



21 DAYS OF PRAYER

# BREAK UP THE GROUND

SEASON OF RENEWAL

WEEK 2

BREAK UP THE GROUND  
OF OUR CHURCH

## Day 8 - If MY People...

“Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.”

(2 Chronicles 7:14, NLT)

The church is more than just a building or a Sunday morning tradition—it is the living body of Christ, called to bring His love and truth to a world in desperate need. But too often, we find ourselves going through the motions, losing the passion and purpose that once fueled our mission. Revival is God’s answer to a weary and stagnant church. It is a fresh outpouring of His Spirit that breathes life into dry bones and ignites a renewed hunger for His presence and power.

This promise in [2 Chronicles 7:14](#) is directed to “my people, who are called by my name”—God’s covenant community, the church. Healing for the land doesn’t begin with the world; it begins with us. When the church humbles itself, prays, and seeks God’s face, it becomes the catalyst for transformation, not just within its own walls, but for the world outside. Revival starts with God’s people turning back to Him, repenting of sin, and surrendering fully to His will. Through this process, God restores not only His church but the communities and nations impacted by its witness.

As we move into a season of breaking up the ground in our church, let’s ask God to stir our hearts for revival. Let’s pray for a fresh outpouring of His Spirit that will transform not only our congregation but also the communities we serve. Revival starts with us, but its impact reaches far beyond.

**Questions to Consider:**

- How does the church's repentance and prayer serve as the foundation for healing?
- In what ways can your personal surrender contribute to the revival of your church?

**Action Step:**

Take time to pray specifically for revival in your church. Ask God to break through areas of complacency and bring a renewed hunger for His presence. Share this prayer with someone in your church and encourage them to join you in seeking revival.

**Go Deeper:**

Crosswalk article on preparation for revival.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/preparation-for-revival.html>

Right Now Media Video *What is Revival?*

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/151422>

## Day 9 - Keeping it Together

“Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.” (Ephesians 4:3, NLT)

Abraham Lincoln famously said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” borrowing from Jesus’ words in [Mark 3:25](#). Lincoln’s reference was a call to confront division in order to preserve the nation. The Civil War’s devastation reminds us of the destructive nature of disunity, as brother fought against brother, and the nation was torn apart before unity could be restored.

In the same way, division within the church weakens the body of Christ and hinders its mission. The body of Christ is a mosaic of diverse people, each with unique gifts, experiences, and perspectives. This diversity is one of the church’s greatest strengths, but it also requires intentional effort to maintain unity. [Ephesians 4:3](#) challenges us to actively pursue unity, not as a passive ideal but as a deliberate practice, guided by the Spirit of God.

True unity in the church is not about sameness—it’s about alignment with Christ’s purpose. It’s the bond of peace that allows us to set aside personal preferences and focus on the mission God has given us. When we commit to unity, we transform the church into a powerful witness of God’s love, showing the world that what unites us in Christ is far greater than what could divide us.

Reflect on this today: how can you personally contribute to the unity of the body? Whether it's by fostering peace in a strained relationship or serving alongside others with humility, your actions can strengthen the bonds within your church and demonstrate God's love to a watching world.

### **Questions to Consider:**

- What does it mean to “maintain the unity of the Spirit”?
- Are there places in your church where division or misunderstanding could be overcome through humility and love?

### **Action Step:**

Pray for God to reveal one specific way you can foster unity in your church this week. Take an intentional step to build a bridge, whether by mending a relationship, encouraging someone, or collaborating with others in service.

### **Go Deeper:**

Crosswalk article: *What Does the Bible Say About Unity*

<https://www.crosswalk.com/family/marriage/relationships/what-does-the-bible-say-about-unity.html>

## Day 10 - Dreaming Beyond the Walls

“But now I said to them, “You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!” Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, “Yes, let’s rebuild the wall!” So they began the good work.” (Nehemiah 2:17-18, NLT)

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and delivered his iconic “I Have a Dream” speech. Through vivid imagery and heartfelt conviction, he cast a vision of unity and equality that inspired a nation to confront its divisions and work toward change. His ability to articulate a clear and compelling vision was key to rallying people around a shared purpose.

