

A dirt path winds through a grassy field towards a small hill under a sunset sky. The path is light brown and curves to the right. The field is green with some purple flowers. The hill is covered in green grass and has a small tree on top. The sky is a mix of blue, pink, and orange.

Seeking Him:

A JOURNEY TO PERSONAL REVIVAL FOR MINISTRY LEADERS

You who seek God, let your hearts revive. —Psalm 69:32 esv

Too often, we leaders think someone else in our life needs revival, when in reality God wants to revive us! *Seeking Him* is a twelve-week Bible study that leads you through the steps of heart revival, grounding you in biblical principles that will transform you into a more humble, fruitful, and effective leader.

Each lesson includes a short summary and key Scripture verse worth committing to memory, with specific application for ministry leaders. It's also a great tool to refresh these truths if you've completed the *Seeking Him* study in the past. As you begin this journey, we pray you'll make seeking God your highest pursuit.

Lesson 1

Revival—Who Needs It?

“Sow righteousness for yourselves and reap faithful love; break up your unplowed ground. It is time to seek the LORD until he comes and sends righteousness on you like the rain.”—Hosea 10:12

God is unrelenting in pursuing His people—even when we abandon Him for idols, worldly pursuits, fame, and fortune. Despite our rebellion, God’s love never ceases. He calls us to repent and return so that His love relationship with us can be renewed ([Rev. 2:4-5](#)). God is the sole initiator of revival, but we can position ourselves under the clouds while we wait for the reviving rains to fall!

Make It Personal

- Has there ever been a time when you were closer to the Lord and more eager to obey His Word? How is your relationship different now?
- Is there any area of ministry where you are compromising?
- What are you tempted to seek more than seeking God?
- Ask God to show you the unplowed ground of your heart that is hardened toward Him or someone else.

Lesson 2

Humility: Coming to God on His Throne

“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

—Matthew 23:12

Humility has never been popular in the eyes of the world. If you want to get ahead as a leader, self-confidence and self-promotion are considered the fail-proof prescriptions for success. However, in the kingdom of God—especially with respect to revival—humility and brokenness are essential. When we become acutely aware of God’s holiness, we recognize the depth of our own sinfulness. If we confess and forsake our sin from a contrite heart, God restores us and makes us usable instruments to fulfill His purposes in the world.

Make It Personal

- When you’re criticized or your reputation is attacked, do you respond in humility or pride?
- Do you frequently compare yourself to others to feel superior, or are you amazed that God can use you at all?
- Are you content to be unknown or driven to make a name for yourself?
- Complete the proud/humble exercise on Day 5: Making It Personal (pp. 33–35), and ask God to show you which characteristics of a proud heart are true of you.

Lesson 3

Honesty: Silence Is Not Always Golden

No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account. —Hebrews 4:13

Adam and Eve were the first people who attempted to hide their sins from God. Since then, covering up our faults and failures has become an involuntary reflex. Leaders naturally want to be respected; however, honesty requires the willingness to be truthful with God and others about our genuine spiritual condition. God cannot bless or revive a heart that refuses to acknowledge the truth.

Make It Personal

- Do you serve God out of a heart of genuine love and devotion, or do you have a subtle, secret desire to be noticed and applauded? Are you serving for God's glory or to impress others?
- Make a list of three sins that you currently struggle with. Do you see them as God sees them, or do you think in terms of "weaknesses," "problems," "slip-ups," or "personality quirks"?
- Do you ever leave others with the impression that you are more spiritually mature and committed than is honestly true?
- Are you willing to let people into your life and to be honest about your spiritual needs and ask for accountability? Write the initials of the person you plan to contact here: _____.

Lesson 4

Repentance: The Big Turn-Around

God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me. —Psalm 51:10

Every leader who is seeking God with a whole heart must realize that ongoing repentance is not an option. The act of returning to the Lord—forsaking known sin and obeying what He says—is repentance. Repentance cannot be considered genuine unless there is evidence of a change of mind that leads to a change of behavior. Repentance restores us to a right relationship with God so that our lives bring Him glory and become more fruitful.

Make It Personal

- Are you willing to forsake any sin the Lord shows you in order to have a pure heart and be restored to a right relationship with Him?
- Repentance involves responding quickly to the Spirit's conviction. Are there specific sins in your life that you haven't truly repented of?
- Thank God for providing grace to forsake every sin and for loving you enough to forgive your sins through the blood of Jesus.

Lesson 5

Grace: God's Provision for Every Need

But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
—James 4:6

Grace is the free gift of God to those who have sinned against Him and deserve only His wrath. Grace is what God gives us to meet His requirements and to face the difficulties of life. Sinners saved by grace need this supernatural provision every moment of every day to be sanctified and conformed to the image of Christ. The grace of God is a vital, practical, transforming gift that is available to every child of God, for every situation and circumstance of life. God's grace is necessary to serve in ways that are pleasing to Him.

