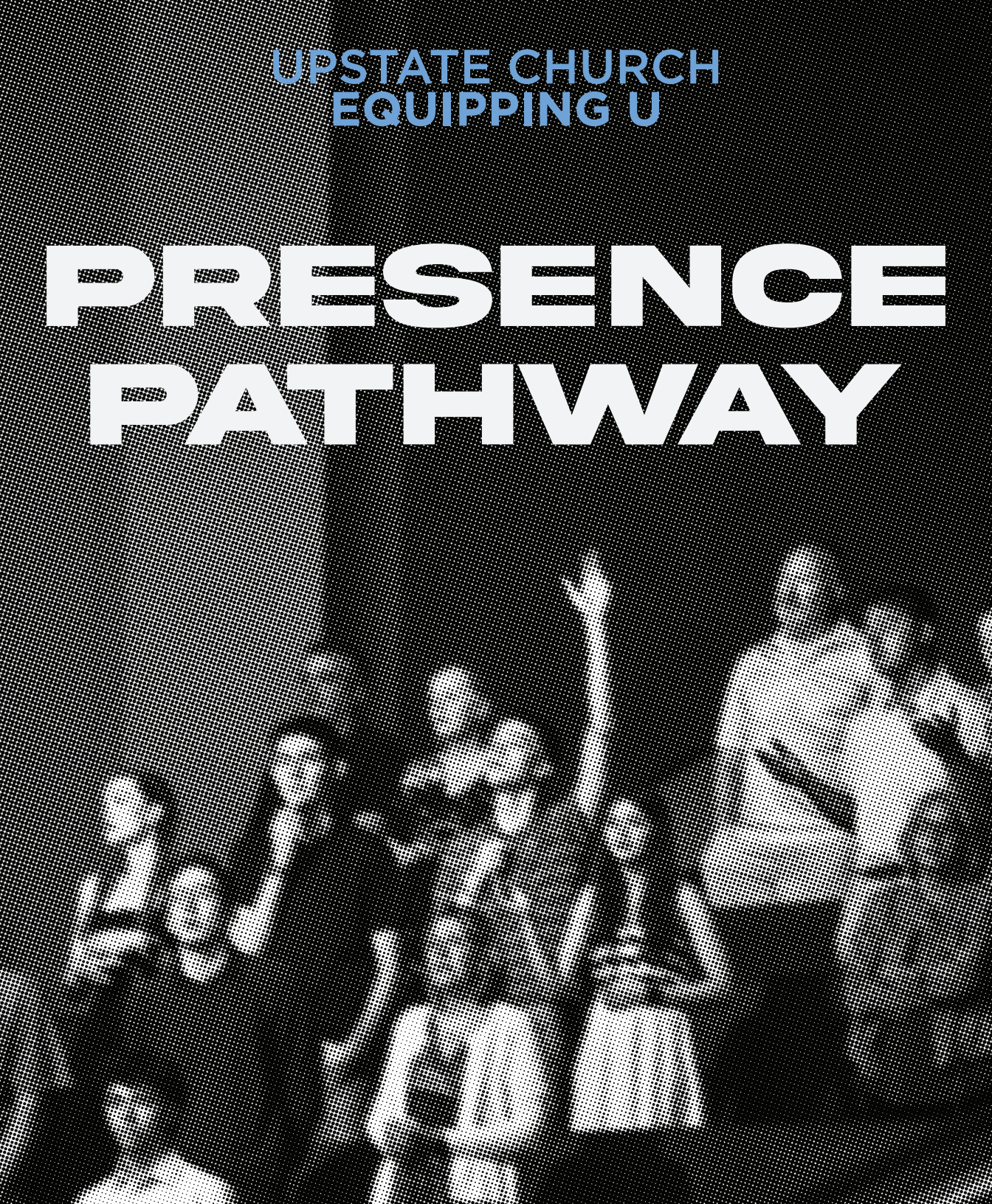
UPSTATE CHURCH
EQUIPPING U

PRESENCE PATHWAY



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Upstate Church

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Presence Pathway

An Invitation to Encounter God

Upstate Church is in a new season. We have entered into a two-year initiative called Encounter, a focused pursuit of becoming people who pray with expectancy, live in the presence of God, and walk in the power of God. This initiative is not about adding more activity to our calendars, but about shaping the culture of our church. It is a call to deepen our dependence on God and to reorder our lives around His presence.

This guide is not the goal of the Encounter initiative, but we hope it is a catalyst for you. It is designed to help you slow down, listen to God's Word, and intentionally respond to God. Our prayer is that as you open Scripture, you will begin to position yourself to meet with God. We cannot manufacture encounters with God, but we can put ourselves in a position of readiness.

This journey walks through the Gospel of John, five days per week, forty days total, alongside your weekly class or video session. Each week's devotionals connect with that week's theme, grounding you in the person of Jesus as you prepare for Encounter Week.

How to Use This Guide

Encounter God in His Word. We believe the best way to encounter God is to be in His Word. Every day in this guide you will find a Scripture reading, a prayer prompt, and devotional reflections. But here is the most important thing: don't skip the Scripture. The words that actually revive us are God's Word. Read them slowly. Read them more than once. Let the text marinate in your heart and mind. The devotionals are meant to help you engage the Scripture, not replace it. Encounter God in His Word.

Learn from the weekly teaching. At the beginning of each week, we will teach on that week's theme, either in the classroom or through the weekly video. Whether you join us in person or watch on your own, do not skip it. Each session is designed to give you a theological foundation that your daily devotionals will then build on. The teachings and devotionals work together.

Ask three questions each day. As you read each day's Scripture, have a journal open ready to answer these questions. These questions will begin to shape the way you read all of Scripture. They are:

1. What truth did I learn about God from this passage?
2. What did God's Word teach me about myself?
3. Is there a promise I need to believe or a command I need to obey?

Encounter is not a moment, it is a posture. Welcome to the Presence Pathway, where our prayer is that you will encounter God in His Word.

HE
MUST
INCREASE,
BUT
I
MUST
DECREASE.
JOHN 3:30

Week 1 - Encountering the God Who Is

To encounter God, we must know the God we are seeking. Who God is impacts our lives in every way. Who God is shapes how we pray, how we worship, how we trust, and how we live. If our desire is to encounter the presence of God in our lives, we cannot begin with our feelings, preferences, or assumptions. We must begin with God Himself.

Without knowing God, we risk seeking a god who is not. Other false religions construct a god in their own image rather than submitting to the God who has revealed Himself. But the God of Scripture does not ask to be imagined. He declares, "I AM." God is who God is.

To encounter God, then, is not to create an experience, but to come face to face with reality. It is to acknowledge the true and living God as He has revealed Himself in the Bible. He is eternal, holy, triune, sovereign, and near.

This week we walk through John 1 through 3, the opening chapters of the Gospel of John. John begins not with a birth narrative but with an eternal declaration: "In the beginning was the Word." From the first verse, we are confronted with the God who is. Let us encounter Him.

As you read this week. Remember, grab a pen and your journal as you read the daily Scripture. Then answer these three questions:

1. *What truth did I learn about God from this passage?*
2. *What did God's Word teach me about myself?*
3. *Is there a promise I need to believe or a command I need to obey?*

Week 1 - Day 1 - The Word Who Was

Bottom Line
Jesus, the eternal Word, has always existed.

