A Revival for Children, Youth, and Adults Teacher's Notes

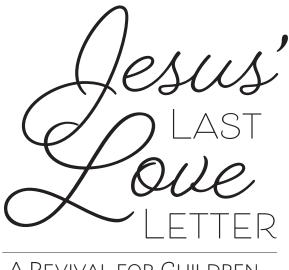
esus Last

ove

TTER

ereroba, n

DON MACLAFFERTY



## A REVIVAL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS

Don MacLafferty

Copyright 2021 In Discipleship All Rights Reserved

Printed by College Press Collegedale, Tennessee

All quoted Scripture is from the NASB (New American Standard Bible) version.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Why We All Need Jesus' Last Love Letter	3
What is True Revival?	3
How to use Jesus' Last Love Letter to Call for Revival	
• Roles	4
<ul> <li>Principles for Calling for an Intergenerational Revival</li> </ul>	5
Day 1 Know Me	7
Day 2 See What's Come Between Us	11
Day 3 Take My Advice	14
Day 4 Turn Back to Me	18
Day 5 Listen to Me	21
Day 6 Eat with Me	24
Day 7 Be with Me Forever	27
"What's Next?" Meeting	30
More Helpful Discipling Resources	32
Appendix	
Scripture Passages Helpful for	33
"Worship in Songs & Prayer"	

## WHY WE ALL NEED JESUS' LAST LOVE LETTER

Children, youth, and adults all desperately need to know that Someone loves them and will never leave them in this turbulent time! Jesus spoke often of His second coming. He wants everyone to be ready to meet Him when He comes, so that He and His people can be together forever! However, He warned us that prior to His coming, "most people's love will grow cold." Matthew 24:12 We see that this prophecy is being fulfilled now! Families are splintering under strain and stress, communities are polarizing, and in our preoccupation to survive these times, we often become too rushed for the One who loves us the most–God.

Yet, nearly two thousand years ago, Jesus prescribed a remedy for "love grown cold" in His message to Laodicea, and it has special relevance right now! His message in Revelation 3:14-22 is His last love letter to His people of all ages before He returns.

In this letter, Jesus openly tells young and old who He is, how much He loves them, and how to have a close relationship with Him. He appeals to them to get real about their personal faith and to run to Him for love, life, and freedom while there is still time left.

## WHAT IS TRUE REVIVAL?

"Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; surely it is near...'Yet even now,' declares the Lord, 'Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.' Now return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in loving kindness and relenting of evil...Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and the nursing infants..." Joel 2:1,12,13,16

# HOW TO USE JESUS' LAST LOVE LETTER TO CALL FOR REVIVAL

## Roles

#### Revival Leader: The Holy Spirit

#### **Presenter Responsibilities:**

- 1. Pray for every church member and their family members daily 3 months before the revival and all through it. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in each heart and bring each one to a personal revival with Jesus!
- 2. Pray and ask God for a child or youth to be your Elisha as you teach each day. Mentor this young person to be your assistant and to partner with you in the teaching.
- 3. Recruit daily coordinators for each day of the revival.
- 4. Recruit small group leaders.
- 5. Equip daily coordinators, small group leaders, and prayer leaders to be effective in their roles. Invest one evening before the revival begins to pray with and equip all coordinators, small groups leaders, and prayer leaders.
- 6. Every night, meet with the coordinator for the meeting, small group leaders, and the prayer leaders for that meeting. Lead them in praying for the Holy Spirit to bless. Confirm that everyone knows what to do and when to do it.
- 7. Prepare to share the following for each meeting:
  - **Witness** Invite each small group leader to ask who did the **24-Hour Challenge** and who would share what God did as they acted on the challenge. After this group sharing time, ask if anyone would like to share with the larger group what God did.
  - The Word Lead everyone in the Connect Activity as a tool to prepare the hearts for The Message from Scripture. The Message is to be a time of interactive teaching. Involve the small groups in exploring the Scriptures.
  - **Appeal & Closing Prayer** Prayerfully call young and old to make a decision for Jesus. Jesus has urgency in calling us to Him before He returns! Appeals must be given with His heart for people.

- **24-Hour Challenge** Give this challenge with the joy of Jesus. Ask if there are any questions.
- 8. Remember to speak in such a way that each child and teenager will understand and be engaged with the Word of God! Plan ahead to include young and old in assisting you in teaching each day.
- 9. Follow through with all divine appointments God gives you with those attending the revival.
- 10. Coordinate "What's Next?" Meeting swiftly after the last day of the revival.

### Nightly Coordinator Responsibilities:

- 1. Lead in the 7 Principles below with much personal prayer!
- 2. Recruit a young person to assist you in the welcome section.
- Recruit a 2-person team (child or youth/adult) to lead the thanksgiving, praise, and confession sections of prayer. Model to them what is meant by the instructions. Text them the instructions for their part the night before (at least!). Make sure they have their part ready and will not have to read their instructions!

