



Planning the Revival

The following are seven steps for planning the month of revival:

Step 1: A letter should be sent by the pastor to church members and friends of the church announcing the revival.

A sample letter can be downloaded from The Empowered Church website. This letter should highlight the upcoming Revival Month and encourage membership involvement. This letter should be sent out this month, one or two weeks before the Revival Month begins.

Step 2: Make plans to preach revival sermons.

Each Sabbath sermon during the Revival Month should focus on the importance and blessings obtained from a consistent devotional life. Sermon manuscripts and outlines have been prepared, which can be downloaded from The Empowered Church website under the link "Revival." There are two sermon outlines on the subject of prayer ("Elements of Successful Prayer" and "Hindrances to Answered Prayer") and two sermon manuscripts on devotional life. Those who will speak during this month should be chosen. Of course, the speakers may prefer to plan their own sermons on the month's emphasis.

Amazing Facts has revival speakers who may be invited as a part of The Empowered Church program to conduct a revival weekend at your local church. For more information about this special program, you can visit The Empowered Church website or call Amazing Facts at 916-434-3880.

Step 3: Plans should be put in place to emphasize prayer and personal devotions in the Sabbath school at every level of the church.

Sabbath school programs during the Revival Month, from the adult level on down through the children's divisions, should teach the how and why of the devotional life. Sabbath school programs during the month can also feature testimonies of answers to prayer. Another possible feature each week during the Revival Month could be a panel discussion of the emphasis of the coming week. This will jump-start interest and encourage participation.

The Sabbath school class is an excellent place to "debrief" the emphasis of the week that has just closed. For example, the teacher might ask the class what some of the challenges were in implementing the week's

devotional curriculum. Class members can be encouraged to share with each other what worked best for them.

This feature need not take more than five minutes of class time. In fact, this emphasis on the devotional life is an opportunity to encourage the study of the lesson, both during personal devotional time and as a family. The lesson study is, after all, the church at study.

Be sure to talk with the teachers and encourage their cooperation in this important component of the revival process.

Step 4: Plan how prayer and personal devotions may be highlighted during prayer meetings.

Prayer meetings during the Revival Month can feature practical methods on how to study the Bible. Opportunity should also be given to those who are practicing a devotional life to share with others the blessing it is to them.

Consider the following books, which are available from Amazing Facts. These books will prove to be both practical and interesting during your time together or in your own study:

- “If With All Your Heart: A God-seekers Guide to Effective Prayer”, by Richard O’Ffill. A discussion of some of the most common questions asked about prayer.
- “Handbook for Bible Study”, by Lee Gugliotto. This comprehensive resource gives you the step-by-step guidelines and examples to know your Bible better than ever.
- “Ultimate Resource”, by Doug Batchelor. In a time of so many distractions—from television, to the internet, movies, and more—Bible study is fast becoming obsolete. Who in the world has time to open the Book? Yet God promises huge blessings for those who daily receive His bread of truth. In this inspiring booklet, Pastor Doug shows you the power of God’s Word to change your life and the tremendous need to return to the source of our faith.
- “Transforming Prayer”, by Richard O’Ffill. Focuses on teaching you to pray and moves you away from praying just to get.

Step 5: Special bulletin insert packets have been provided and may be downloaded for use during the Revival Month.

Study guide packets focusing on the current emphasis provide the basic hands-on resource for the Revival Month. There are four different packets to be distributed in the church bulletin for each week of the month. These

bulletin insert packets can be downloaded from the Empowered Church website.

Each packet contains a personal study guide for each day of the week, Sabbath thru Friday. There are 28 different study guides in all. These study guides will encourage and instruct the members on how to have a personal devotional life and how to share that devotional life with their families, friends, and in the church setting.

Step 6: Plan to utilize the announcement time to encourage personal devotions.

Each Sabbath of the Revival Month during the announcement time attention should be called to the devotional emphasis for the upcoming week, which is highlighted in the bulletin. Suggested bulletin announcements can be downloaded from the Empowered Church website that highlight that week's emphasis.

Step 7: Plan to include the power that comes from personal testimonies.

Each Sabbath, for three to five minutes, plans may be made to have an individual or a family share what the personal devotional life means to them. These testimonies should not be long or complicated and can be done in a short question-and-answer interview format. It is best if those giving the testimonies are chosen in advance. If these testimonies are conducted with sincerity and simplicity, it will do more to encourage others to have a consistent devotional life than anything else the church can do.