Prayer Prompt
Father, before I read today, open my eyes. Help me not to read past the words on the page, but to encounter You, the Word who became flesh. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 1:1-5

Devotional
John does not ease us into his Gospel. He drops us into eternity. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Before creation. Before time. Before anything, the Word was already there. This introduction is a theological declaration. John is telling us from the very first verse who Jesus is. He is not a great teacher who arrived on the scene in Bethlehem. He is the eternal God who stepped into time. All things were made through Him. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. To encounter Jesus is not to encounter a religious figure. It is to encounter the One who was there before the beginning began, the same One who now invites us to know Him.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, You are the Word who was in the beginning. Help me encounter You today not as a distant figure of history, but as the living God. Open my heart to receive the light You bring. Amen.

Week 1 - Day 2 - The Word Who Became Flesh

Bottom Line
God entered our world so we could know Him.

Prayer Prompt
Father, the mystery of the incarnation is more than my mind can fully grasp. Help me sit in the wonder of it today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 1:6-18

Devotional
Verse 14 may be the most staggering sentence in all of Scripture. The eternal, self-existing God, who created the universe by the word of His mouth, wrapped Himself in human skin and moved into our neighborhood. John says He dwelt among us. The word for "dwelt" is the word for tabernacle, the tent where God's presence resided among Israel in the wilderness. John is saying Jesus is the new tabernacle. God's presence is no longer behind a veil. It walked among us, ate with us, wept with us, and bled for us. No one has ever seen God in His full glory, but the Son has made Him known. So, to encounter Jesus is to encounter God.

Spiritual Discipline
John 1 opens with some of the most theologically dense sentences in all of Scripture. It's not meant to be read fast. Today we want to encourage you to practice the spiritual discipline of meditation. Return to this passage, read it again, this time slower. Read it outloud, let it turn over in your mind, and reflect on a particular verse throughout the day.

Prayer
Lord, thank You for not staying distant. Thank You for entering our world, our mess, our suffering. Help me today to live in the wonder that You are Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

Week 1 - Day 3 - Born of God

Bottom Line
Encountering God begins with being born again.

Prayer Prompt
Father, remind me today of the miracle of new birth. I did not choose You first. You chose me. Thank You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 1:9-18

Devotional
"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." The Gospel of John makes something clear from the start: coming to God is not a human achievement. It is a divine gift. To become a child of God is not earned through religious effort, moral performance, or family heritage. It is received through faith, and that faith itself is born of God. This is humbling and liberating at the same time. Humbling because it means we cannot boast. Liberating because it means our standing before God does not rest on our track record. If you have received Jesus, you are a child of God, not because of what you have done, but because of what He has done.

Prayer
Father, thank You for adopting me. Help me live today not as a servant striving to earn Your approval, but as a child resting in Your love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Week 1 - Day 4 - The Lamb of God

Bottom Line
Jesus came to take away our sin.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, as John the Baptist looked at You and declared 'Behold, the Lamb of God,' help me behold You today with fresh eyes. In Your matchless name I pray, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 1:19-2:25

Devotional
"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" This is John the Baptist's great declaration when he sees Jesus approaching. It is one of the most important statements in the entire Gospel. Every Jewish person in that crowd would have understood the weight of those words. A lamb was what you brought to the temple when you needed to atone for your sin. A lamb died in your place. And now John is pointing to Jesus and saying: this is the ultimate Lamb, the One to whom every sacrifice was always pointing. Jesus did not come simply to teach us how to live. He came to do what no sacrifice could ultimately accomplish: to take away sin. Not cover it temporarily. Take it away. This is the God we are seeking to encounter, the One who dealt with our sin so that we could draw near.

Prayer
Jesus, You are the Lamb of God. You took away my sin, not temporarily, but completely. Help me live today in the freedom You purchased. Amen.

Week 1 - Day 5 - You Must Be Born Again

Bottom Line
True encounter with God requires spiritual transformation.

Prayer Prompt
Holy Spirit, do the work in me today that only You can do. Where I have grown cold or comfortable, stir me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 3

Devotional
Nicodemus is a Pharisee, educated, religious, and morally serious. He comes to Jesus at night with questions, and Jesus cuts right to the heart of the matter: "You must be born again." Nicodemus is confused. Jesus is talking about a spiritual transformation that only God can initiate. This conversation is one of the most important in all of Scripture because Jesus makes it clear: encountering God is not about being religious enough, knowing enough theology, or attending enough services. It is about being spiritually transformed from the inside out by the Spirit of God. And then comes John 3:16, perhaps the most quoted verse in the Bible. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. This is the heart of the Gospel. The new birth is not something we work up. It flows from the love of a God who sent His Son not to condemn the world, but to save it.

Prayer
Father, thank You for loving the world, for loving me, enough to send Your Son. Renew me by Your Spirit today. Help me not to settle for religion when You are offering a relationship. In Jesus' name, amen.

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE; WHOEVER COMES TO ME SHALL NOT HUNGER

JOHN 6:35

Week 2 - Encountering the God Who Saves

Encountering God always begins with who He is, but it does not stop there. The God who reveals Himself is also the God who rescues. Scripture tells a single, unfolding story: a holy God pursuing sinful people with relentless grace. From the opening chapters of Genesis to the coming of Jesus Christ, God has been on a mission to save.

This week we turn our attention to the heart of the gospel. We do not encounter God by climbing our way up to Him through effort, morality, or religious performance. We encounter Him because He has come to us. Salvation is the work of Jesus on our behalf. If we misunderstand salvation, we will misunderstand God. We may approach Him with fear instead of freedom, striving instead of trust, or shame instead of joy. But when we see God rightly as the One who saves by grace, our posture changes. We come not as performers, but as recipients. Not as the worthy, but as the redeemed.

This week we walk through John 4 through 6, where Jesus pursues the outsider, heals the broken, feeds the hungry, and declares Himself the bread of life. Allow the gospel to steady your heart again. The God who saves is the God who draws near.

As you read this week. Remember, grab a pen and your journal as you read the daily Scripture. Then answer these three questions:

1. *What truth did I learn about God from this passage?*
2. *What did God's Word teach me about myself?*
3. *Is there a promise I need to believe or a command I need to obey?*

Week 2 - Day 1 - Living Water for the Thirsty

Bottom Line
Jesus pursues the broken and offers what only He can give.

Prayer Prompt
Jesus, You know me fully, my history, my failures, my thirst. Like the woman at the well, help me to receive what only You can give today. Amen.

Scripture Reading
John 4:1-26

Devotional
The Samaritan woman at the well is not who most religious leaders would stop for. She is the wrong ethnicity, the wrong gender by cultural standards, and her personal history is complicated. Yet Jesus goes out of His way to be there. He sits down, asks for a drink, and opens a conversation that will change her life forever. "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." Jesus is not interested in her past. He is offering her a future. He is offering her Himself. The saving God does not wait for us to get our lives together before He draws near. He meets us at the well, in our mess, in our thirst, in the middle of our broken stories, and He offers us what nothing else can satisfy.