Sharing what a Scripture means to them should be a 30- to 60-second-maximum moment. Recruit a few people to be prepared to lead songs that match each section. They will lead with one stanza only. Include children and youth songs each day.

- 4. Recruit a few people to be prepared to lead songs that match each section. They will lead with one stanza only.
- 5. Ask your team to come to the venue thirty minutes before the meeting to pray.
- 6. Pray for the Lord to do more than we can ask or imagine! Eph. 3:20

### Small Group Leader Responsibilities:

- 1. Lead your group with the 7 principles below with much prayer
- 2. Lead with a child or a youth.
- 3. Get to know those who come to your group. Make them comfortable.
- 4. Pray for them.
- 5. Focus the group on the instructions given from up front.

- 6. Be available for the Holy Spirit's work with each one in your group.
- 7. Be ready to listen, to care for, and to pray with anyone.

## PRINCIPLES FOR CALLING FOR AN INTERGENERATIONAL REVIVAL

- 1. We will gather and organize prayer partners to pray for every child, youth, and adult every day for as many weeks or months as possible before the revival. We will pray that the Holy Spirit prepares the hearts to receive the written Word of God.
- 2. The written Word of God will be our primary textbook.
- 3. We will call for revival with a personal commitment to daily:
  - Spend time alone with God in prayer and His Word
  - Surrender to Jesus as Lord
  - Receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit
- 4. We will include all ages in small groups of six or less led by a student and an adult.
- 5. We will select our small group leaders through earnest prayer and waiting on God and will equip these leaders to lead their people as a disciple-maker.
- 6. We will include all ages possible in every part of leading this revival and will seek to make each part understandable for a ten-year-old child to understand.
- 7. We will seek to lead each one to participate actively in each part of this revival rather than being a spectator.
- 8. We will surrender our plans for each meeting to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

# DAY1 KNOW ME

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a joyful, warm welcome! Family Circle

- 1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in groups of 3 or 4.
- 2. Ask each one to share their first name and their city of birth with their group.

## **WORSHIP IN SONGS & PRAYER**

### Thanks

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song of thanks to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of thanks. (See Appendix.)
- Invite each person to share with their group one way God has blessed them this week.

## Praise

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise. (See Appendix.)
- Model the difference between giving God praise and thanks. (Thanks is telling God you are grateful for what He has done for you and others. Praise is telling God what is special about Him-His character, power, names, etc.)
- Invite each person to stand with their group and pray short prayers of praise for who God is (not what He has done for them).

## Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about the grace of God.
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins. (See Appendix).
- Invite each person to kneel if possible and to privately confess anything that is not right between them and God.

## Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about God's grace.
- (After first night) Report on what God did with the challengetestimonies

## THE WORD

Connect Activity: Heart Preparation for the Word

- Invite every group to choose two people that know each other. Invite the two people to stand back to back.
- Tell each group to think of four questions to ask the team of two standing to see how well they know each other. Direct the questions to person A and ask them to try and answer for person B. Then ask person B if that would have been their answer (2 minutes).
- After the game is finished, invite the group to discuss this question: What can we learn from this game to apply to each of us knowing Jesus? (2 minutes)
- Today we will explore Jesus' Last Love Letter in Revelation 3 to know who Jesus really is.
- Before continuing, pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal through the Word of God who Jesus is.

### The Message

- Invite each group to explore John 5:39. Search to discover what Jesus says is the main point of the Bible. (3 minutes) Take a few answers.
- 2. The whole Bible points to Jesus Christ. He is the main focus. You can study the Bible to research many topics, but if you forget that Jesus is the main point, you have missed the whole reason for which it was written.
- 3. The book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, is studied for many reasons: to understand prophecy, to know the future, to understand the meaning of the symbols. In your groups, please read Revelation 1:1. What is the purpose of the book of Revelation according to the first verse? (2 minutes) Take a few answers. This book was written so that we could know the real Jesus Christ!
- 4. In Revelation 2 and 3, Jesus gives a message to the seven churches. These churches were actual churches in history. These churches also symbolize God's people in different eras over the last two thousand years since Jesus walked on earth. Today we begin Jesus' Last Love Letter in Revelation 3:14-22. This message is especially for those of us living in these last days before Jesus returns!

5. Jesus introduces Himself in the way He opens His letter to Laodicea. This is His last letter to His last people living on this planet before He returns.

Of Jesus' many names, He chooses three names to reveal Himself to His people living now in these difficult days. Read Rev. 3:14: "The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning."

Let's explore what these names mean!

