



Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer

(Packet for Churches and Translators – Weeks 1- 4)



Back to the Altar

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Organized by Melody Mason, with collaboration of the Back to the Altar leadership team, under the direction of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Ministerial Association

Many of these materials are taken from the booklet, *The Way Back to the Altar*.
For more information or to register for 100 Days of Prayer visit: www.backtothealtar.org

Note to Translators and Leaders: This packet is written/shared as a resource to help those leading **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** in their churches and/or small groups. It can also be shared for individual distribution and/or publication, but please remove the “Leader’s Guide” page and remove the italicized *“Leader Tips”* that are interspersed throughout all the material when you share for individual use.

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Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer**.

We are living in a world full of digital distractions, consuming cares, busyness, and broken down altars of worship. If you are feeling in need of a fresh re-boot in your spiritual journey, desiring to rebuild or strengthen your altar of worship, longing for more Holy Spirit revival fire to be poured out on your life, or simply looking for an evangelistic tool to bring others to a deep relationship with Jesus, you've come to the right place.

"Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come near to me.' So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD [that was] broken down." 1 Kings 18:30

What happened after Elijah repaired the altar? *Fire fell from heaven!*

God is waiting to pour out that same Holy Spirit fire today, to set ablaze our hearts, our homes, our communities, our world. The Latter Rain is still to come, but the Holy Spirit is even now being poured out in richer and richer measure. Do you see it? Are you experiencing it?

Soberly we are told, "Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it" (*Last Day Events*, p. 195).

Let's not delay any longer. Jesus is knocking on our heart's door. Let's ask, let's receive, let's live with Holy Spirit power—today. "With the persevering faith of Jacob, with the unyielding persistence of Elijah, claim for yourself all that God has promised" (*Christ Object Lessons*, p. 149). His promises are yours!

What to expect:

Over the course of fourteen weeks (April 4th thru July 12th, 2025), we will be praying for an outpouring of the Latter Rain on our world church, growing together as disciples for the Kingdom, and preparing our hearts for Jesus' soon return.

Each Friday morning, during the **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer**, all those registered will receive an e-mail which will include:

- A short revival or miracle testimony to build faith
- A short but packed inspirational Back to the Altar themed Bible study
 - This study will include fun interactive activities and questions that one can do alone, with friends/family, the church, or a small group.
 - It will include personal heart challenges and inspiring video illustrations.
 - It will include practical spiritual disciplines to incorporate into your daily life, as well as much, *much* more.
- Participants will be able to sign up to receive a daily "prayer focus" on WhatsApp.

- Those who desire can also participate in a 1 hour weekly revival session on zoom hosted by members of the Back to the Altar leadership team. This revival session will take place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time and will be in English.

We pray that this **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** revival, with its simple activities and soul challenges, will not only draw you closer to Jesus personally but give you practical tools to lead your family, your congregation, and your friends and neighbors to becoming daily disciples of Jesus who *live at the altar*. To learn more or to sign up today visit: www.backtothealtar.org

Note to Churches/and or Small Group Leaders

Going through this 100 Days of Prayer together as a church or small group will double the blessing.

Quick tips:

- Prayerfully read and study the material first as a leader, then invite others to be a part.
- Join the weekly 1 hour zoom revival every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time with the Back to the Altar leadership: <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> **Password:** 18442025
- Pick one night each week to go thru this Back to the Altar series as a church or small group.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to open hearts and guide as you lead/teach each lesson.
- Rather than sharing the material as a sermon, put people into small groups of 6 individuals per group and allow them to engage with the Word and with each other. This series will be more meaningful if shared in an interactive way.
- Keep the youth and children involved. This is an intergenerational revival. It's for everyone! It's also perfect for individuals who don't regularly attend our church.
- Keep each session on point but make the meetings fun and engaging. Use suggested "connect activities and questions" to build bridges for Biblical points being shared. Instead of giving all the answers, let people discover the answers in the Word for themselves.

In the book *Gospel Workers* we read, "There should be less preaching, and more teaching... As we approach the end, I have seen that in these meetings there will be less preaching, and more Bible study. There will be little groups all over the grounds, with their Bibles in their hands, and different ones leading out in a free, conversational study of the Scriptures. This was the method that Christ taught His disciples" (page 407-408).

- Pray, pray, pray and make a commitment, as a leader, to teach only what you are already seeking to live. The life we live in private determines the ministry we can have in public.
- For more material to enrich your church/small group Back to the Altar study, and for more practical tips on how to lead this series, download the *The Way Back to the Altar* handbook from www.backtothealtar.org. While the booklet does not contain everything that will be included in this 100 Days of Prayer, the booklet is a great teacher's resource.

We are praying for you, and we look forward to meeting you on this journey.

