

tion with an image of Jesus, standing in all his glory and authority. This is the same Jesus who promised to never leave or forsake you. He has your back!

2. Ask the Spirit to help you repent of any attitude towards people that isn't loving and full of mercy. Lord, remove our arrogance and pride.

3. Ask the Spirit to fill you with his extravagant love and mercy for those people in your life that really challenge you.

4. Pray by name for the person God wants you to befriend and love.

WEEK BEGINNING 26 FEBRUARY

Why "Revive?"

We believe God has called us to a season of prayer for twelve weeks to partner with him. We are asking him to revive our hearts and lead us to invite others into his love. This guide is a tool to help keep us focused during this season. Remember Bill's word, "Whom He sends, we will serve."

1. Get in groups of two.
2. One person read the scripture out loud and one person read the reflection.
3. Also read the questions/prayer prompts in the Prayer section. Someone decide to pray first and answer the questions/prompts in the form of prayer. Pray out to God your answers.

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 9:10-16 – VISION TO ANANIAS. In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man

and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

REFLECTION: Poor Ananias! Was there ever a more unlikely candidate to become a Jesus-follower than Saul of Tarsus? Ananias knew the great harm Saul had done to God's people. Surely he felt resistant and fearful. Yet God had surprising plans to redeem Saul, and Ananias was called to participate in the Spirit's movement. Many of us could cross certain people off our list who just seem too hostile to things of God. But as we pray and ask the Spirit whom he wants us to connect with, we might also be surprised.

PRAYER: Read out loud the prayer prompts/questions. Someone decide to go first and pray out to God the prompts/questions below. The person not praying is agreeing in prayer for the person praying for themselves. Then switch.

Who seems especially unlikely to accept an invitation to spend time together or even attend church with you?

1. Will you listen to what God says about them, and then ask Jesus to remove any resistance so that you can befriend these folks with the love of God?

2. Pray for them by name and ask God to open the way for a friendship.

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