#### The Amen

- Why does Jesus introduce Himself as "The Amen?"
- Scripture gives us the answer! "For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—was not yes and no, but is yes in Him. *For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes;* therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us." 2 Cor.1:19,20.
- Jesus is the Amen, the Yes to all the promises in the Bible! Jesus is telling His last day people that we can live on His promises for He is the guarantee of all Bible promises!
- In these challenging times, we must become a people who knows Jesus and His Word for ourselves. We need to know what Jesus has promised us in His Word so we can LIVE by these promises!
- Invite the group to take 4 minutes to share the Bible promises that are most meaningful to them. Ask for volunteers to share their favorite Bible promises with the whole group.
- Jesus is the AMEN and the YES to these promises!

#### The Faithful and True Witness

- Why does Jesus call Himself the Faithful and True Witness?
- "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Heb.13:8
- Jesus said, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matt. 28:20
- "John to the seven churches...and from Jesus Christ, the Faithful Witness." Rev. 1:4,5
- "And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war." Rev. 19:11

- Jesus is Faithful to you and me! He will be with you now and for eternity. He will never leave you. He will never turn His back on you.
- Invite the people to share quick stories in their groups of how Jesus has been faithful to them (4 minutes). Ask for 1 or 2 people to share with everyone.

### The Beginning

- Why does Jesus call Himself "The Beginning" or better yet "The Origin of Creation"?
- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." John 1:1-5
- "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." 2 Cor. 5:17
- Jesus wants you to know that He is the Creator of all things. He wants you to know today that just as He had the power to create our world with just a word, He has the power to re-create you with a word, so that you are not chained to your past.

## **APPEAL & CLOSING PRAYER**

- Who needs a fresh picture of what Jesus is in your life? If you do, I invite you to go to your knees if possible, right where you are. Take a quiet moment to ask the Holy Spirit to help you discover Jesus Christ all over again today and throughout this revival.
- (Pray a prayer of blessing for everyone.)

## 24-HOUR CHALLENGE

Read **Revelation 3:14**. Choose one of the names of Jesus in this verse that means the most to you. Thank your Heavenly Father for how Jesus has been faithful with that name to you.

## DAY 2 SEE WHAT'S COME BETWEEN US

#### WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a joyful, warm welcome! Family Circle

- 1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in groups of 3 or 4.
- 2. Ask each one to share their favorite place of all those they had ever visited.

#### **WORSHIP IN SONGS & PRAYER**

### Thanks

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song of thanks to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of thanks.
- Invite each person to share with their group one simple way God has shown them His faithfulness.

#### Praise

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise.
- Model the difference between giving God praise and thanks. (Thanks is telling God you are grateful for what He has done for you and others. Praise is telling God what is special about Him--His character, power, names, etc.)
- Invite each person to stand with their group and pray short prayers of praise for who God is (not what He has done for you).

## Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about the love of God.
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins.
- Invite each person to kneel if possible and to privately confess any part of their life that has not fully received the love of God.

### Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about God's love.
- Report on what God did with the challenge--testimonies

## THE WORD

Connect Activity: Heart Preparation for the Word

- Invite everyone to share in their group one thing that may separate friends.
- Ask for a few volunteers to share with the entire group.
- Tonight, discover what Jesus says deeply concerns Him in our relationship with Him.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare each heart for the Word of God.

#### The Message:

Jesus says, "I know your deeds."

- How well does Jesus know us? Read Psalm 139:1-4.
- He has searched us.
- He knows when I sit down and when I get up.
- He understands my thoughts.
- He studies the direction I am taking.
- He knows when I rest.
- He knows what I will speak before I speak it.

We cannot fool God.

- Jesus says, "I will spit you out of My mouth."
- When someone says they tasted something and had to spit it out of their mouths, we know it must have tasted terrible!
- Why does Jesus say this about us?
  - Jesus says, "You are neither cold nor hot."
  - Jesus continues, "I wish that you were cold or hot."
  - Jesus says, "You are lukewarm."

Jesus sees us differently than we see ourselves.

- We say: I am rich and I have need of nothing
- Jesus says: "You do not know that...

...you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

And that is the danger we are in as Jesus' coming draws near. We think we are okay with Christ, but we are not. We think we are staying close to Him, and do not know that we are far away. We think we know so much about Him that our knowledge equates to a relationship with Him, but it does not. We know about Him, but too often do not know Him.

So where is the hope in this message? Where do we find

strength in it? The awesome point of Revelation 3:15-16 is that Jesus KNOWS us and He CARES about our condition. If He did not care about us, He would not bother confronting us with our personal spiritual danger.

## APPEAL & CLOSING PRAYER

- This same Jesus says:
- "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30
- Jesus invites us tonight to come to Him as we are: lukewarm in our experience with Jesus, poor in our faith, blind to our own need, and naked in our utter lack of righteousness. If you hear God calling you tonight to come to Him, then I invite you to do so by coming forward and kneeling in humility before Him.
- Pray.