Prayer
Jesus, I am thirsty in ways I cannot always name. Meet me where I am. Give me what only You can give. Help me drink deeply of You today. Amen.

Week 2 - Day 2 - The Father Seeks True Worshipers

Bottom Line
God saves us so that we might worship Him in spirit and truth.

Prayer Prompt
Father, You are seeking worshipers. Help me not to come to You today with mere ritual but with a heart that is fully turned toward You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 4:19-54

Devotional
As the conversation at the well deepens, the woman raises a familiar debate: where is the right place to worship? Jerusalem or Mount Gerizim? Jesus redirects her entirely: "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The Father is not looking for people who worship in the right location with the right ritual. He is seeking people whose hearts are genuinely turned toward Him. True worship flows from encounter, from knowing the truth about who God is and responding to it from the inside out. And then Jesus does something remarkable. He tells her plainly that He is the Messiah. This woman, an outsider whom most would overlook, receives one of the clearest self-disclosures Jesus ever makes. The God who saves seeks true worshipers from every background, every story, every corner of society.

Prayer
Father, You are seeking true worshipers. I want to be one. Help me come to You today not out of habit or obligation, but out of genuine love and wonder at who You are. Amen.

Week 2 - Day 3 - Rise and Walk

Bottom Line
Jesus has authority over everything that holds us captive.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, there are places in my life where I have been lying by the pool for a long time. Speak the Word today. In Your name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 5:1-17

Devotional
The man by the pool of Bethesda has been unable to walk for thirty-eight years. Every day, people around him get into the healing waters. Every day, he is left behind. Jesus walks up and asks him a question that seems almost strange: "Do you want to be healed?" It is not a cruel question. It is an honest one. Sometimes we grow so accustomed to our condition that we lose hope for something different. Jesus does not ask the man to prove his faith or meet a religious requirement. He simply commands: "Rise, pick up your bed and walk." And the man is healed. The saving God does not merely forgive our past. He has authority over the things that have left us immobilized, the wounds, the patterns, the long-standing places of brokenness. And He still speaks the same word.

Prayer
Jesus, You have authority over all that holds me back. Speak to the places in me that have grown still and hopeless. Help me rise today in the power You provide. Amen.

Week 2 - Day 4 - The Bread of Life

Bottom Line
Jesus is the only one who can truly satisfy our deepest hunger.

Prayer Prompt
Lord, I confess I often try to satisfy my soul with things that cannot nourish it. Help me come to You today as the bread of life. Amen.

Scripture Reading
John 6:1-40

Devotional
The crowd has just witnessed Jesus feed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. Now they track Him down across the lake, and Jesus sees right through their motive: “You are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.” They want what Jesus gives. They do not yet want Jesus Himself. So Jesus makes the most audacious offer: “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” He is not offering a spiritual supplement to add to an already full life. He is claiming to be the very substance of life itself. The God who saves meets the hunger beneath the hunger, the deep longing that all our striving, accumulating, and consuming was never designed to fill. Only Jesus satisfies.

Prayer
Jesus, You are the bread of life. Forgive me for the times I settle for lesser things when You are offering Yourself. Feed my soul today with what only You can give. Amen.

Week 2 - Day 5 - Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?

Bottom Line
Saving faith holds on to Jesus even when it is hard.

Prayer Prompt
Lord, when the road gets hard and the crowds thin out, help me be one who stays. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 6:41-71

Devotional
After Jesus declares Himself the bread of life, many of His disciples find it too difficult and begin to walk away. Jesus turns to the Twelve and asks: "Do you want to go away as well?" Peter's answer is one of the most honest and beautiful confessions in the Gospels: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Peter does not say he understands everything Jesus is teaching. He does not say this has been easy. He says there is nowhere else to go. You alone have what we need. This is what saving faith looks like in real life, not the absence of difficulty or confusion, but the conviction that Jesus is the only one worth holding on to. The God who saves keeps those who are His. Even when we are weak, confused, or shaken, He holds us fast.

Prayer
Lord, to whom else would I go? You have the words of eternal life. When I am confused or weary, help me hold on to this: there is no better place to be than with You. Amen.

YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE.
JOHN 8:32

Week 3 - Encountering the God Who Speaks

If we are going to be a people who pray, live in God's presence, and walk in His power, we must be a people who listen. The God we encounter is not distant or silent. He is a speaking God. From the very beginning, God has made Himself known, not only through creation, but through His Word, and ultimately through His Son, Jesus Christ. God does not leave His people guessing about who He is or what He desires. He reveals Himself.

Yet in a world filled with noise, opinions, and competing voices, listening to God requires intentionality. We may believe God speaks, but still struggle to hear Him clearly. We may open the Scriptures without expectancy, or approach God's Word as information rather than revelation.

This week we walk through John 7 through 9, where Jesus stands at the great feast and cries out, heals a man born blind, and declares Himself the light of the world. Come prayerfully and attentively. The God who speaks delights to be heard by His people.

As you read this week. Remember, grab a pen and your journal as you read the daily Scripture. Then answer these three questions:

1. *What truth did I learn about God from this passage?*
2. *What did God's Word teach me about myself?*
3. *Is there a promise I need to believe or a command I need to obey?*

Week 3 - Day 1 - Teaching That Is Not His Own

Bottom Line
God's Word comes from God Himself, and it transforms those who receive it.

Prayer Prompt
Father, as I open Your Word today, help me approach it not as information to master, but as a message from You. Speak to me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 7:1-24

Devotional
Jesus arrives at the feast and begins teaching. The religious leaders are stunned. He has not studied in their schools, yet He speaks with an authority they cannot explain. Jesus clarifies the source: "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me." The words Jesus speaks are not the words of a gifted teacher. They are the words of the eternal God. This is why Scripture is not like other books. The Bible is not simply wise human writing about God. It is God's own self-disclosure, breathed out by Him, bearing His authority, and alive by His Spirit. Every time we open the Bible, we are not reading about God from a distance. We are hearing from God Himself. The question Jesus poses is honest and searching: are we seeking God's will, or our own? The posture we bring to God's Word determines how we hear it.

Prayer
Father, Your Word is not mine to manage. It is Yours to speak. Help me come to it with open hands and a humble heart. Speak to me today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Week 3 - Day 2 - Rivers of Living Water

Bottom Line
The Spirit of God is the one who makes God's Word alive in us.

Prayer Prompt
Holy Spirit, You are the one who illuminates the Word. Without You, I cannot understand what God is saying. Open my eyes today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 7:25-39

Devotional
On the last and greatest day of the Feast of Tabernacles, when the priests were pouring water at the altar as a symbol of God's provision, Jesus stands up and cries out: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" The living water Jesus offers is the Holy Spirit, poured out on everyone who believes. And the Spirit is the one who makes the Word alive. This is why Bible reading is never just an academic exercise. The same Spirit who inspired the Scriptures lives inside every believer, and He opens our eyes to understand what God has said. When we read with prayer and expectancy, the Spirit takes the words on the page and makes them living and active in our hearts.

Prayer
Holy Spirit, flow through my reading of the Word today. Take the truth I encounter and plant it deep in my heart. Make it more than information. Make it transformation. Amen.