The Back to the Altar leadership team

Ramon Canals, Dwain Esmond, Don MacLafferty, Melody Mason, Pavel Goia, John Feezer & Gabriel Begle

Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer

Fourteen Week Topic & Zoom Outline

(Note: This material will be released for churches, small group leaders, and translators in three parts. The first four weeks of the program are included in this pack! The greyed out parts below show what is to come but what is not yet available.)

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025

Week 1 | **April 4 – 10** | Preparing for Revival

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 6th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 2 | **April 11 - 17** | Worshiping Together

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 13th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 3 | **April 18 - 24** | What it Means to be a Disciple

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 20th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 4 | **April 25 – May 1** | Come to Jesus as You Are

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 27th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 5 | **May 2 - 8** | Honor Jesus as Lord

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 4th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 6 | **May 9 - 15** | Jesus in the Word and in Prayer

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 11th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 7 | **May 16 - 22** | Back to the Bible in our Heart

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 18th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)

- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 8 | **May 23 - 29** | Word before World: Managing Digital Distractions

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 25th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 9 | **May 30 – June 5** | Ask for and Receive a Fresh Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 1st (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 10 | **June 6 – 12** | Love Your Family Sacrificially

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 8th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 11 | **June 13 - 19** | Jesus is coming, I Will GO!

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 15th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 12 | **June 20 - 26** | Disciple Others to Jesus

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 22nd (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 13 | **June 27 – July 3** | Living Your God given Mission

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 29th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 14 | **July 4 – July 12** | Back to the Heart of Worship

- Zoom Revival – Sunday July 6th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Back to the **Altar**

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 1 | April 4-10, 2025)

Preparing for Revival - Program Materials

Week 1 | April 4 – 10 | Preparing for Revival | Leader's Guide

Leader Encouragement & Tips

- Depend on Jesus. Take unrushed time with Him. Pray much as you plan and prepare.

“As activity increases and men become successful in doing any work for God, there is danger of trusting to human plans and methods. There is a tendency to pray less, and to have less faith. Like the disciples, we are in danger of losing sight of our dependence on God and seeking to make a savior of our activity. We need to look constantly to Jesus, realizing that it is His power which does the work. While we are to labor earnestly for the salvation of the lost, we must also take time for meditation, for prayer, and for the study of the Word of God. Only the work accomplished *with much prayer*, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good.” *Desire of Ages*, p. 362

- Gather others to pray with you for this weekly Back to the Altar revival.
- Take part in the weekly Back to the Altar revival on zoom every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025
- On the first night, before people arrive, set up chairs in a small circles of six. When people arrive, direct them to sit in these small group circles that are set up. (This small group format can be used with teaching a few people or with teaching thousands.)

Suggested outline for a 1 hour 30 minute revival meeting

- Give everyone a warm welcome. **(3 mins)**
- Sing 2-3 songs of worship and praise. **(5-8 mins)**
- Make sure people are arranged in small groups of 6. Even numbers are best if possible!
- Ask each small group to pick a group leader. Get the youth involved. **(2-3 mins)**
- Make sure everyone (or at least 1 person in each group) has a Bible.
- Hand out notebooks, and pens if needed, as well as 1 small blank piece of paper. Ask them not to use the blank paper until you tell them. (It's for the survey!)
- To begin, ask everyone to share around their group circle the following: **(4 mins)**
 - Their first name and something that makes them very happy
- Opening prayer **(2 min)**
- Share Testimony: “It All Started with One Man” **(5 mins)**
- Have small groups pray together for the Holy Spirit. **(5 mins)**
- Follow “Preparing for Revival” study outline. **(30-35 mins)**
(Leader tips and prompts will be in italicized throughout the study!)
- Pray in small groups for the “Prayer Focus” for the week. **(15-25 mins)**

At the end of the meeting

- Invite attendees to the online revival meeting. Remind them to bring a Bible next week.
- Pull the small group leaders together and pray with them. Their job is to keep everyone in their group engaged during the meetings. They are now part of this revival!

Week 1 | **April 4 – 10** | Preparing for Revival | **Testimony**

“It All Started with One Man”

By Mark Finley

“Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?” Ps. 85:6

One of the greatest revivals in history was the Welsh Revival of 1904. Twenty-six-year-old Evan Roberts had been praying for thirteen years that his life would be totally controlled by the Holy Spirit. He pled with God for an undivided heart—a heart totally committed to the kingdom of God.

Evan often prayed late into the night, interceding for the teens and young adults in his church. He prayed regularly that God would visit Wales with revival power. The Welsh Revival began at a youth meeting in Evan Roberts’s own church, Moriah Loughor, when he shared his own experience with God. Evan urged his friends to seek the infilling of God’s Spirit in their own lives. The Holy Spirit touched hearts. Sixteen young people were converted. The sparks of revival begun in this humble village church would ignite flames of revival throughout the country.