## 24-HOUR CHALLENGE

Pray Psalm 139:23,24. Come to Jesus as you are. Ask God to reveal to you what needs to change in your life to take you from being lukewarm to being hot.

# DAY 3 TAKE MY ADVICE

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Give an enthusiastic welcome! Family Circle

- 1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in groups of 3 or 4.
- 2. Ask each one to share the name of their very first friend and one happy memory from that friendship.

### WORSHIP IN SONGS & PRAYER

#### Thanks

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song of thanks to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of thanks.
- Invite each willing person in every group to thank God for the friends He has placed in their lives.

#### Praise

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise.
- Model the difference between giving God praise and thanks. (Thanks is telling God you are grateful for what He has done for you and others. Praise is telling God what is special about Him--His character, power, names, etc.)
- Invite each person to stand with their group and pray short prayers of praise like this: "God, You are..." and complete the sentence with something special about God.

### Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about the grace of God.
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins.
- Invite each person to kneel if possible and to join together in twos to ask God to remove anything that is not right between them and God.

### Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about God's grace.
- Invite everyone in each group to report on what they did with last night's challenge.

## THE WORD

#### **Connect: Heart Preparation for the Word**

- Invite each one in their group to answer this question: What is some of the best advice you have received over your lifetime?
- Ask for a few volunteers to share with everyone.
- Think of who has given you advice and how they gave it to you. Sometimes we appreciate the advice given, sometimes not. It makes a big difference who gives us the advice. Tonight, we will explore advice that Jesus gives us. Let's open our hearts to receive advice from the One who loves us the most.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare each heart to receive the Word.

#### The Message

In Revelation 3:18, Jesus advises us to buy three things from Him: gold, white garments, and eye salve.

- 1. What is "gold refined by fire"?
  - Job 23:10 "But He knows the way I take; when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold."
  - Psalm 19:9,10 "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever! The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold.
  - Zech. 13:9 "And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.'"
  - Mal. 3:2,3 "But who can endure the day of His coming. And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap."
  - I Peter 1:6,7 "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials. So that the proof of your faith being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
- 2. What are the white garments Jesus wants us to buy from Him?• Rev. 4:4 The elders are dressed in white garments.

- Rev. 7:9,10,13,14 The uncountable crowd in heaven wear white garments.
- "They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
- Rev. 3:5 "He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments..."
- Zech. 3:4 "He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, 'Remove the filthy garments from him.' Again he said to him, 'See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes.'"
- 3. Why does He say we need these white garments?
  - So that we may be clothed.
  - So that "the shame of our nakedness will not be revealed."
- 4. Jesus said, "Buy from Me...eye salve so you may see." We cannot see what God sees...on our own.
  - 2 Kings 6:14-17 Elisha prayed for his servant, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see."
  - Psalm 119:18 A prayer to God, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law."
- 5. So how does God give us sight, so we may see what God wants us to see? God gives us the Holy Spirit.
  - John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit...will teach you all things..."
  - John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you in all the truth..."
  - John 16:15 Jesus said, "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you."

## APPEAL & CLOSING PRAYER

- When someone gives you advice, it is always good to consider the source. In Revelation 3:18, we receive advice from Jesus, our Savior, the One who loves us the most, the One who died in our place, and the One who is preparing to take us home to be with Him forever!
- Jesus' advice is for you and I to come to Him for what we need.
- He says in Isaiah 55:1 "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat..."
- Tonight, I invite you to pray in your small groups and ask Jesus for all He offers you!

### 24-HOUR CHALLENGE

Ask God to anoint your eyes with the Holy Spirit, so you can see yourself, God, and others as He sees them. Ask God to perform surgery on your heart, as described in Ezekiel 36:26,27.

Pray in twos for each to live this challenge!

# DAY 4 TURN BACK TO ME

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Give an enthusiastic welcome! Family Circle

- 1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in groups of 3 or 4.
- 2. Ask each one to share one of their most difficult good-byes.

### WORSHIP IN SONGS & PRAYER

#### Thanks

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song of thanks to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of thanks.
- Invite each willing person in each group to pray prayers to thank God for what you most love about your country.

#### Praise

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise.
- Model the difference between giving God praise and thanks. (Thanks is telling God you are grateful for what He has done for you and others. Praise is telling God what is special about Him--His character, power, names, etc.)
- Invite each person to stand with their group and think of one of the names of Jesus. Pray short prayers of praise like this: "Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, because You are always caring." Or, "Jesus, You are the same yesterday, today and forever. You never change."

### Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about the grace of God.
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins.
- Invite each person to kneel if possible and to pray with their group for humility to receive the counsel of Jesus through His Word.

#### Witness

• Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about God's grace.

• Invite everyone in each group to report on what they did with last night's challenge.