Week 3 - Day 3 - The Truth That Sets Us Free

Bottom Line
Abiding in God's Word is what leads to true freedom.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, where I have believed lies about myself, about You, or about the world, replace them with Your truth. In Your name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 8:1-38

Devotional
"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." These words of Jesus are some of the most quoted in all of Christianity, and also some of the most misunderstood. Jesus is not talking about freedom in a general sense. He is talking about freedom from sin, from the patterns, the bondage, the captivity that our rebellion against God has produced. The path to that freedom is specific: abide in God's Word. Not just read it occasionally or reference it when convenient. Abide. Remain in it, make your home in it, return to it daily, let it form the framework through which you see everything else. The God who speaks is also the God who frees. And He does His freeing work primarily through the consistent, faithful, humble engagement with His Word.

Spiritual Discipline - Silence and Solitude
In John 8, Jesus is constantly surrounded by crowds, debates, and confrontation. Yet He consistently withdraws from the crowds in order to be alone with the Father. Practice silence and solitude today. Withdraw from your phone and the busyness for 15-20 minutes and just be still.

Prayer
Lord, Your Word is truth. Help me abide in it, not just visit it, so that I would know the freedom You have purchased for me. Expose every lie and replace it with what is true. Amen.

Week 3 - Day 4 - I Am the Light of the World

Bottom Line
Jesus is the light that overcomes every kind of darkness.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, shine Your light into every dark corner of my life today. I do not want to walk in darkness. Lead me by Your light. Amen.

Scripture Reading
John 8:12; 9:1-12

Devotional
"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jesus makes this declaration and then demonstrates it by healing a man who was born blind. The physical miracle is a parable of something spiritual: Jesus gives sight to those who are in the dark. The disciples try to make the man's blindness a theological puzzle. Jesus makes it a moment of glory. He spits in the dirt, makes mud, and tells the man to go wash. The man goes, he washes, and he comes back seeing. The Light of the world turned darkness into sight. This is what God's Word does when the Spirit applies it. It illuminates. It brings clarity where there was confusion, and sight where there was blindness. Following Jesus means walking in His light.

Prayer
Jesus, You are the light. I do not want to navigate life in the dark. Help me follow You closely enough to walk in Your light today. Illuminate what I cannot see on my own. Amen.

Week 3 - Day 5 - One Thing I Know

Bottom Line
A genuine encounter with Jesus produces a testimony no one can take from you.

Prayer Prompt
Lord, anchor my faith not just in what I have been taught, but in what I have personally experienced of You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 9:13-41

Devotional
The man born blind stands before the religious authorities, who are furious that Jesus healed on the Sabbath. They press him with theological arguments and demands. His response is one of the most disarming in the Gospels: "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." He does not have a sophisticated theology. He cannot win every argument. But no one can take away his personal encounter with Jesus. And by the end of the chapter, when Jesus seeks him out and reveals Himself more fully, the man worships. This is what encountering the God who speaks does: it gives us something to say. Not just a belief system to defend, but a story to tell. I was blind, but now I see. The God who speaks transforms those who truly hear Him, and that transformation becomes our testimony.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, I may not be able to answer every question, but I know this: You have changed me. Give me the courage to tell my story, and help me keep encountering You so the story keeps growing. Amen.

I AM
THE GOOD
SHEPHERD.
THE GOOD
SHEPHERD
LAYS
DOWN HIS
LIFE FOR
THE SHEEP.
JOHN 10:11

Week 4 - Positioning Ourselves to Encounter God

Encountering God never leaves us unchanged. The God who reveals Himself, saves us by grace, and speaks through His Word is also actively at work within us. He is not content to forgive us and leave us as we are. He is committed to drawing us into deeper fellowship with Himself.

But intimacy with God does not happen accidentally. We are called to position ourselves, to intentionally create the conditions in our lives where God has promised to meet us. This is not about earning His presence. In Christ, we already have full access to the Father. It is about responding to that access with the intentionality it deserves.

This week we walk through John 10 through 12. Jesus declares Himself the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep. He raises Lazarus from the dead. Mary anoints Him at Bethany in an act of extravagant devotion. As you read, pay attention to the postures of those who encounter Jesus most deeply, and ask God to cultivate those same postures in you.

As you read this week. Remember, grab a pen and your journal as you read the daily Scripture. Then answer these three questions:

1. *What truth did I learn about God from this passage?*
2. *What did God's Word teach me about myself?*
3. *Is there a promise I need to believe or a command I need to obey?*

Week 4 - Day 1 - The Good Shepherd

Bottom Line
Jesus knows you by name and calls you to follow Him.

Prayer Prompt
Good Shepherd, I want to know Your voice more clearly. Quiet the competing voices in my life and help me hear You above them all. In Your name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 10

Devotional
"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." This is a personal and intimate relationship. Shepherds in the ancient world did not manage flocks from afar. They lived with them, named them, knew their individual quirks, and led them by the sound of their voice. Jesus says His sheep know His voice. They follow Him not because they are forced to, but because they recognize Him. And He knows them. He calls them by name. Positioning ourselves to encounter God begins here: learning to distinguish His voice from all the others. The Good Shepherd speaks through His Word, through prayer, through the wisdom of His people, and through the quiet work of the Spirit. But we must be listening. We must create enough stillness in our lives to actually hear.

Prayer
Good Shepherd, teach me Your voice. Help me follow You, not the voices of fear, ambition, or distraction. I am Yours. Lead me today. Amen.

Week 4 - Day 2 - I Am the Resurrection and the Life

Bottom Line
Jesus has power over death, and over every place in us that feels dead.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life. Speak life today into the places in me that feel most dead. In Your name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 11:1-27

Devotional
Lazarus is dead. He has been in the tomb four days by the time Jesus arrives. Mary and Martha are grieving, and not without a trace of honest anguish: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Jesus does not deflect their grief. He meets it with a declaration that reorders everything: “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.” Before Jesus performs the miracle, He offers this truth. Before the tomb is opened, He makes the claim. He is not just the one who can raise the dead. He is the source of life itself. Positioning ourselves to encounter God means trusting Him with our dead places. The grief, the loss, the dreams that seem buried, the spiritual dryness that has settled in. We bring all of it to the One who says: I am the resurrection.

Prayer
Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life. I bring to You the places in me that feel most lifeless. Speak. Roll away the stone. Bring me out. Amen.

Week 4 - Day 3 - Jesus Wept

Bottom Line
Jesus enters our grief, and grief in His presence leads to encounter.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, thank You that You are not unmoved by my pain. Help me bring my grief to You honestly today. In Your name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 11:28-44

Devotional
In the shortest verse in the Bible, "Jesus wept," we are given one of the most profound windows into the heart of God. Jesus knows He is about to raise Lazarus. He knows the story ends in triumph. And yet, standing at the tomb of His friend, surrounded by grieving people, He weeps. He is not performing. He is not pretending. He is genuinely moved by the grief of the people He loves. The God we seek to encounter is not a distant deity who is unmoved by our suffering. He enters it. He weeps with those who weep. And then He acts. "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man walks out of the tomb. Grief becomes witness. The posture that positioned this crowd to encounter God was not triumphant confidence. It was honest sorrow brought into His presence.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, You wept. You are not far from my grief. I bring to You today what I have been carrying alone. Meet me here. And in Your time, speak life. Amen.