Make It Personal

- Are there any areas of life where you're striving to live on your own apart from the Lord? Humble yourself and acknowledge your need for God's abundant grace.
- Make a list of the specific ways you need God's grace to serve Him in this season of life. Circle back to each item to express gratitude that His grace is sufficient for each one ([2 Cor. 9:8](#)).
- God's grace enables His children to endure the deepest, darkest pain. Reflect and give thanks for a season when God walked you through a valley of suffering.
- What steps do you need to take to receive more of God's grace?

Lesson 6

Holiness: A Heart Like His

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.
—1 Peter 1:14–16

God has commanded us to be holy so we can be like Him and be prepared for His return. But personal holiness isn't something we passively wait for God to mystically bestow on us. We must actively cooperate with Him in order to become holy in all our conduct. God has divinely equipped us to live according to His will every day, in every way. True holiness is a matter of the heart. Hypocrisy is when our outward holiness doesn't reflect our heart.

Make It Personal

- The religious leaders of Jesus' day kept the laws meticulously while managing to bypass the heart behind them. Does this description apply to your life in any way?
- Ask God to search your heart using question 8 on pages 121–123. Will He find holiness or hypocrisy? Confess any hypocrisy, and ask Him to give you a pure heart.
- When you choose the pathway to holiness, you may come under attack. How do [Hebrews 1:9](#) and [Psalm 32:2](#) encourage you to stand firm?
- Using [Ephesians 4:22–24](#) and pages 116–119, make your personal “Put Off/Put On” list. Identify the things in your life that belong to your fleshly nature, and ask God to put on the contrasting qualities in their place.

Lesson 7

Obedience: The Acid Test of Love

“If you love me, you will keep my commands.” —John 14:15

Obedying God is not meant to be a sterile, cold requirement; rather it is a willing, glad-hearted response to God who loves us extravagantly and has our best interests at heart. He calls us to surrender, invites us to follow, empowers us to serve, and then blesses our obedience. A leader may dress the part, act the part, and talk the part of being a Christian, but none of these things prove that we genuinely love God. Obedience is the only way. An obedient life prepares the way for God to reveal His glory in and through you.

Make It Personal

- If we want to see God move in revival in our hearts, homes, churches, and ministries, we must obey Him. Is there anything you know God wants you to do that you haven't done yet? Will you obey Him today?
- Like Saul in [1 Samuel 15:10–15](#), we can obey half-heartedly or justify partial obedience. Partial obedience is disobedience. What could the consequences be in your life if you adopt this attitude?
- A form of disobedience is limiting how far you're willing to go for God. Ask God to expose any reluctance in your heart and confess your unwillingness.
- Pray, “Lord, what would You have me do?” Then ask Him to give you a friend that you can be honest with and who will hold you accountable.

Lesson 8

Clear Conscience: Dealing with Offenses Toward Others

"I always strive to have a clear conscience toward God and men."—Acts 24:16

An important key to personal revival is having both a right relationship with God and a right relationship with others. This requires obtaining and maintaining a clear conscience. Having a clear conscience means there is no obstruction in our fellowship with God or anyone else. The process is to quickly repent when we sin, admit our failure to the offended person, ask their forgiveness, and make restitution as needed. Revival and reconciliation go hand in hand.

Make It Personal

- At the end of his life, the prophet Samuel was able to declare before the Israelites that he hadn't wronged anyone ([1 Sam. 12:1–4](#)). If you stood before those you serve, would you be able to say the same?
- Jesus takes personally what we do and say to others ([Matt 25:37–40, 45](#)). Ask God to bring to mind anyone you've harmed or treated wrongly. Seek His forgiveness first then ask Him to show you the next steps for getting right with this individual. (Refer to Day 5: Making It Personal, pp. 160–163.)
- When believers cannot get along or fail to resolve conflicts biblically, it discredits the gospel. How could your ministry be undermined if you fail to follow this principle?
- When a leader goes first, people are encouraged to follow. Is there an area of ministry that God is asking you to humble yourself and go first to clear your conscience?

Lesson 9

Forgiveness: Setting Your Captives Free

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.
—Ephesians 4:32

Forgiveness is the gift everyone wants to receive but finds hard to give. Yet forgiveness is crucial to personal revival. God mercifully forgives our sins through the great cost of His Son's death on the cross. As recipients of such grace, we are called to forgive those who sin against us. When we release our offenders through forgiveness, the prison door to our hearts is unlocked to experience greater peace and joy than we ever dreamed possible.