### THE WORD

**Connect Activity:** Heart Preparation for the Word

- 1. Get a compass, and determine before the meeting where north is.
- 2. Invite all groups to stand and close their eyes. Ask them all to turn and face where they think north is--with their eyes closed. Ask them to open their eyes.
- 3. Ask everyone to turn and face north.
- 4. Tonight, we will study Jesus' call to turn back to Him.
- 5. Pray for God to send His Spirit to soften everyone's hearts to Jesus' call.
- 6. Mention that these revivals are the simple heart cry of Jesus.
- 7. Groups of 2-3: Look at Rev. 3:19, and read it out loud in your groups and discuss:
  - What does it say about Jesus?
  - What does it say about what He wants us to understand?

## The Message

- 1. What does Jesus say He does for those He loves? [Gr. philo love of a friend]
  - He reproves us. Gr. elencho to expose, convict, to prove wrong
  - He disciplines us. Gr. paideuo to train children, to chasten, correct
- 2. What does Jesus call us to do?
  - Be zealous. Gr. zeleuo meaning "to have warmth of feeling for or against, to be zealous or jealous"
  - Repent. Gr. meanoeson to change one's mind or purpose
- 3. How can we find the power to repent from something we love to do?
  - Read Ezekiel 36:26,27 in your groups. Count how many promises God makes you in this passage.
  - Ask for volunteers to answer this question: What is God promising to do for us?
  - God is ready to do a heart surgery on us! He is ready to cut out our heart of stone and give us a new heart!

## **APPEAL & CLOSING PRAYER**

**Don MacLafferty's Story:** One month after April and I were married, I was serving as a student chaplain in Florida Hospital for the summer. One day, I was asked if I would like to observe an open-heart surgery. I cautiously agreed.

The next day I went up to the heart surgery unit and put on a gown, hat, gloves, and mask. I was ushered into the surgery room where I saw the master surgeon hard at work surrounded with his team. The surgeon glanced up and noticed me standing cautiously many feet away. He called me over to where he stood and directed me to stand just a few feet away where I could see the surgery up close!

I stared down into the man's chest. I gulped nervously as I watched the surgeon gently place his hands around the man's heart. "What is this?" The surgeon asked me. Flustered by the question, I frantically tried to remember if there was some technical term I should use for the heart. My mind went blank.

As I stared at that man's beating heart, I was in absolute awe. I reverently replied, "It is a gift." The surgeon looked me right in the eyes and said, "Young man, you are right. Never forget it!"

- Jesus has given you and me the gift of a heart. When we turn away from Christ, we damage our own heart. We fill our hearts with bitterness, anger, selfishness, and pride. Jesus offers to give us heart surgery today. He offers to cut out the hardness of our hearts and to give us a new heart.
- If God is impressing you to have this heart surgery, I invite you to come forward and to get on your knees. Tell God why you need Him to give you a heart surgery. Ask Him to give you this gift right now.
- Pray a prayer claiming the promises of Ezekiel 36:26,27 for all who are asking for this surgery.

## 24-HOUR CHALLENGE

Read Col. 1:27,28. Ask Jesus to come into your life and be your righteousness. Ask Him to make His will your will.

## DAY 5 LISTEN TO ME

#### WELCOME & PRAYER

Give an enthusiastic welcome! Family Circle

- 1. Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in groups of 3 or 4.
- 2. Ask each one to share how their mother called them when they were a child.

#### **WORSHIP IN SONGS & PRAYER**

#### Thanks

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song of thanks to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of thanks.
- Invite each willing person in each group to pray prayers to thank God for specific ways He communicates with His people.
- Praise
- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise.
- Model the difference between giving God praise and thanks. (Thanks is telling God you are grateful for what He has done for you and others. Praise is telling God what is special about Him--His character, power, names etc.)
- Invite each person to stand with their group and think of character traits of Jesus that makes Him someone you want to listen to.
- Praise Jesus for His character.

#### Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about the grace of God.
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins.
- Invite each person to kneel if possible and to pray privately. Ask God to forgive your sins and to hear His voice.

#### Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about God's grace.
- Invite everyone in each group to report on what they did with last night's challenge.

## THE WORD

Connect Activity: Heart Preparation for the Word

- Invite everyone in each group to make the sound of an animal, and ask the group to guess what animal they are mimicking.
- Ask everyone: What was the most difficult sound to identify?
- Would you recognize it if Jesus called you tonight? Would you correctly identify His voice?
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare the heart of each one to hear God through His Word.