Week 4 - Day 4 - She Has Done a Beautiful Thing

Bottom Line
Extravagant devotion to Jesus is always worth it.

Prayer Prompt
Lord, I want to offer You more than what is convenient. Help me come to You today with an open, generous, devoted heart. Amen.

Scripture Reading
John 12:1-8

Devotional
Six days before the Passover, Mary takes a pound of expensive perfume, worth nearly a year's wages, and pours it on Jesus' feet. Judas objects. It is wasteful, he says. It could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus silences the objection: "Leave her alone." What Mary is doing is not wasteful. It is worship. It is the posture of someone who has encountered Jesus and responded with everything she has. She is not calculating the cost. She is responding to the worth of the One she loves. Positioning ourselves to encounter God requires this kind of extravagance. Not the extravagance of money or possessions, but the extravagance of heart, of time, of attention, of priority. It is the willingness to give to Jesus what the world would call excessive, because we know He is worth it.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, I want to be a Mary, not calculating the cost, but responding to Your worth. Help me give You my best today. You are worth it. Amen.

Week 4 - Day 5 - A Grain of Wheat

Bottom Line
True encounter with God leads through surrender, not around it.

Prayer Prompt
Lord, where I am holding on too tightly, help me open my hands today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 12:9-50

Devotional
"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus says this as He is approaching the cross. He is describing His own death, and He is describing the pattern for all who would follow Him. The life that God offers does not come from self-preservation. It comes through surrender. The grain that refuses to be planted remains alone, unchanged, unfruitful. The grain that surrenders to the ground, that looks like loss from the outside, produces a harvest that the intact grain could never have imagined. Positioning ourselves to encounter God always involves surrender. Not one dramatic surrender, but the daily practice of releasing our grip on our own comfort, plans, reputation, and control, trusting the One who said it is through dying that we live.

Prayer
Lord, I want to bear fruit. But I confess I often want it without surrender. Help me trust You enough to open my hands today. Plant what You need to plant. I trust the harvest to You. Amen.

I AM
THE VINE;
YOU
ARE
THE
BRANCHES.
JOHN 15:5

Week 5 - Revival Flows Upward

True revival is not measured first by what happens around us. It is measured by what happens within us toward God. Before revival ever reshapes a community, it first reorients the heart of God's people back to God Himself. Revival is not first about activity. It is about worship. It is not first about what we do for God, but about what rises from within us toward God in response to who He is. At its core, revival is the restoration and renewal of rightly ordered worship. It is the Spirit of God awakening dulled hearts to once again see the beauty, holiness, and majesty of God clearly and respond accordingly.

This week we walk through John 13 through 15, where Jesus washes His disciples' feet, declares Himself the way, the truth, and the life, and calls His followers to abide in Him as branches in a vine. These are among the most intimate chapters in all of Scripture. As you read, let revival begin in you, flowing upward in reverence, awe, and love for the God who is worthy of it all.

As you read this week. Remember, grab a pen and your journal as you read the daily Scripture. Then answer these three questions:

1. *What truth did I learn about God from this passage?*
2. *What did God's Word teach me about myself?*
3. *Is there a promise I need to believe or a command I need to obey?*

Week 5 - Day 1 - The Basin and the Towel

Bottom Line
True worship begins with humility before God and one another.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, You took the basin and the towel. Help me receive what You have done for me, and then live it out toward others. Amen.

Scripture Reading
John 13:1-20

Devotional
"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist." Notice what John says before Jesus picks up the towel: He knows who He is. He knows He has all authority. He knows where He came from and where He is going. And it is precisely from that secure identity that He kneels to wash dirty feet.

Revival that flows upward begins with this kind of humility, not the humility of low self-esteem, but the humility of someone who knows they are loved, secure, and held by God, and therefore has nothing to prove. Rightly ordered worship makes us small before God and generous toward others. When we truly see who God is, we stop grasping and we start serving.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, You washed feet. Humble my heart today. Free me from the need to be seen, exalted, or protected, and help me love others from the secure place of being loved by You. Amen.

Week 5 - Day 2 - The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Bottom Line
Jesus is the only path to the Father, and knowing this fills us with worship.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, You are the way, the truth, and the life. I do not need to search any further. Help me walk fully in You today. Amen.

Scripture Reading
John 14:1-14

Devotional
"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." Jesus is speaking to disciples who are anxious, confused, and about to face something they do not understand. His answer is not a strategy or a plan. It is a person: Himself.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This is one of the most exclusive and most liberating claims Jesus ever makes. Exclusive because there is one way, not many. Liberating because the way is not a method or a formula. The way is a person who loves us and has gone to prepare a place for us. Revival flows upward when we stop searching for God in the wrong places and simply return to Jesus, the way to the Father, the truth that anchors us, the life that sustains us.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, You are the way. I don't need to find another path. I need to walk more faithfully on the one You have provided. Lead me to the Father today. Amen.

Week 5 - Day 3 - The Spirit Within Us

Bottom Line
The Holy Spirit is God's presence living inside us.

Prayer Prompt
Holy Spirit, You are the presence of God within me. Fill me today. Do through me what I cannot do on my own. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 14:12-21

Devotional
"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father." The disciples must have been stunned. Greater works than Jesus? How? Because Jesus is going to the Father and sending the Spirit. The Helper, the Holy Spirit, will be with believers not just alongside them as Jesus was, but within them. The presence of God, poured out into human hearts, means the work of Jesus can extend into every corner of the earth simultaneously through His people. Revival flowing upward means we recognize that the life we live is not our own. The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives inside us. That is not a small truth. It is world-altering. And it is meant to produce deep reverence and awe in us for the God who has chosen to dwell within us.

Prayer
Holy Spirit, I am Your dwelling place. Fill me. Work through me. Help me not to grieve or quench You, but to walk in step with You today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Week 5 - Day 4 - Peace That Passes Understanding

Bottom Line
The peace Jesus gives is unlike anything the world offers.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, I receive the peace You are offering today. Help me stop reaching for lesser things to calm my heart. Amen.

Scripture Reading
John 14:22-31

Devotional
"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." The peace Jesus offers is not the absence of conflict or difficulty. It is a settled confidence in the goodness and sovereignty of God, even in the middle of trouble. The world offers peace through comfort, control, and the absence of problems. Jesus offers peace in the middle of the storm. Revival flowing upward produces this kind of peace. When our hearts are rightly oriented toward God, when we are worshiping the One who holds all things, anxiety loses its grip. Not because circumstances improve, but because we are anchored to the God who is above all circumstances. This peace is a gift from Jesus, and it is ours to receive.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, I accept the peace You are offering. Help me stop trying to manufacture calm through control, and instead rest in the truth that You hold all things. Guard my heart and mind with Your peace. Amen.

Week 5 - Day 5 - Abide in Me

Bottom Line
The fruitful life flows from staying connected to Jesus.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, I want to abide in You, not just visit You. Help me stay today. Amen.