Similarly, Nehemiah cast a God-given vision to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. His clarity and faith inspired the people to take action, uniting them to accomplish what seemed impossible. Nehemiah’s story reminds us that seeking God’s vision is not just about seeing the need but also about trusting His provision and leadership. When we align with His purpose, He equips us to pursue it, bringing people together in unity to fulfill His plans. As with Nehemiah, clearly communicating God’s vision to others can stir hearts, unite efforts, and ignite action for His kingdom.

God’s vision for the church is not just about programs or activities—it’s about transformation. He calls us to be a light in our community, a place of hope and healing, and a people on mission to make disciples. As we break up the ground in our church, we must seek His guidance, trusting Him to reveal the steps we need to take to align with His purpose.

### **Questions to Consider:**

- What is God's vision for your church, and how does it reflect His heart for the community?
- How can you actively align with His vision and inspire others to do the same?

### **Action Step:**

Spend time in prayer for your church leaders and community, asking God to reveal His vision clearly and to equip you with the courage to follow it. Consider writing down what you believe God is showing you and sharing it with someone in your church to encourage them.

### **Go Deeper:**

Check out Pastor Aaron's series about God's vision for Sterling Wood in the It All Start's Here Series on our YouTube Channel.

## Day 11 - True Worship

“But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23–24, NLT)

The Welsh Revival of 1904–1905 began with small groups of believers committing themselves to worship and prayer. What started as simple gatherings soon transformed churches and entire communities across Wales, as tens of thousands of people were drawn to faith. Central to this extraordinary move of God was heartfelt worship—a worship that prioritized the truth of God’s Word and a deep, spiritual connection with Him.

Corporate worship, when offered in spirit and truth, has the same potential to renew and transform today. John 4:23-24 teaches us that worship is not about outward appearances or rituals; it’s about authentically encountering God. Worshiping in spirit means engaging our hearts and souls, while worshiping in truth centers our worship on the unchanging Word of God. When we embrace both, we not only experience God’s presence but also invite others to encounter His transforming power.

Take time today to reflect on the authenticity of your worship. How can you cultivate worship that is both spirit-led and grounded in truth? Consider the ways your worship community can foster a deeper connection with God, becoming a beacon of renewal for others.



### **Questions to Consider:**

- What does worship “in spirit and truth” look like for your church?
- How can you inspire a culture of heartfelt and genuine worship in your community?

### **Action Step:**

Before the next worship gathering, take a few moments to prepare your heart through prayer or reflection. Ask God to help you worship in spirit and truth.

### **Go Deeper:**

Bible verses about Prayer and Worship

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-praise-and-worship/>

## Day 12 - Coming Clean

“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Interlude Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.” And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Interlude” (Psalm 32:1–5, NLT)

True revival begins with confession—a recognition of our need for God’s mercy and a surrender of the burdens we carry. In [Psalm 32](#), David vividly describes the weight of unconfessed sin, likening it to physical and emotional torment. Yet he also reveals the joy and freedom that come from acknowledging sin before God. Confession is not about condemnation; it’s an invitation into healing, forgiveness, and restored relationship with God.

As individuals, when we keep silent about our sins, we often feel the same heaviness David describes. But when we humble ourselves, confess to God, and repent, He lifts that weight, covering our sins with His grace. On a broader scale, confession within the church fosters authenticity and unity. It breaks up the ground hardened by pride or pretense and creates fertile soil for the Spirit of God to work.

Take time today to reflect on areas in your life that need to be surrendered to God. Confess them to Him, and trust in His promise to forgive. Just as David experienced the blessing of restored joy, you, too, can walk in freedom and renewal through confession.

**Questions to Consider:**

- How has unconfessed sin affected your relationship with God or others?
- What steps can you take to make confession a regular practice in your walk with Christ?

**Action Step:**

Meditate on Psalm 32:1-5, allowing its words to guide your prayer of confession. Take a moment to write down areas where you sense God's conviction, then bring them to Him in prayer. Consider sharing with a trusted friend or mentor who can walk alongside you in accountability and encouragement.

**Go Deeper:**

Read Psalm 51:1-17 to explore David's heartfelt prayer of repentance and consider how God's mercy invites you to experience the joy of forgiveness.