Make It Personal

- It's possible to live with seeds of unforgiveness in our hearts without realizing it. If you experience emotional churning or a desire to see the responsible person harmed or disgraced, then you have not truly forgiven. Make a list of the people who have wronged you. Then record their offense, how you've responded to their wrongdoing, and ask God to help you forgive.
- Unforgiveness will limit your ministry fruitfulness. According to [2 Corinthians 2:10–11](#), who do we give the advantage to when we refuse to forgive?
- What wounds did Jesus bear because of us? Meditate on [Isaiah 53](#) and [Psalm 22](#).
- If a particularly grievous sin feels too hard to forgive, remember God would not command us to do something without His enablement. Write out a prayer of faith that He will give you the grace to fully forgive ([Phil. 2:13](#)).

Lesson 10

Sexual Purity: The Joy of Moral Freedom

For this is God's will, your sanctification: that you keep away from sexual immorality.
—1 Thessalonians 4:3

God created us as sexual beings; our sexual drive is a good and powerful part of us. But when those desires surpass our desire for God or when we seek to fulfill them apart from God's prescribed means and timing, they can be our downfall. With it, our ministry can come crashing down and many innocent people will be hurt due to our sinful choices. Even more, our sexual sin will defame the gospel, which leaders are called to uphold.

Make It Personal

- Are you currently engaged in immoral thinking, activities, or relationships? Do you tolerate or excuse any form of immorality? How do you respond to the warning issued in [Ephesians 5:3–4](#)?
- What guardrails can you put into place to safeguard your heart and mind from sexual temptation?
- Sexual sin is a serious obstacle to spiritual well-being. Make a commitment to God that, whatever it takes, you will make moral choices that are pleasing to Him.
- Every leader has the potential for moral failure ([1 Cor. 10:12](#)). Acknowledge to the Lord that apart from Him you could be vulnerable to any kind of sin and that you need His protection over every area of your life. Thank God for the divine grace available to you at all times ([Gal. 5:16](#)).

Lesson 11

The Spirit-Filled Life: God's Power in You

Walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. —Galatians 5:16

Christian maturity cannot be attained by trying harder or doing more. We have the Holy Spirit who acts as our counselor, guide, and companion while we live on earth. He enables us to obey God, empowers us to become like Jesus, and fills us with supernatural power for ministry and for witness. Every time we say yes to our flesh and no to God, we grieve the Holy Spirit. Likewise, each act of obedience and surrender to God puts us more fully under the control of the Holy Spirit and releases His power in our lives.

Make It Personal

- How does [Romans 8:5–6, 12–13](#) encourage you in the battle against your flesh? What are specific ways you can deny your flesh?
- It's possible to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit when we yield to Him. Is there any area of your life that you're holding on to that hasn't been submitted to His lordship?
- The Holy Spirit can be grieved ([Eph. 4:30](#)), quenched ([1 Thess. 5:19](#)), and resisted ([Acts 7:51](#)). Is there anything in your life that is hindering the free flow of God's life, power, and joy in and through you?
- Ask God if there's an unconfessed sin, unresolved conflict with another believer, disobedience, resistance, unbelief, or self-sufficiency that you need to confess and seek the Holy Spirit's help?

Lesson 12

The Personal Devotional Life: "Seeking Him" Daily

I have asked one thing from the LORD; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the LORD and seeking him in his temple. —Psalm 27:4

A personal devotional life is the practice of spending time alone each day with God, in His Word, and in prayer. The leader's devotional life is foundational to her spiritual maturity and capacity to know God and to make Him known. Cultivating a love relationship with Jesus is vital to a lifetime of "seeking Him."

Make It Personal

- Compare your desperation for God with that of the psalmist in [Psalm 42:1–2](#). What keeps you from seeking Him to quench your thirst?
- In [Luke 10:38–42](#), Martha was distracted by her serving. What distracts you from sitting at the feet of Jesus?
- What changes do you need to make to your schedule, lifestyle, or priorities in order to develop a deeply satisfying, consistent devotional life?
- Does your devotional life include time in the Word, prayer, worship, journaling, confessing sin, intercession, petition for your needs, memorizing Scripture, or listening and responding to the Lord? Which of these would you like to incorporate? For practical assistance in developing a daily devotional life, consider reading Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth's [A Place of Quiet Rest: Finding Intimacy with God Through a Daily Devotional Life](#).

Remember that whatever it takes to get revival is what it takes to keep revival. The basic truths that God has been using to set you free during this journey—humility, repentance, honesty, holiness, obedience, clear conscience, forgiveness, and walking in the Spirit—are the same truths that will enable you to experience ongoing revival.

As you continue to walk with God, ask Him how you can be used as an instrument of revival. Share with others what God is doing in your heart, and seek like-hearted believers to pray for widespread revival and spiritual awakening. Consider using [Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival](#) with your ministry team, women's Bible study, or small group. From here, keep seeking God for continuous revival!



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