

revive

Lake Highlands Church
12 WEEKS OF PRAYER

PRAYER GUIDE
5 MARCH THROUGH 18 MARCH 2017

WHOM HE SENDS
WE WILL SERVE

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WEEK OF MARCH 5

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 booklet is a tool to help guide us and keep us focused during this season. And remember Bill's word: Whom he sends, we will serve.

1. Get in groups of two
2. One person read out loud the scripture and another read the reflection below.
3. Also read the questions in the Prayer section. Someone decide to go first and answer the questions in the form of prayer, praying out your answers to God. For example, under the "Prayer" section you might pray through prompt #1 something like, "Lord forgive me for labeling this person unclean. Please change my heart towards this person. Remove the judgment in my heart towards this person. Fill me with your love for them."

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 10:30-35

Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. Send to Joppa for Simon who

is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.' So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us." Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

REFLECTION: This encounter with Peter and Cornelius is historic. A Jew and Gentile would never be seen together because Old Testament law said Jews were not allowed to eat with Gentiles who were considered unclean. So it was mind-blowing for Peter to get a world-changing vision from God that said, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." Peter wrestled with God on this. God had to communicate the same vision and word to Peter three times before he would obey. Peter thought he was the favorite and the clean one (rightly so) until Jesus taught him otherwise. Jesus took down the barrier between Jew and Gentile. Peter is the one who changed even more than Cornelius because he had to let God override the written law with a new law – Jesus makes everyone clean.

Often we think as Christians that we are going to help others change when we are telling people about Jesus. This story tells us otherwise! We ourselves are converted again and again, if we are willing to be humble and to learn from others.

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

Especially in this current political climate, are there other people, even fellow believers, with whom you are not willing to eat a meal or whom you have called "less than" or "unclean"? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal and remove any judgments or prejudice you have towards others. Pray for the Spirit to give you a heart of love for others.

Pray for one person by name at your work, school, neighborhood or family that God is calling you to bless and love.

WEEK OF MARCH 12

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SCRIPTURE: ACTS 14:21-25: They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

REFLECTION: What is amazing is how laser-focused Paul and Barnabas are about spreading the gospel and caring for the new believers, regardless of the hostile circumstances. Paul had just been stoned almost to death in Lystra, but he went back there for the sake of the new believers - to strengthen and encourage them to remain true to the faith. Is that kind of self-sacrifice and commitment only for first-century believers or is that for the modern disciple? What hardships do we go through because of our faith or our concern for other believers?

When things get hostile, our tendency is to either disengage and avoid the conflict around us or engage in the fighting, maybe calling