#### The Message

- 1. What does Revelation 3:20 tell us about the relationship of Jesus with His Laodicean people in the time of the end?
  - a. Jesus stands at our door.
    - He is outside our heart, not inside.
    - He is an influence in our life...but from afar.
    - He is our Redeemer but not our Ruler.
  - b. Jesus knocks at our door.
    - He is often our Guest (who leaves at the end of our time together) rather than a Resident (who is with us in our up and down moments--even when all we have is a can of beans to eat!).
    - He comes with humility, wanting an appointment with us.
- 2. What does He hope we will do?
  - a. Hear His voice. Read John 10:1-4.
  - b. Open our door to Him.
- 3. Down through time Jesus has spoken to His people in many different ways. I will mention a name from the Bible. Please say how the following people heard from God.

• Hagar	Genesis 16:7-12
Moses	Exodus 3:1-4
Balaam	Numbers 22:22-30
<ul> <li>Samson's Mother</li> </ul>	Judges 13:3
• Hannah	l Samuel 1:17
Samuel	l Samuel 3:10
▶ Elijah	l Kings 19:12,13
• Peter	Acts 10:9-16

### **APPEAL & CLOSING PRAYER**

- God has always talked with His people. But His people have not always listened.
- Jesus is calling His people as He prepares to return.
- Do you hear Jesus calling you through His written Word tonight? I invite you to kneel where you are and to ask Jesus to help you hear His voice.
- Pray for us all to hear His voice.

### 24-HOUR CHALLENGE

Take five minutes in your own private time and read Revelation 3: 20 again. This will be between you as an individual and your God. Then put the Bible on a chair in front of you, kneel down, and ask Jesus to:

- Help you listen better when He sends the Holy Spirit to speak to you;
- Show you the message He has for you in Revelation 3:20;
- Help you be still and listen for just 5 minutes.

## DAY 6 EAT WITH ME

## WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a friendly welcome! Family Circle

- Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in groups of 3 or 4.
- Ask each one to share what was the most delicious food they have eaten in someone's home.

#### **WORSHIP IN SONGS & PRAYER**

#### Thanks

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song of thanks to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of thanks.
- Invite each willing person in each group to pray prayers to thank God for His care this past week.

#### Praise

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read a scripture of praise.
- Model the difference between giving God praise and thanks. (Thanks is telling God you are grateful for what He has done for you and others. Praise is telling God what is special about Him--His character, power, names, etc.)
- Invite each person to stand with their group and read Psalm 148:1-6 as reading it to God Himself.

#### Confession

- Quietly begin to sing one stanza of a song about the grace of God.
- Read a scripture about confessing our sins.
- Invite each person to kneel if possible, and to pray with the group for God to remove anything that would create distance between us and Jesus Christ.

#### Witness

- Quietly sing one more stanza of the song previously sung about God's grace.
- Invite everyone in each group to report on what they did with last night's challenge.

## THE WORD

**Connect Activity:** Heart Preparation for the Word

- Invite everyone to share in their groups one of their favorite memories of a guest coming to their home for a meal.
- Ask for one volunteer to tell their short story.
- Tonight, we will discover Jesus' passion to go deeper in His relationship with us.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to help us to be hungry for more in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

### The Message

- 1. Read Revelation 3:20. What is Jesus ready to do with us?
  - a. Come in to us.
    - Read Col. 1:27 "Christ in you, the Hope of Glory..."
  - b. Eat with us.
    - Jesus loved to break bread with His disciples!
    - John 21:12 After His resurrection, Jesus made breakfast for His disciples by the sea and said, "Come and have breakfast."
  - c. Have a life-changing relationship with us.
    - John 15:16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."
    - John 14:12,13 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."
- 2. How do we have a living relationship with Jesus daily?
  - a. Isaiah 50:4 Ask God each night to wake you up anytime so He can teach you personally.
  - b. John 5:39 Every day look for Jesus in the chapters of the Bible.
  - c. Matthew 28:18 Give up your right to lead, and live under the supreme authority of Jesus. Confess and repent when you don't.
  - d. Acts 1:4,5,8 Daily receive a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. Be a fearless witness for Christ wherever you go!

e. 2 Cor. 5:7 Practice living by faith not by sight EVERY MOMENT!

### **APPEAL & CLOSING PRAYER**

- Jesus wants more in His relationship with you. He longs to be with you in every part of your life and in every moment of your day!
- I invite you to bow your heads with me and to have a silent prayer first. Invite Jesus Christ to become more in your life.
- Pray for Jesus Christ to deeply bless your relationship with Him.

## 24-HOUR CHALLENGE

Go to the Word of God and look at it as a testimony of who Jesus is. Fellowship with Him and invite Him in. Then I invite you to literally walk through the rooms of your house, telling Jesus that you want Him to be a part of every area of your life (different rooms in our houses represent different areas of our lives).

## DAY 7 BE WITH ME FOREVER

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Give a joyful welcome!

- Family Circle
  - Invite everyone to sit in circles of 6. If you are sitting in fixed seating, invite everyone to gather in groups of 3 or 4.
  - Ask each one to share what person in the Bible they are most eager to meet in heaven.

