*You have as much of God as you want in  
your life—and there is so much more.*

1. "Revival," in *The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy* (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing, 2005), <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/revival>.

## PERSONAL STUDY 2

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# An Outpouring of Power

We are taught to believe anything is possible with determination and positivity. A multitude of popular cultural maxims express that belief and seek to motivate us—*If you can dream it, you can achieve it. Work hard and make it happen. Believe in yourself.*

Those ideas carry some truth. We certainly should dream new possibilities, work hard, and believe we can enact change. There is value in setting our minds to goals and working hard to achieve them. At the same time, though, immense danger comes when we ignore the greater truth: in and of ourselves, we are powerless.

**Read Ephesians 2:1-5. How can we know we are powerless to bring about spiritual change in our lives?**

We need to be realistic about our spiritual capacity. Becoming a Christian requires nothing less than fully confronting the fact that we are spiritually dead and completely unable to do anything to better our spiritual condition.

**Name a situation where you work hard to strategize human solutions instead of inviting the Lord to enact His power.**

To truly understand revival, we need a reminder of Christ's greatness and our poverty, His power and our weakness, His ability and our ineptness.

## We Are Powerless to Bring about Revival

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**Read Mark 9:14-18,21-22. What does the length of time this family had suffered reveal about the power they had to overcome this affliction on their own?**

This likely wasn't the first time the father had sought help for his child. His situation was probably similar to the woman who had the issue of blood and had spent a lot of money visiting many physicians but gained no relief (Mark 5:21-43).

The fundamental problem here was that the child couldn't help himself; he could do nothing to rid himself of the evil spirit. He was completely incapable of stifling the convulsions and keeping himself from heading straight toward the fire or water. His parents were similarly incapable. And, as the disciples quickly learned, they also lacked the power needed to change the boy's life.

**When have you faced a situation where you realized you were powerless to bring about change in your own strength? How did you respond?**

Belief in the dreams of a better life and the hard work and determination to make it happen would never be enough. If left to human ingenuity and strength, the child's situation was completely hopeless—and so is ours.

*We will never experience any real power if we trust in ourselves.*

**What are some ways we might be tempted to seek revival through human strength instead of God's power?**

## We Must Rely Completely on Jesus to Experience Revival

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When these events in Mark 9 occurred, Jesus had just come off a true mountain top experience with three of His disciples (vv. 1-13). As Jesus was transfigured, God revealed the fullness of His power. Then they came down the mountain and walked into a dumpster fire. People were yelling and accusing the other disciples of being powerless. Jesus stepped into the situation and took charge.

**Read Mark 9:19-20. What do these verses teach you about Christ's heart for people?**

**Why couldn't the disciples do anything to change the boy's situation? Jesus knew the disciples were powerless people. So why was He upset that they hadn't helped the boy receive new life?**

**Read Mark 9:28-29. What do Jesus's words, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer," teach you about how revival takes place?**

It would be a mistake to take Jesus's words as some sort of formulaic, demon-busting one-two punch. Jesus wasn't giving the disciples a formula but was explaining how such unmistakable spiritual power came forth—in complete and humble dependence on God, expressed through urgent and serious prayer.

*Spiritual battles must be fought by spiritual means.*

Instead of trusting in God's power, the disciples had shifted their faith to themselves. That was foolish—it always is. God's work must be done in God's power. On our own, we can't fix the brokenness we see. Only through the power and love of Christ will true change come about. We will only experience the power and love of Christ to bring revival if we rely on Him completely.

**What behaviors might show a person is desperately dependent on Jesus's power to enact change?**

Jesus wasn't giving the disciples a formula for revival. Salvation is a gift of grace, not works—and so is every bit of our spiritual growth from that point forward. Still, we have a choice about whether we will depend on the Lord to produce spiritual renewal in us or, like the disciples in Mark 9, shift our faith to our own abilities.

Prayer and fasting indicate people who desperately depend on God to work in and through them. Based on Jesus's words in verses 19 and 29, this wasn't how the disciples operated here.