## Day 13 - Are You Hungry?

“But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.” (Luke 5:16, NLT)

Imagine a lamp that flickers faintly in the darkness. Its glow is dim, not because the bulb is weak, but because it has been unplugged from its power source. When it is reconnected, the light shines brightly, illuminating everything around it.

Prayer is the lifeline that reconnects us to the ultimate power source—God Himself. Like the lamp, our lives can grow dim and weary when disconnected from Him. But when we prioritize prayer, our hearts are reignited, and we reflect His brilliance to a world in need of His light.

Revival begins with a church on its knees. Prayer is not just a spiritual discipline; it’s a lifeline, connecting us to the source of life and power—God Himself. In [Luke 5:16](#), we see that even Jesus, who was fully God and fully man, made it a priority to withdraw from the crowds and seek His Father in prayer. If Jesus needed to spend time in prayer, how much more do we?

Yet, in the busyness of life, it’s easy to let prayer slip to the margins. Revival requires a rekindled hunger to spend time with God, not just out of obligation, but from a deep desire to know Him more. Prayer isn’t about perfect words or lengthy speeches—it’s about drawing near to the heart of God with honesty, humility, and faith. It’s in these quiet, intentional moments with Him that He transforms us, aligning our hearts with His and preparing us to be vessels of His Spirit.

Take a moment to reflect on your prayer life. Do you long to spend time with God, or has your hunger for prayer grown cold? Ask Him to renew your passion for seeking His presence, trusting that when you draw near to Him, He will draw near to you (James 4:8).

### **Questions to Consider:**

- How can you intentionally cultivate a greater hunger for prayer in your daily life?
- What changes could your church experience if every member sought God in fervent, expectant prayer?

### **Action Step:**

Set aside an extended time today to pray, free from distractions. Use this time to pour out your heart to God, listen for His voice, and intercede for your church and community. Consider journaling your prayers as a way to deepen your connection with Him.

### **Go Deeper:**

Check out The Prayer Course on Right Now Media

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/438946>

## Day 14 - More Than Bread

““But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold. For I have stayed on God’s paths; I have followed his ways and not turned aside. I have not departed from his commands, but have treasured his words more than daily food.” (Job 23:10–12, NLT)

Job’s words reveal a profound truth: God’s Word sustains and strengthens us, even in the midst of trials. Imagine a weary traveler who has been wandering through a barren wilderness with no food or water. Suddenly, they discover an oasis—a spring bubbling with crystal-clear water and trees heavy with ripe fruit. That water and those fruits are not just a luxury; they are life-giving essentials, sustaining the traveler and reviving their strength.

God’s Word is that oasis for the soul. In the trials and uncertainties of life, Scripture refreshes, nourishes, and restores us. When we treasure His Word, we experience it not as a mere obligation, but as a vital source of renewal that feeds our hunger and satisfies our deepest needs.

For Job, the commands of God were not just rules to follow—they were a treasure, more essential than the food that nourished his body. This hunger for God’s Word is the same longing that ignites revival in the church.

Treasuring Scripture means approaching it not as an obligation, but as a source of life, guidance, and renewal. It means clinging to its truths, even when life feels uncertain, and allowing it to shape our thoughts and actions. When believers make Scripture central to their lives, the church becomes a wellspring of spiritual vitality, drawing people closer to the heart of God.

Reflect today on your attitude toward God's Word. Do you seek it with hunger and joy, or has it become routine? Ask God to renew your passion for Scripture and to deepen your understanding of its riches. Revival begins with hearts that delight in His Word.

### **Questions to Consider:**

- How can you grow in treasuring God's Word in your daily life?
- What does your current relationship with Scripture look like, and how can you deepen your routine to reflect a greater hunger for His Word?

### **Action Step:**

Set aside intentional time each day this week to immerse yourself in God's Word. Choose a specific book or passage (e.g., Psalms, Proverbs, or the Gospels) and commit to reading, meditating, and journaling about it. Use this time to not only study the text but to let it transform your heart. Consider establishing a routine, such as beginning or ending your day with Scripture, to foster consistency in your walk with God.

### **Go Deeper:**

Check out the Bible Project for engaging videos to help you grow your understanding and love for God's word.

<https://bibleproject.com/>