### **WORSHIP IN SONGS & PRAYER**

#### Thanks

- Read a scripture of thanks.
- Invite each willing person in each group to pray prayers to thank God for specific ways He has been at work during the revival.

#### Praise

- Joyfully begin to sing a song of praise to God and motion for those in the groups to join you.
- Read Psalm 149:1.
- Invite someone to teach everyone a new, simple song of praise. Sing it to the Lord!

#### Confession

- Read a scripture about confessing our sins.
- Invite each person to kneel if possible and to silently confess anything that dishonors the One who loves us the most--Jesus Christ.

#### Witness

- Quietly sing one stanza of a song about God's grace.
- Invite everyone in each group to report on what they did with last night's challenge.

### THE WORD

Connect Activity: Heart Preparation for the Word

- Invite everyone to team up in twos. Act out a time when somebody helped you out of an impossible situation. Ask your partner to guess what the situation was.
- Ask for one or two volunteers to act out their impossible situation. Ask the audience to guess.
- Sometimes we find ourselves in impossible-looking situations concerning our faith and our failures.

• Tonight, discover Jesus' plan and power for you to be with Him in eternity.

#### The Message

- 1. Read Revelation 3:21. What does this text tell us about our friendship with Jesus and eternity?
  - a. John 14:3 tells us that Jesus has prepared a place for us in heaven and He is coming again so that we can be where He is! However, sometimes we may feel that heaven and eternity are out of our reach, that we are sinners beyond the reach of the Savior.
  - b. God's Word boldly declares, "Therefore He(Jesus) is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25
  - c. Notice in Revelation 3:21 that Jesus addresses those who come to Him as "He who overcomes."
- 2. What does Jesus' letters to the seven churches teach us about overcoming?
  - a. Read Rev. 3:21,22.
  - b. Ask for everyone to search for what Jesus said about overcoming in each of the letters to the seven churches.
  - c. Ask for volunteers to read the text about overcoming in each letter.
  - d. Ask the groups to take a few moments to search and discuss how Jesus' promises about overcoming to us as a Laodicean church is different than what He promises to other churches. (Ask for very short answers.)
- 3. Jesus' promise that we may overcome is very unique to our last-day church.
  - a. Jesus promises that we may sit WITH Him on His throne.
  - b. Jesus longs for a relationship with His last day church.
  - c. Jesus ties in our overcoming with His overcoming!
  - d. Jesus has ALL authority because He overcame! See Matthew 28:18.
- 4. Jesus is the Overcomer in our hearts.
  - a. Read Rev. 12:10,11. How will we overcome?
  - b. Read Col. 1:27. "Christ in you" IS the Hope of glory!!!
    - Jesus is NOT intimidated by our "impossible-looking" sins!

- Jesus has the power and authority to free us from our addictions, habits, attitudes, and everything else that holds us in bondage.
- c. We have the opportunity to give up all we are to Jesus. Ask Him to live each moment as the Overcomer in you!

## **APPEAL & CLOSING PRAYER**

- If you are struggling to overcome something that seems impossible for you to give up, I invite you in Jesus' name to give Jesus who you are and to ask Him to come into your heart and be your OVERCOMER. If this is your conviction, please come up and join me on your knees!
- Thank God that Jesus is the Overcomer who lives IN you! Thank Him for making the way for you to be with Him forever.

#### 24 HOUR CHALLENGE--Every day until Jesus comes:

Surrender to Jesus Christ as your first priority. Discover a fresh picture of Jesus in His written Word. Live His Word by His Spirit!

## "WHAT'S NEXT?" MEETING

### Why?

Holy Spirit-led revivals are not meant to end. Revivals need to be followed up immediately with gathering God's people together to pray and seek His agenda. The danger is falling back into old routines and losing the momentum that God created during the revival for life-transformational change!

#### What?

This is a meeting to seek what God is calling us to do next in four areas:

- 1. Personal
- 2. Family
- 3. Church Family
- 4. Community/World

#### How?

This is a suggestion for how to run the meeting. Pray and ask God if He has anything to add or subtract from this outline for your church.

Keep everyone in small groups. (Ideally, everyone should be invited to be in the same groups as they were in the revival. Ask your small group leaders from the revival to continue to lead their group in this meeting.) Have families sit together.

Welcome

Connect Activity

Opening Prayer

Spend several minutes in prayer in each of the following areas:

- Thanksgiving
- Praise
- Confession

Place 4 dry-erase boards up front marked: Personal, Family, Church Family, and Community/World.

Give instructions: We are seeking God for specific next steps He is asking of us in 4 areas. We are not asking for general ideas, but rather specific ideas that are measurable. (Example: Not "Be more spiritual," but rather, "Have unrushed time alone with God in His Word and prayer before breakfast every day.")