It is estimated that within nine months, one hundred thousand people were converted in the tiny country of Wales. The crime rate dropped. Drunkards and prostitutes were transformed by God’s grace. Pubs reported losses. Lloyd George, once prime minister of England, wrote that on one Saturday night at the height of the Welsh Revival one tavern sold only nine cents worth of liquor. Many taverns were transformed into places of prayer.

Political meetings and soccer matches were delayed or even postponed because the churches were packed with praying people. Often these services lasted six to eight hours at a time. Hardened, spiritually calloused Welsh coal miners crowded into these spirit-filled services and returned to the mines changed men. Profanity disappeared from their lips and never returned. It was reported that the pit ponies in the mines failed to understand the commands of these born-again miners who now, without cursing, seemed to speak the language of heaven.

An entire nation was changed because a young man, Evan Roberts, and a group of his young friends took our Lord’s example of passionate intercession seriously.

There is nothing that the church needs more today than genuine spiritual revival. There is nothing that Satan fears more than this promised revival. There is nothing more important for church administrators, pastors, and church members than to seek this revival together. There is no greater priority.

What possibly could be more critical for the people of God than the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Pentecostal power for the finishing of God’s work on earth? This must be at the top of every board meeting agenda on all levels of church structure. But revival always begins with one man, one woman, one boy, or one girl on his or her knees, seeking God. You can be that

one person who is used of God to bring spiritual revival to your home, your church, your school, or your conference.

God's promise is for you: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

The greatest revivals in the history of the world have been the result of earnest, heartfelt intercession. The sparks of revival are kindled on the altar of prayer. The New Testament church was bathed in prayer. These early Christians united in world-changing prayer. And their prayers made a difference.

Jesus is our great model in intercession. He regularly retreated to a quiet place to pray and seek God's strength. He was never too busy to pray. His schedule was never too packed to spend time with His Father in communion. If Jesus, the Divine Son of God, understood that prayer is a necessity, don't we need prayer much more in our own lives?

Mark Finley is assistant to the General Conference president. This devotional was taken from his well-loved book titled "Revive Us Again."

[Leader Tip: *Have small groups take 5 minutes to pray together for the Holy Spirit to be in their midst and to guide the time in the Word.]*

Week 1 | April 4 – 10 | Preparing for Revival | Study

Welcome to the **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** Bible study!

You might be wondering, what is *Back to the Altar* all about? What does it mean practically? Are we talking about building stone altars like in the Bible times? Are we talking about going back to the altar to renew marriage vows?

Let's watch this introduction video to Back to the Altar.

- **Play video 1:** "Introduction to Back to the Altar" – <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID1>

In summary, the answer to the above questions is both yes and no. We are building altars, but not altars of stone. Back to the Altar is a world-wide Seventh-day Adventist church initiative that started in the heart of one man who wanted to help his family remove distractions and repair the broken down altar of worship in his own home. That's why we call it a revolution from the inside out.

Today, the vision for Back to the Altar is about making a daily place for God in every heart and in every home. While we are not renewing marriage vows, we are renewing our vows of loyalty and consecration to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords—our heavenly Bridegroom.

Jesus longs to be our first love, our true love. He has so much to share with us. He's just waiting for us to turn our hearts back to Him.

Preparing for Revival – Bible Study

1. Heart Connect

Question to ask yourself: "When you are packing for a long trip, what are 2-3 things that you always want to make sure you take with you?" Write down your answers.

[Leader Tip: Ask small group participants to divide into groups of two (within their small group) and take 2-3 minutes to quickly share with one another the answer to the above question. Then ask for feedback from 1-2 people about what some of the first things they put on their list were. For example: "I make sure I never go on a long trip without my computer, my medicines, my passport." Etc.]

When we are packing for a long trip, we prepare in very practical strategic ways. We have certain things that we always take with us. A similar preparation must take place as we are planning for our journey home to be with Jesus. However, it's not the material things we are most concerned about taking with us. It is what is in the heart. It is our character.

Do you know Jesus as your very best friend? If He were to come back tomorrow, would you be ready to meet Him face to face?

Psalm 26:2 tells us, "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart."

Before we study how to prepare for revival, we need to ask God to examine our hearts and show us our deep need of revival, our true need of Him.

2. Discipleship Survey

Let's take a moment to watch a short video where one of the Back to the Altar leadership team walks us through a 10-part discipleship survey.

To prepare for this survey, take a blank piece of paper and write the numbers 1-10, from top to bottom. You will put the answer "Yes" or "No" beside each number as a simple discipleship question is asked. Note: Don't put your name on your paper. Your answers are to be anonymous, just between you and God.