Scripture Reading
John 15

Devotional
"Abide in me, and I in you.... Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." The image is simple and devastating in its honesty: a branch cut from the vine withers. It cannot produce life from within itself. It needs the vine. In the same way, we cannot sustain spiritual life, produce genuine fruit, or experience true joy if we are not staying connected to Jesus. Revival flowing upward is really just the description of what abiding looks like, hearts turned toward Jesus, staying close to Him in His Word and prayer, remaining in His love. The fruit of the Spirit does not come from effort. It comes from abiding. And the joy Jesus promises, "that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full," is the overflow of a life that stays close.

Spiritual Discipline
Scripture Memorization. Find a verse in John 15 to commit to memory this week.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, I am the branch and You are the vine. I cannot do this without You. Help me abide, to stay close, to remain connected, to make my home in You. Let Your joy fill me as I do. Amen.

SANCTIFY THEM IN THE TRUTH; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.
JOHN 17:17

Week 6 - Revival Flows Inward

True revival is not merely an emotional experience or a momentary spiritual high. When God's people genuinely encounter Him, revival flows inward, resulting in conviction of sin, repentance, and life transformation. God's desire is not simply to inspire us, but to transform us into the image of Christ.

This inward work is the Spirit's great project in the life of every believer. He is not content to leave us comfortable in our sin or settled in our mediocrity. He convicts, He corrects, He conforms, always with love, always drawing us toward greater freedom and holiness.

This week we walk through John 16 through 18. Jesus promises the Spirit who will convict the world of sin. He prays for His disciples, and for us, in the great high priestly prayer of John 17. And then He enters Gethsemane, where the most costly act of surrender in all of history takes place. As you read, open your heart to what the Spirit wants to do within you. Revival begins here.

As you read this week. Remember, grab a pen and your journal as you read the daily Scripture. Then answer these three questions:

1. *What truth did I learn about God from this passage?*
2. *What did God's Word teach me about myself?*
3. *Is there a promise I need to believe or a command I need to obey?*

Week 6 - Day 1 - The Spirit Who Convicts

Bottom Line
The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin not to condemn us, but to lead us to freedom.

Prayer Prompt
Holy Spirit, I open my heart to Your work today. Search me. Convict me where I need to be convicted. And lead me into freedom. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 16:1-15

Devotional
"When he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." The Holy Spirit is not sent only to comfort us. He is also sent to convict us. And in a culture that prefers affirmation to conviction, this truth is one we must receive with humility. Biblical conviction is not condemnation. Condemnation pushes us away from God in shame and despair. Conviction draws us back to God in honesty and repentance. The Spirit reveals what is wrong in our hearts so that we can be made right. He shows us sin not to crush us, but to free us.

Revival flowing inward always begins with this: the willingness to be searched. Not to search ourselves with anxious self-examination, but to say, with David, "Search me, O God, and know my heart." Then to receive what the Spirit reveals, not with shame, but with the confidence that the One who convicts is also the One who cleanses.

Prayer
Holy Spirit, search me. I open my heart to You today, not with fear, but with trust. Show me what needs to change. And then help me run to the cross, not away from it. In Jesus' name, amen.

Week 6 - Day 2 - Sorrow Turned to Joy

Bottom Line
The grief God allows always leads to a joy the world cannot take away.

Prayer Prompt
Lord, help me trust You in the seasons of sorrow. I believe you are doing something in the dark. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 16:16-24

Devotional
"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy." Jesus is preparing His disciples for the grief of the cross, and promising them something on the other side of it. The image He uses is striking: a woman in labor. The pain is real. It is not minimized or spiritualized away. But the joy of what comes through the pain reframes everything. The same is true of the inward work of revival. Conviction is uncomfortable. Repentance involves grief. The Spirit's work in us is not always painless. But the joy that comes through is not the world's shallow happiness, which depends on circumstances. It is the deep, settled, unshakeable joy of a soul that has been genuinely transformed, the joy of someone who has moved from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, I trust You with the sorrow. I trust that you are working through it, not just in spite of it. Turn my grief to joy, not because circumstances change, but because You are near. Amen.

Week 6 - Day 3 - Sanctify Them in the Truth

Bottom Line
God's greatest prayer for us is that we would be made holy.

Prayer Prompt
Father, Jesus prayed for me, that I would be sanctified in the truth. Help me take that seriously today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 17:1-19

Devotional
John 17 is unlike anything else in Scripture. We are allowed to listen as the Son of God prays to His Father, and what Jesus prays for His disciples tells us everything about what God desires for us. "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." To sanctify means to set apart, to make holy. Jesus is not praying for His disciples to be comfortable, successful, or trouble-free. He is praying that they would be made holy. That the truth of God's Word would do its transforming work in them, setting them apart for God's purposes. This is God's great desire for you. Not merely that you would be happy, but that you would be holy, that your life would increasingly reflect the character of Jesus. Revival flowing inward is God answering this prayer in the lives of His people. It is the sanctifying work of the Spirit, applied through the truth of the Word, making us more like Jesus.

Spiritual Discipline of Confession and Repentance
John 17 is the High Priestly prayer of Jesus, and one thing He prays is that His people would be sanctified in the truth. The Spirit's work of conviction, which is a theme in chapter 16, leads believers to honest confession before God. Today and throughout the week, spend time in self-examination and confession. A great prayer is Psalm 139:23-24, where David says, "Search me, O God." Remember, 1 John 1:9 promises that when we confess, "He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Prayer
Father, I receive this prayer of Jesus over my life. Sanctify me in the truth. Do the deep, transforming work that only You can do. Make me more like Jesus, not for my own comfort, but for Your glory. Amen.

Week 6 - Day 4 - That They May Be One

Bottom Line
Revival that flows inward produces unity in the body of Christ.

Prayer Prompt
Father, where there is division in my heart toward other believers, bring healing. Unify Your church. Start with me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 17:20-26

Devotional
Jesus prays for unity, and He includes us in that prayer. He has been praying for us from before we were born. The unity Jesus prays for is not organizational conformity. It is the deep, Spirit-produced oneness that reflects the relationship within the Trinity itself. It is the kind of love and harmony that can only be explained by the presence of God. Revival flowing inward always touches our relationships. The same Spirit who convicts us of sin also makes us tender toward one another. Genuine transformation produces people who are willing to forgive, to be honest, to reconcile, to lay down their rights for the sake of another. Is there a relationship in your life where God's inward work needs to overflow outward?

Prayer
Father, Jesus prayed for our unity. I want to be a person who contributes to it, not undermines it. Heal the places in my heart that make unity hard. Make me a peacemaker. In Jesus' name, amen.

Week 6 - Day 5 - Not My Will, But Yours

Bottom Line
The deepest revival is the surrender of our will to the Father's.

Prayer Prompt
Father, I want what you want. But I confess I often find that hard. Help me get there today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 18:1-4, Luke 22:39-46

Devotional
In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus faces the full weight of what lies ahead, and He goes there willingly. When the soldiers and officers arrive to arrest Him, Jesus steps forward: "Whom do you seek?" He is not dragged away. He goes as a man in full control of Himself, surrendering by choice. This is the pattern that the Synoptic Gospels make explicit: "Not my will, but yours, be done." In the most costly moment in all of history, Jesus models the deepest posture of revival, the willing surrender of His own desires to the Father's plan. Revival flowing inward ultimately comes to this: the daily surrender of our will, our preferences, our comfort, our timelines, our plans. Not because God is harsh, but because we trust that His will is better than ours, just as Jesus trusted that the Father's plan, even through the cross, was the only path to resurrection.