## Personal

- 1. Give everyone a sticky note page and a pen. Include all ages.
- 2. Invite all to have a moment of silent prayer to ask God for one thing He is calling you to do personally as a next step for your own ongoing revival with Jesus.
- 3. Invite all to write it down in one short phrase or sentence and stick them up on the whiteboard under "Personal."

### Family

- 1. Make sure all couples/families sit together.
- 2. Give each family one sticky note page.
- 3. Invite them to pray together, asking God for one thing that would help their family to grow most in keeping a daily revival with Jesus going!
- 4. Discuss.
- 5. Invite each family to write it down in one short phrase or sentence and post it on the "Family" board.

### Church Family

- 1. Give every circle of 6 one sticky note for the group.
- 2. Invite them to pray and ask God for one thing that would most help their church family to keep having a daily revival with Jesus as a whole congregation.
- 3. Discuss.
- 4. Write it down in one sentence, and post it on the "Church Family" board.

### Community/World

- 1. Give every circle of 6 one last sticky note for the group.
- 2. Invite them to pray and ask God for one thing that would be a timely way to reach out to their community and world with the good news of Jesus.
- 3. Discuss.
- 4. Write it down in one sentence, and post it on the "Community/World" board.

Make a circle and pray for God to bless these next steps.

Tell the church that the pastors and elders will study the input, pray over it and make recommendations to the church board and church at large for the NEXT STEPS.

## More Helpful Discipling Resources

Go to <u>indiscipleship.org</u> for the following free, downloadable books which may be used personally or for small groups:

#### Inside Out

Each chapter is a story which calls busy families to invest in God and to disciple their children.

#### Follow

Step-by-step Bible studies to use in discipling someone to Jesus Christ. May be used one on one or in small groups.

#### **Discipling the New Generations**

Small group studies for parents/mentors and students to grow disciples of Jesus who know and live in the life-transforming truth of Jesus, as they trust, follow, and share Him with the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### Live Like Elijah

Life-changing lessons from the story of a man who knew God to help you discover purpose and how to live each day with fearless faithfulness, resting in the Providence of God. Full of personal stories of the providence and power of God available to us when we live by faith.

#### **Come Home**

Small group studies to call singles and couples to live God's heartthumping vision for the home in preparation for Christ's soon return.

#### Meet Jesus Outside: Bible Prayer Walks

Twenty outdoor adventures for children, youth, and adults to experience the Creator in His Word, His book of nature, prayer, and action.

#### Appendix

Scripture Passages Helpful for Worship & Prayer

#### Thanksgiving

2 Chronicles 20:20,21 2 Chronicles 31:1.2 Nehemiah12:46 Psalm 23:1-6 Psalm 30:12 Psalm 40:1-3 Psalm 95:2 Psalm 100:4 (1st part) Psalm 103:2-4 Mark 8:6 Luke 17:11-16 I Corinthians 15:57 Ephesians 5:4 Philippians 4:6,7 Colossians 1:3.4 Colossians 3:15 I Thessalonians 1:2,3 I Thessalonians 5:18 James 1:17

#### Praise

Psalm 18:1-3 Psalm 19:1 Psalm 24:1.2 Psalm 24:7-10 Psalm 29:1-4 Psalm 92:1.2 Psalm 93:1,2 Psalm 95:1 Psalm 96:1-6 Psalm 97:1 Psalm 98:1-6 Psalm 100:4 (2nd part) Psalm 103:1 Psalm 104:1-3 Psalm 105:2.3 Psalm 113:1-6 Psalm 117:1,2 Psalm 145:1-7 Psalm 150:1-6 I Chronicles 16:9.10 Revelation 4:8-11 Revelation 15:2-4 Revelation 19:1,4-6

#### **Confession & Forgiveness**

Nehemiah 1:5-7 Psalm 32:1-5 Psalm 51:1-4 Psalm 51:5-9 Psalm 66:18-20 Isaiah 1:18 Daniel 9:4-10 Daniel 9:11-19 Micah 7:18,19 James 5:16-18 I John 1:9

#### Repentance

Proverbs 28:13 Isaiah 59:1,2 Jonah 3:7-10 Acts 2:36-39 Acts 3:17-20 Revelation 2:4,5 Revelation 2:14-16 Revelation 3:1-3 Revelation 3:15-20

#### Revival

I Samuel 7:3.4 I Kinas 8:46-50 2 Chronicles 7:14 Psalm 51:10-13 Psalm 51:14-19 Ezekiel 36:25-27 Hosea 10:12 Joel 2:12-17 Matthew 5:6 Mark 1:8 John 7:37-39 Acts 19:18-20 Romans 8:6-11 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Ephesians 2:4-7 Colossians 1:27-29 Titus 3:4-7 I John 5:11-13 Revelation 22:17