Let's play the video!

- **Play Video 2:** "Discipleship Survey" - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID2>

[Leader Tip: Make sure you take the survey too! If desired, after the survey is completed, you can collect papers with answers and compile and share the results with the group at the next meeting. If you do this, make sure everyone understands, their answers are indeed anonymous. Remember, the survey results, while perhaps sobering, are not ever intended to discourage anyone. Rather they are a tool to help awaken all of us to our true spiritual need as we begin this Back to the Altar journey.]

If you are feeling a little a little discouraged after taking that survey, be encouraged. Jesus tells us, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Mark 2:17).

"God rejoices to bestow His grace upon us, not because we are worthy, but because we are so utterly unworthy. Our only claim to His mercy is our great need" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 161).

It is sinners He came to save. If you recognize that you are a sinner, if you are feeling in need, welcome to the family. You are the perfect candidate for what God has to offer in this Back to the Altar revival.

3. How does God's Word define true revival?

Let's pray one more time before we open God's Word. (Pause to pray!)

[Leader Tip: Have small groups study and discuss these questions within the small group. Ask the questions and allow them to find the answers.]

Read/Reflect on Joel 2:1 – What is the revival urgency seen in this first passage?

Read/Reflect on Joel 2:12-16 – What do these passages tell us about true revival? What is God asking us to do in a true revival?

[Leader Tip: After allowing time for small group discussion, ask several volunteers to give brief feedback from their small group. Make sure young people are allowed to speak. Next play the “Preparing our Hearts for Revival” video to help participants take these passages deeper.]

- **Play video 3:** “Preparing our Hearts for Revival” - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID3>

Question: What is God speaking to your heart in answer to this revival message found in Joel?

[Leader Tip: Ask people to take a couple minutes of personal prayer to reflect on this passage in Joel 2. Then ask the small groups to discuss what God is laying on their heart. Ask a few people to share brief feedback.]

4. Personal Practical Application

Jeremiah 29:13 tells us, “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart?” If we truly want to experience a Back to the Altar revival, we must seek after Jesus with our all our mind, heart, soul, and strength.

Here’s three personal challenges for this first week on our **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** journey!

- **1st Challenge:** Start praying daily for God give you a deeper hunger for Him, for His Word, and to help you be ready to meet Him. As you pray, claim Jeremiah 24:7.
- **2nd Challenge:** Claim Psalm 139:23-24 as you ask Him to search your heart and reveal anything that might be hindering your heavenward journey. These hindrances could be lifestyle habits, attitudes like selfishness or pride, or perhaps even something material that has taken your heart’s focus off Jesus.
- **3rd Challenge:** Ask God to teach you how to slow down and take daily unrushed time in His presence that His Word may be your joy and delight. Claim Jeremiah 15:16.

You are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome!

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> **Password:** 18442025

[Leader Tip: Transition to this week’s Back to the Altar prayer focus. Encourage participants to open their Bibles and claim the Bible promises listed as they pray together and for one another. There is power in praying the Word of God. Consider printing up and giving participants a copy of the following prayer focus sheet, if possible.]

Now it’s time to pray!

[Leader Tip: Before people leave, remind everyone to bring their Bibles back next week!]

Week 1 | April 4 – 10 | Preparing for Revival | Prayer Focus

Bible Promises to Claim as you Pray



"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Matt. 7:7-8

"Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:24

"The love of God is larger, broader, deeper, than human love can possibly be. It is immeasurable." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 142

Prayer Focus for Week 1

1. **READY:** Pray for a deeper heart desire and hunger for Jesus, for His Word, and to be ready to meet Him when He returns. (Claim Jeremiah 24:7.)
2. **SEARCH:** Pray that God would search your heart and reveal anything that might hinder your heavenward journey. Then confess and repent of any spiritual compromises that He brings to your mind. (Claim Psalm 139:23-24, 1 John 1:9.)
3. **PREPARE:** Pray that God would reveal His great love to you and prepare your heart for what He's about to do in your life during this 100 days of prayer. (Claim Romans 5:8, Psalm 10:17.)
4. **ACT:** Pray that God would help you slow down and re-prioritize your daily life so that you can find unrushed time with Him in His Word and in prayer. (Claim Matthew 6:33, Jeremiah 15:16.)
5. **REBUILD:** Pray that God would help you, your family members, your friends, and your church repair any broken down altars of worship or build stronger the altars of worship you have. (Claim 1 Kings 18:30, Psalm 95:6.)
6. **FOCUS:** Pray that God would forgive us as a church family for being distracted by our digital devices, our worldly pursuits, our idle chatter, our gossip and fault-finding, rather than keeping our focus on the one true thing that matters—to abide in Jesus' presence, and to prepare others for His soon return. (Claim Psalm 27:4, Psalm 16:11.)
7. **KEEP ASKING:** Pray that the Holy Spirit would be poured out in such rich measure on our church and the upcoming General Conference Session in St. Louis that it would be evident to all watching that Jesus is alive and coming soon! (Claim Luke 11:13.)