Prayer
Father, not my will, but Yours. I release what I have been holding tightly. I trust that your plan is better, even when I cannot see it. Have Your way in me. In Jesus' name, amen.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED.
JOHN 20:29

Week 7 - Revival Flows Outward

True revival does not just end with personal renewal or private devotion. When God's people truly encounter His glory, the natural and necessary response is mission. Revival always moves outward, toward proclamation, evangelism, and gospel witness. Encountering God produces not only worship and transformation, but also a burden to make Him known to those who are far from Him. But, before we move too quickly, we will walk slowly through the crucifixion of Jesus in John 18-19. Let these passages capture your attention and remember all that Jesus did for you. Don't rush through this passage. Let the weight of what Jesus endured lead you into gratitude and worship today. And remember, it is the cross that makes an encounter with God possible.

We will see in the next several passages and days that a people who have been forgiven much love much. People who have seen the risen Christ cannot stay silent. This week we walk through John 19 through 21, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and His restoration of Peter on the shores of Galilee. These are the chapters that change everything. As you read, let the resurrection ignite something in you. The same risen Jesus who sent His disciples is sending you. Go.

As you read this week. Remember, grab a pen and your journal as you read the daily Scripture. Then answer these three questions:

1. *What truth did I learn about God from this passage?*
2. *What did God's Word teach me about myself?*
3. *Is there a promise I need to believe or a command I need to obey?*

Week 7 - Day 1 - The Garden of Betrayal

Bottom Line
Jesus went willingly to the cross. No one took His life, He laid His life down.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, You walked into the garden knowing what was coming. Help me not to rush past that. Help me sit with what Your willingness cost you. In Your name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 18:1-14

Devotional
Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley and entered the garden of Gethsemane with His disciples. He knows what is coming. John tells us that Judas, who had already left the table to betray Him, knew the place because Jesus often met there with His disciples. The betrayer leads the soldiers straight to Him. Jesus does something that stops everything: He steps forward. He doesn't retreat or hide. He moved forward and asked, "Whom do you seek?" When they said they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth, He replied, "I am he." The Bible tells us that the soldiers fell back to the ground at the words of Jesus. Even in being arrested, Jesus held all the power. When Peter draws his sword to defend Jesus, Jesus tells him to put it away. Why? Because Jesus was not trapped. He was surrendered to the will of the Father. He knew that what He was about to go through on the cross would change everything.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, 'It is finished.' Help me believe that fully today, not just intellectually, but in the way I approach You, myself, and others. Send me out as someone who carries good news. Amen.

Week 7 - Day 2 - What is Truth?

Bottom Line
Jesus stood before the powerful and told the truth. Why? Because Jesus is truth.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, You stood before Pilate without flinching. Give me the same courage to stand in the truth of who You are. Whatever it costs, I want to surrender to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 18:15-40

Devotional
The religious leaders bring Jesus to Pilate because they want a death sentence they cannot legally carry out themselves. Pilate questions Jesus, and Jesus answers in a way that is neither defensive or evasive. He speaks plainly: His kingdom is not of this world, and He came into the world to bear witness to the truth. Pilate's response is one of the most haunting lines in all of Scripture: 'What is truth?' He asks the question and then walks away without waiting for an answer. He is standing in front of Truth and can't recognize it. Pilate finds no guilt in Jesus and yet hands Him over anyway. He knows what is right and chooses what is convenient. This is what happens when we allow the fear of people to outweigh the fear of God. Jesus, by contrast, never wavers. He is the Truth, and He will not deny Himself to make the moment easier.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, You did not bend the truth to save Yourself. Help me not bend it either. I don't want to choose my comfort or my reputation over You. Give me courage to stand in what is truth, because You are the Truth. In Jesus' name, amen.

Week 7 - Day 3 - Behold the Man

Bottom Line
Jesus was mocked, beaten, and rejected so that we could be accepted.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, they put a crown of thorns on Your head and called it a joke. Let me never treat lightly what You endured. In Your matchless name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 19:1-16

Devotional
Pilate had Jesus flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and pressed it onto His head. They dress Him in a purple robe, the color of royalty, and mock Him. Then Pilate brings Him out before the crowd. Pilate says, "Behold the man," and means it as a spectacle. Here is this beaten, humiliated figure. What threat could He possibly be? But John means something far deeper. Behold the man. Look at Him. This is the Son of God in the fullest expression of His love for you. Love on display. He absorbed what we deserved so we would never have to. Isaiah saw this moment 700 hundred years before it happened. He said, "He was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows." The thorns that pressed into His skull were the curse of a fallen world. Yet Jesus wore them willingly... understand this... for you.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, they mocked You. You are the King and they didn't know it. They didn't recognize You, Honestly, like the hymn said, I would have "heard my mocking voice" in the crowd, too. Thank You for saving me anyways. In Jesus' name, amen.

Week 7 - Day 4 - It Is Finished

Bottom Line
The debt of your sin has been paid in full. There is nothing left to add.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, You said 'It is finished.' Help me live today from that finished work, not working for Your love, but working from it. Amen.

Scripture Reading
John 19:17-30

Devotional
"It is finished." Three words in English. One word in Greek: Tetelestai. It was a word used in the ancient world on receipts to indicate that a debt had been paid in full. Jesus is not saying He is merely done suffering. He is declaring that the debt of sin has been paid, completely, finally, once and for all. There is nothing left to add. Nothing more to earn. The work of salvation is complete. This is the message we carry into the world. Not "try harder." Not "become a better version of yourself." The message is: the debt has been paid. The price has been settled. Come. Because revival that flows outward is not the announcement of a program or an event. It is the proclamation of a finished work.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, 'It is finished.' Help me believe that fully today, not just intellectually, but in the way I approach You, myself, and others. Send me out as someone who carries good news. Amen.

Week 7 - Day 5 - The Burial

Bottom Line
Jesus truly died. The darkness of Saturday is real, and it is not the end.

Prayer Prompt
Lord, help me to sit in the weight of the cross before I rush into the resurrection. Help me feel what Saturday felt like. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 19:31-42

Devotional
After Jesus dies, a soldier pierces His side with a spear. Blood and water pour out. John records this as an eyewitness, making sure we understand: this was not a swoon, not a near-death experience. Jesus truly died. The body is taken down by Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disicple, and Nicodemus, the man who came to Jesus at night in John 3. Both men step out of the shadows at the moment it seems there is nothing left to gain. They wrap His body with linen cloths and spices, the burial custom of the day, and lay Him in a borrowed tomb. The stone is rolled int place and then there is silence.

We live on the other side of Sunday, so we read these verses knowing what comes next. But the disciples did not. For them, Saturday was a day of total devastation. Everything they had believed, hoped, and given their lives to was wrapped in burial cloths and sealed behind a stone. Do not rush past this. The darkness of Saturday is read. Grief is real. And God is present in it, even when He seems absent. He is always at work.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, 'It is finished.' Help me believe that fully today, not just intellectually, but in the way I approach You, myself, and others. Send me out as someone who carries good news. Amen.