**Read Mark 6:7-13. How might this success have served as a hindrance to the disciples as they tried to heal the demon-possessed boy in Mark 9?**

*Our past success can be a great hindrance  
to God's work in the present.*

Jesus had just sent these disciples off on a citywide crusade to heal the sick and cast out demons. He had given them the power of God to pray over the most hopeless, helpless, and darkest situation and turn it around. But just a few chapters later, they could do nothing. Selfish pride and divine power cannot share the same stage.

**What are some successes in church life that might make believers become prideful? How have you seen this happen?**

The problem is never with God; it is always with us. Stated more plainly and personally, the barrier to revival is *you*.

## **Revival Is Possible for Those Who Believe**

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The child couldn't heal himself. The disciples couldn't cast out the demon in their own strength. The child's father and the crowd represent a third example of inadequacy. The father couldn't believe without Jesus helping His unbelief.

**Read Mark 9:22-27. What indicates the man's disbelief? How do we often respond to God similarly in prayer?**

Sometimes God chooses not to answer our prayers and petitions in the ways we desire, but this never comes from a lack of ability. The man's words, "If you can do anything" (v. 22), indicate that he doubted Jesus had the power to heal his son.

This is different than praying, God, if it is your will. When we pray, we ought to affirm and agree with God's prerogative to act according to His will. But we never have to doubt God's ability to answer our prayers.

**How did the man respond to Jesus's rebuke? How are we called to respond in similar situations?**

The father immediately recognized his deficiency and sought the Lord's help. Even faith is a gift from God for those who seek Him. This is why the man cried out for help increasing his faith. Similarly, this is why the disciples pleaded, "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5).



The child's father recognized his deficiency of faith and asked Jesus to fill what was lacking. His request stood as an example to the crowd and gives us an example as we read this account.

We are called to depend on the Lord to save us from our sin, empower us for ministry, and revive us along the way so that we might walk in ever-increasing faith. This means we should abandon attempts to muster up faith on our own and pour our efforts into seeking the Lord and pleading with Him for revival. Jesus is the only One who can truly transform our lives and our world to make us whole.

**Do you believe God can bring revival to you in this day and time?  
What doubt might keep you from believing that? Confess it to God  
and invite Him to enact revival in His power.**

**Do you believe God can bring revival in your local church? What doubt  
might keep you from believing that? Confess it to God and invite Him to  
enact revival in His power.**

**Do you believe God can bring revival in your community, country, and  
even around the world? What doubt might keep you from believing that?  
Confess it to God and invite Him to enact revival in His power.**

God doesn't call us to work harder and develop ingenious strategies so that we might change the world; He calls us to desperately trust Him to reveal His power in us, through us, and around us. Revival is possible in your life, church, community, country, and world—but it isn't up to you; it's up to Jesus. Will you believe?

*When you become a believer in Jesus, God doesn't  
add a burden—He adds power to live.*

# SILENCE AND SOLITUDE

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## ESTABLISH A RHYTHM

If you're going to look upward, inward, and outward to receive an outpouring of God's power in your life, you're going to have to spend some time in silence and solitude before Him. Being alone or quiet may not be a normal practice for you. But when you set aside the norm for a time, you can better engage with God and grow in relationship with Him.

### FIVE MINUTES

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This week, get started in the spiritual practice of silence and solitude. In the weeks to come, you'll continue establishing that new rhythm as you increase your time.

- 1. Determine a time you will commit to spend time alone with the Lord each day this week.** It won't come naturally. You must be intentional to seek moments of physical solitude and silence of heart.
- 2. Find a place where you can spend that time in silence and solitude.** Jesus had to climb a mountain to find solitude. You might have to go sit in your car or in your closet. But no matter what challenges you face, find that place—you need this time, and it's worth it.
- 3. Read one verse to direct your thoughts to who God is, such as Psalm 46:10 or Psalm 62:5.**
- 4. Be silent before the Lord for five minutes.** Silence isn't as much the absence of noise as it is an attitude of listening to God. You can be physically alone and still be distracted by world's voice. So turn off your cell phone or, better yet, don't even take it with you. Be quiet before God and invite Him to speak to your heart.
- 5. At the end of that time, jot down the thoughts God impressed on you.** Use the page provided here to record them.
- 6. Repeat these steps each day this week.**