Back to the **Altar**

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 2 | April 11 - 17, 2025)

Worshiping Together - Program Materials

Week 2 | April 11 – 17 | Worshiping Together | Leader's Guide

Leader Encouragement & Tips

- Jesus is using you. Keep trusting Him, not yourself, for success and growth.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 says, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."

"Man can accomplish nothing without God, and God has arranged His plans so as to accomplish nothing in the restoration of the human race without the cooperation of the human with the divine. The part man is required to sustain is immeasurably small, yet in the plan of God it is just that part that is needed to make the work a success" (*Amazing Grace*, p. 319).

- Take part in the weekly Back to the Altar zoom revival that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025
- Gather others to pray with you for this weekly Back to the Altar revival.
- Pray for those who came last week and for more to come this week.
- Pray about whether to share the Discipleship Survey results with the group.
- On the night of the revival, before people arrive, set up chairs again in small circles of six. When people arrive, invite them to return to the same circle they sat in the first week. If they are new, invite them to join a circle, or make a new circle with someone who was present last week, so they can review what they missed.

Suggested outline for a 1 hour 30 minute revival meeting

- Welcome everyone, especially newcomers. **(3 mins)**
- Sing 2-3 songs of worship and praise. **(5-8 mins)**
- Make sure people return to the same small group that they were part of last week. (Group numbers of 6 are best if possible!) If they are new, invite them to join a group, or start a new group with someone who was present the first week.
- Make sure everyone (or at least 1 person in each group) has a Bible.
- To begin, ask everyone around their group circle to share the following: **(4 mins)**
 - Their name and something good God has done for them during the past week.
- Opening prayer **(2 min)**
- Share Testimony: "Turning My Heart Toward Home." **(5 mins)**
- Have small groups pray together for restoration of broken family altars. **(5 mins)**
- Follow "Worshiping Together" study outline. **(30-35 mins)**
- Pray in small groups for the "Prayer Focus" for the week. **(15-25 mins)**

At the end of the meeting

- Invite everyone back for next week's revival meeting. Remind them to bring a Bible.

Week 2 | April 11 – 17 | Worshiping Together | Testimony

“Turning My Heart Toward Home”

By Don MacLafferty

In 1999, on a cold winter night in Michigan, I heard Elijah’s call to turn my heart back to my children. I did not hear this call through the preaching of a sermon from the pulpit or from a chapter in a book. I heard Elijah’s call through the cries of my children.

I was gathering my papers and briefcase so I could run out the door to an important meeting to plan the building of a larger church. I was in a rush. My children, Jason and Julie, were 6 and 3 years old. They heard me getting ready to leave. They ran up to me, asking, “Where are you going, Daddy?”

“I am going to a meeting,” I replied factually.

“Daddy, stay home tonight!” they pleaded. “You are always gone! Daddy, you never play with us anymore!”

I leaned over to give my son and daughter quick hugs and kisses. Their little arms wrapped around me tightly. When I tried to stand up, they would not let me go! They clung to me with desperation. They were trying to keep their over-committed daddy home.

I had to gently pry their arms off my neck so I could go. They started crying. “Daddy, just tonight! Please stay home!”

I backed out of the house and closed the door. As I walked out into the snow, the picture of my children crying and reaching out to me lingered heavily on my heart. As I trudged through the snow to my church meeting, God spoke to my heart. He called me by name. I stopped in my tracks. On that night, as the snow silently fell around me, God called me back to my children. He had first spoken through the cries and the love of my children: “Daddy, stay home!”

That was a very difficult call for me. I was often out seven nights a week, helping others while neglecting my own children. It was a painful call but a call of mercy that led to healing between me, Jason, and Julie.

From that day forward, I began to say no to many requests so I could say yes to my family. It was not easy! God helped me to begin safeguarding time with each child, just as my wife, April, and I had prioritized our time together.

At first, my children’s hearts were not open to me. I had said no to their requests to play too many times. Often, I felt like a failure. But the call of Elijah comes with the healing power of the Lord. The Lord helped my children to forgive me. He literally turned my heart to them and their little hearts back to me. Praise God!

John, with the same Holy Spirit power of Elijah, prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah. Like Elijah, John called for revival. He preached, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven

is at hand” (Matt. 3:2).

John, like Elijah, called the hearts of the fathers back to their children. Today, we are commissioned to do likewise.

John prepared the people of the first century to receive Jesus as the Messiah. Today, we are called to prepare people to receive Jesus as the King of kings who will come in the clouds!