JESUS SAID TO HIM, FEED MY SHEEP. JOHN 21:17

Week 8 - Revival Flows Outward

The tomb is empty! Jesus is alive! Everything in this forty-day journey has been building to this. The God who is, the God who saves, the God who speaks. The God who positioned us, revived our worship, transformed us from the inside. Now the risen Christ stands among His people, and sends them into the world with the greatest news in human history.

The final few days walk through John 20 and 21. From the empty tomb to the shores of Galilee. We have spent forty days preparing to encounter God. Now the risen Christ turns to you to remind you that revival flows outward. Again, people who have seen the risen Christ cannot stay silent. These are the chapters that change everything. As you read, let the resurrection ignite something in you. The same risen Jesus who sent His disciples is sending you. Go.

As you read this week. Remember, grab a pen and your journal as you read the daily Scripture. Then answer these three questions:

1. *What truth did I learn about God from this passage?*
2. *What did God's Word teach me about myself?*
3. *Is there a promise I need to believe or a command I need to obey?*

Week 8 - Day 1 - The Empty Tomb

Bottom Line
The tomb is empty and that changes everything.

Prayer Prompt
Risen Lord, You are not in the tomb. You are alive. Help me live in that reality today, not as a doctrine to just believe, but as a truth I am living from. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 20:1-10

Devotional
Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb while it is still dark. She finds the stone rolled away and runs to ell Peter and the other disciples. They race to the tomb. The other disciple (John, don't you love how the writer throws that detail in here?) outruns Peter and arrives first, but stops at the entrance. Peter goes straight in. He sees the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth folded separately. Then the other disciple enters, sees, and believes. The detail of the folded face cloth has always struck readers. A stolen body is removed in haste. A folded cloth is the deliberate act of someone who left on His own terms. The tomb is empty not because someone took Him. It is empty because He rose. John tells us the disciples did not yet understand the Scripture, that Jesus must rise from the dead. They were seeing the evidence before they had the framework to interpret it. Sometimes we encounter the reality of the risen Christ before we fully understand what it means. What matters is that we see, and believe.

Prayer
Risen Lord, You are alive. That changes everything. Help me live today not as someone managing a religion, but as someone who has encountered the living God. Send me to tell someone. Amen.

Week 8 - Day 2 - He Know Your Name

Bottom Line
The risen Jesus is personal. He knows your name, and He is looking for you.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, You called Mary by name in the garden. Call mine today. Help me hear your voice above everything else. In Your name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 20:11-18

Devotional
Mary stands outside the tomb weeping. Two angels ask her why she is crying, and she tells them. She turns and sees Jesus standing there, but does not recognize Him. She thinks He is the gardener. He asks the same question the angels asked: “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” And then He says one word: “Mary.” That is all it takes. One word, her name, in His voice, and everything changes. She turns to Him: “Rabboni!” Teacher. She had been looking for a body to care for. She found a risen Lord who came looking for her. This is the first resurrection appearance in John’s Gospel, and it is to a woman who was weeping alone outside an empty tomb. Not to the powerful, not to the religious leaders, not to a crowd. To one grieving person whom Jesus called by name. The risen Jesus is not a cosmic force or an abstract principle. He is personal. He knows your name. And in the middle of whatever grief or confusion you are carrying today, He is looking for you.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, You called Mary’s name and she knew You. Speak my name today. Help me recognize Your presence in the places I am most tempted to think You are absent. I am here, and I am listening. Amen.

Week 8 - Day 3 - Peace Be With You

Bottom Line
The risen Jesus walks through locked doors and sends His people into the world.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, You passed through locked doors to reach Your disciples. Come through whatever is closed in my heart today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 20:19-23

Devotional
The evening of that same Sunday, the disciples are gathered behind locked doors, afraid of the Jewish leaders. And then Jesus is simply there, standing among them. He does not knock. He does not wait for them to open the door. He comes to them where they are, fear and all, and speaks the first word of the resurrection age: "Peace be with you." He shows them His hands and His side. The same Jesus who was crucified is the one who is risen. The wounds are real. The resurrection is real. And the disciples go from fear to joy in a moment. Then Jesus commissions them: "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." He breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." This is the shape of revival that flows outward. It begins with an encounter with the risen Jesus in the middle of our fear. It continues with His peace settling over us. And it ends with His sending, equipping us with the same Spirit that raised Him from the dead and calling us to carry the message of forgiveness to the world.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, come through the locked doors. Speak Your peace over my fear. And then send me. I do not want to stay hidden. Give me the courage and the Spirit to go where You are calling me. Amen.

Week 8 - Day 4 - My Lord and My God

Bottom Line
Jesus meets us in our doubt and brings us through it to deeper faith.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, I believe. Please help my unbelief. Help me not doubt You, but doubt my doubts. Thank You for being so patient and good. In Your name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 20:24-31

Devotional
Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared on Sunday evening. When the others tell him what happened, he refuses to believe without physical proof. He wants to see the nail marks, touch the wounds. He will not believe on anyone else's testimony. A week later, Jesus appears again, and this time Thomas is there. Jesus goes straight to him: "Put your finger here, and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." We do not know whether Thomas actually touched the wounds. What we do know is what he says: "My Lord and my God." It is the highest Christological confession in the Gospel of John, and it comes from the mouth of the man who doubted most openly. Jesus does not scold Thomas for his doubt. He meets him in it and leads him through it to the clearest confession of all. Then Jesus says something that reaches across every century to us: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." That is us. We have not seen the wounds. We have not heard His voice with our physical ears. And yet we believe. Jesus calls that faith blessed, and He means it. John tells us he wrote his entire Gospel so that we might believe and have life in His name. The testimony of Scripture is sufficient. The faith it produces is real.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, You are my Lord and my God. Thank You for Your wounds, amen!

Week 8 - Day 5 - Do You Love Me?

Bottom Line
Jesus restores the broken and commissions them with purpose. Failure is never the final word.

Prayer Prompt
Lord Jesus, You ask me what You asked Peter: do you love me? Help me answer that honestly, and then help me live in obedience to what You've called me to. In Your holy name, amen.

Scripture Reading
John 21

Devotional
Jesus has a charcoal fire going on the beach with fish and bread. The last time Peter was near a charcoal fire, he was rejecting that he even knew Jesus. Here, instead of scolding Peter and the disciples, Jesus feeds them. He turns to Peter, and asks him three times: "Do you love me?" Three denials, three questions. Each time Peter says yes, Jesus gives him the same commission: tend my lambs, shepherd my sheep, follow me. Peter is not sidelined by his failure. He is restored through it and sent back into the mission with greater purpose than before. This is the final scene of the Gospel of John. And the final word Jesus speaks to Peter, and to us, is the same word He spoke at the very beginning: follow me. Forty days ago you began this journey. You have encountered the God who is, who saves, who speaks. You have been positioned, revived, and transformed. Now the risen Christ stands on the shore of your life and asks the only question that matters: do you love me? If the answer is yes, then go. Feed His sheep. Follow Him. The world is waiting.

Prayer
Lord Jesus, You know everything, and You know that I love You. I have not loved You perfectly, but I love You. Take that love and do something with it. Send me where you need me. Let me feed whoever you place in front of me. And help me follow You, one day at a time, for the rest of my life. Amen.