The healing of the family is a pivotal part of revival, and it is a pivotal part of coming back to the altar as we worship together. Revival must be the daily goal in our hearts. Worship at the altar as a family must be the heartbeat of our homes. As our families experience a daily revival with Jesus through worship, time in His written Word, and prayer, the Spirit of God is preparing us to meet Jesus soon! Now is the time to live the message of Elijah for these last days!

Pastor Don MacLafferty is president of In Discipleship, an intergenerational revival ministry. He has authored more than 10 books, including the original “The Way Back to the Altar” discipleship curriculum which is being used during this 100 Days of Prayer. He assists the General Conference as a volunteer and leads out with Back to the Altar training programs all around the world.

[Leader Tip: *Have small groups take 5 minutes to pray together that God would restore the broken down altars of family worship. Pray that God would turn our hearts back to our families, to our loved ones, and most of all to Jesus as we prepare for His soon return.]*

Week 2 | April 11 – 17 | Worshiping Together | Study

Welcome to another session of **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer!**

[Leader Tip: If you choose to share the Discipleship Survey results from the first session, simply share the results with no commentary or criticism. Share results in percentages, not actual numbers. After you have shared, ask people to take a few moments to pray together then ask for their feedback. Ask what God is speaking to their hearts about this survey? Again, do not use results to criticize or tear down participants or this will be the last revival they attend. The survey is only shared to help church members recognize their collective need.]

We are living in a world full of digital distractions, consuming cares, busyness, and broken down altars of worship. Our family altars are falling apart as well. But no personal situation, no family situation or broken family altar is too difficult for God to restore.

If you (or your family) are feeling in need of a fresh re-boot in your spiritual journey, desiring to rebuild or strengthen your altar of worship, or longing for more Holy Spirit revival fire to be poured out on your life, this week's Back to the Altar prayer revival is for you.

"Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come near to me.' So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD [that was] broken down." 2 Kings 18:30

What happened after Elijah repaired the altar? *Fire fell from heaven!*

God is waiting to pour out that same Holy Spirit fire today, to set ablaze our hearts, our homes, our communities, our world. The Latter Rain is still to come, but the Holy Spirit is even now being poured out in richer and richer measure. Do you see it? Are you experiencing it?

Soberly we are told, "Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it" (*Last Day Events*, p. 195).

Let's not delay any longer. Jesus is knocking on our heart's door. Let's ask, let's receive, let's live with Holy Spirit power—today. "With the persevering faith of Jacob, with the unyielding persistence of Elijah, claim for yourself all that God has promised" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 149). His promises are yours!

Worshiping Together – Bible Study

1. Heart Connect

Question to ask yourself: Do you ever long for people to appreciate you and see you for who you are on the inside? What is one thing that you wish your friends, family, or church family would recognize in you? Write your answer down.

[Leader Tip: Ask small group participants to divide into groups of two (within their small group) and take 2-3 minutes to share with one another the answer to the above question.]

Read/Reflect on Ephesians 4:29

- What difference would it make in your life if you actively lived this passage?
- What difference would it make in our church if everyone followed this counsel?
- How can you share the power of this passage with a family member or a friend?

[Leader Tip: Again, allow the small group participants to read and answer the above questions. Get feedback from several individuals.]

Let's take a moment to watch a fun video, illustrating this passage in a creative way.

- **Play video 1** - "Building Each Other Up" - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID4>

How important that we be intentional with our words and actions towards one another.

2. Worshiping Our King Together

If we appreciate being noticed and appreciated for who we are and what we do, how much more must our King and Lord appreciate gratitude and praise? Psalm 22:3 tells us, He "inhabits" the praises of His people. In other words, He lives in an environment of praise.

Prayer Moment: Take a few minutes (in your small groups) to praise God for Who He is, and to thank Him for some of the things you appreciate about Him.

[Leader Tip: Give the small groups 3-5 minutes to see how many praises to God they can share in prayer. Encourage them to keep each prayer short, so many can pray.]

After you have spent a few minutes in praise, is it as tempting to criticize one another or tear each other down? No, love for God and for each other grows in our hearts. Let's learn to practice a spirit of praise daily.

3. Making Worship a Priority

What priority should worship have in our life?

Read/Reflect on Genesis 12:1-9

- What were Abraham's personal priorities?
- Do you find any message here about the order of his priorities for family and worship?
- What evidence do we have that Isaac was influenced by his father's call to worship? (Can you find a passage or two as examples of Isaac's worship habits?)

[Leader Tip: Allow the small group participants to read and answer the above questions. Get feedback from several individuals. Gen. 26:25 talks about Isaac building his own altar.]

Read/Reflect on Malachi 4:5-6

- How does this prophecy impact our hearts, our family worship, and what is the connection between the two?

Let's pray for God to make this passage a reality in our own homes. The following short video will take this message deeper.

- **Play video 2** - "Turning the Heart Back" - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID5>

Do you desire for God to turn your heart and the heart of your loved ones back together? Do you desire for God to rebuild the altar of worship in your home? God can do it. God will do it! But it starts with you!

4. Personal Practical Application

As we pray to truly build stronger the altar of worship as individuals, families, and churches, accept the following Back to the Alter personal challenges this week.

- **1st Challenge:** Pray that God would enrich your personal time with Him, and that He would daily put fresh praises in your heart and on your lips.
- **2nd Challenge:** Next time you are tempted to say something negative or tear someone down or watch someone else tear another believer down (whether in their presence, behind their back, or even online) ask God to help you build that person up instead! Refuse to join the ranks of "accuser" of the brethren (See Rev. 12:10).
- **3rd Challenge:** In addition to taking unrushed personal time daily with Jesus, ask God to help you have a special interactive worship with your family (or a friend) at least 1-2 times this next week. Pray for God to give you creative ways to connect His truth with the hearts of those around you.

Creative connect activities can go a long way for bringing a spiritual point home in a way that will never be forgotten. Try this with your family! See what God does.

You are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome!

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025

BONUS Segment: Need Help Creating Engaging Family Worships?

Watch this bonus video to go deeper!

- **Play Video 3** - "How to lead Meaningful Family Worships"
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID6>

[Leader Tip: Transition to this week's Back to the Altar prayer focus. Encourage participants to open their Bibles and claim the Bible promises listed as they pray together and for one another.]

Week 2 | April 11 – 17 | Worshiping Together | Prayer Focus

Bible Promises to Claim as you Pray



“Then Elijah said to all the people, ‘Come near to me.’ So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.” 2 Kings 18:30

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.”
Psalm 95:6

“Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.” Psalm 43:4

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”
Philippians 4:8

Prayer Focus for Week 2

1. **PRAISE:** Pray that God would enrich your personal time with Him, and that He would put fresh praises in your heart and on your lips daily. (Claim Psalm 34:1)
2. **BUILD:** Pray that God would help you build others up rather than tear them down by your words or actions. (Claim Ephesians 4:29-30, Ezekiel 36:26)
3. **YIELD:** Pray that your life and tongue would yield the sweet Fruit of the Spirit, not the bitter fruit of darkness. (Claim James 3:8-9, Galatians 5:22-23)
4. **PRIORITIZE:** Pray that daily unrushed worship would become a top life priority, that you and your family cannot live without. (Claim Deuteronomy 30:6, Psalm 29:2)
5. **WORSHIP:** Pray that God would restore and strengthen your personal and/or family altar of worship. Pray that God would help you worship with friends and family this week in a special way. (Claim Hebrews 10:25, Psalm 9:1)
6. **REFRESH:** Pray that it won't be just business as usual at this coming GC session July 3-12, but a time of deep *spiritual revival* that will refresh the hearts of all in attendance. (Claim Isaiah 43:19, Psalm 85:6)
7. **GO:** Pray that church members around the world will embrace the theme, “Jesus is Coming, I WILL GO!” And that all will be inspired with a heart for God's mission – to share the Three Angels' messages with a dying world. (Claim Isaiah 6:8, Revelation 14:6-7)

Back to the **Altar**

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 3 | April 18 - 24, 2025)

What it Means to be a Disciple - Resource Materials

Week 3 | April 18 – 24 | To Be a Disciple | Leader’s Guide

Leader Encouragement & Tips

- Remember the power of the secret place. You can’t give what you don’t have!

"But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly" (Matthew 6:6)

"From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the Great Reformation. There, with holy calmness, the servants of the Lord set their feet upon the rock of His promises. During the struggle at Augsburg, Luther did not pass a day without devoting three hours at least to prayer, and they were hours selected from those the most favorable to study" (*Great Controversy*, p. 210).

"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Ps. 91:1).

- Pray by name for those who came last week and for more to come this week.
- Before people arrive, set up chairs again in small circles of six. When people arrive, invite them to return to the same circle they sat in the first two weeks. If they are new, invite them to join a circle, or make a new circle with someone who was present.

Suggested outline for a 1 hour 30 minute revival meeting

- Welcome everyone including newcomers. **(3 mins)**
- Sing 2-3 songs of worship and praise. **(5-8 mins)**
- Make sure people return to the same small group that they were part of last week. (Group numbers of 6 are best if possible!) If they are new, invite them to join a group, or start a new group with someone who was present the last week.
- Make sure everyone (or at least 1 person in each group) has a Bible.
- To begin, ask everyone to share around their group circle the following: **(4 mins)**
 - One word that describes how they are feeling right now. (Happy, sad, tired, etc.)
 - Then ask one person to pray in each small group for the other members.
- Share Testimony: "The Test of Discipleship." **(5 mins)**
- Have small groups pray together for power to become disciples of Jesus. **(5 mins)**
- Follow "What it Means to be a Disciple" study outline. **(45-50 mins)**
- Pray in small groups for the "Prayer Focus" for the week. **(15 mins)**
- Invite participants to join the weekly Back to the Altar revival on zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome!
Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025

At the end of the meeting

- Pull the small group leaders together. Ask how it’s going in their group. Pray for them!

Week 3 | April 18 – 24 | To Be a Disciple | Testimony

“The Test of Discipleship”

By Ron Clouzet

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Rom. 8:18

Back in 1921, a missionary couple named David and Svea Flood went with their 2-year-old son from Sweden to the heart of Africa, to what was then called the Belgian Congo. They met up with another young Scandinavian couple, the Ericksons, and the four of them sought God for direction. In those days of great sacrifice, they felt the Lord leading them to set out from the main mission station and take the gospel to a remote area.

At the village of N’dolera they were rebuffed by the chief, who would not let them enter his town, for fear of alienating the local gods. The two couples opted to go half a mile up the slope and build their own mud huts. They prayed for a spiritual breakthrough, but there was none. The only contact with the villagers was a young boy, who was allowed to sell them chickens and eggs twice a week. Svea Flood, a tiny woman only four feet, eight inches tall, decided that if this was the only African she could talk to, she would try to lead him to Jesus. So day after day, she told the boy about Jesus and the God of heaven.

Meanwhile, malaria continued to strike one member of the little band after another. In time, the Ericksons decided they’d had enough and returned to the central mission station. David and Svea Flood remained near N’dolera to go on alone. Then, of all things, Svea found herself pregnant in the middle of the primitive wilderness. She gave birth to a tiny girl, whom they named Aina. The delivery, however, was exhausting, and Svea Flood was already weak from bouts of malaria. She died seventeen days later.

David couldn’t take it anymore. After digging a crude grave to bury his wife, he took his children back down the mountain to the mission station and handed them over to the Ericksons. “I’m going back to Sweden.... God has ruined my life,” he snarled.

However, eight months later, both the Ericksons got sick and died. The children were then passed on to American missionaries. Aina’s name was adjusted to “Aggie.” Eventually they were brought back to the states.

How could so much go wrong, when all they wanted to do was serve God in faith? But God had worked through His servant Svea.

Years later, Aggie was grown and married to a pastor who was the president of a Christian college. One day a Swedish religious magazine appeared in her mailbox. Although she couldn’t understand the words, within the magazine was a photo that stopped her cold. There in a primitive setting, was a grave with a white cross, and on the cross were the words SVEA FLOOD. Immediately she rushed to find someone who could translate the Swedish article.

“What does it say?” she asked eagerly.

Her friend summarized the story about the missionaries to N’dolera long ago, the death of Aggie’s young mother, the contact with the African boy, and the fact that many Christians were living in the area now.

A few years later, Aggie and her husband were attending a high-level evangelism conference in London, England, when a report was given from the Republic of Congo. The superintendent of the national church spoke eloquently about the gospel’s spread in his nation. Aggie could not help going to ask him afterward if he had ever heard of David and Svea Flood. What she heard brought tears of joy and thankfulness to her eyes.

“It was Svea Flood who led me to Jesus Christ,” he smiled. “I was the boy who brought eggs to your parents before you were born.”

Svea Flood’s love and Christlikeness and her earnest desire to bless the boy made an eternal impression on him. He accepted Jesus as His Lord and Savior. After he grew up, he persuaded the chief to let him build a school in the village. He led all his students to Christ. Then the children led their parents to Christ, and eventually even the chief himself became a Christian. Today, hundreds of Christian believers live in that one village—and throughout Congo there are hundreds of thousands of believers.

A Christlike life and a Christlike ministry is the result of true discipleship. This is why the Spirit gives us gifts—and we can then bear fruit of His power and grace. This is the reason for His ministry in our lives—to become disciples, to share the gospel with the world.

*Ron E. M. Clouzet, DMin, is the former ministerial secretary for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. He currently pastors in Tennessee, United States. This devotional nugget was taken from chapter 8 of his book *Adventism’s Greatest Need: The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit*.*

[Leader Tip: *Have small groups take 5 minutes to pray together that God would help us learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, and to give our all to Him, regardless of the consequences, trusting He is working all things together for our good.*]

Week 3 | April 18 – 24 | To Be a Disciple | Study

Welcome to another session of **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer!**

Before we get started on today's Back to the Altar study, let's do a review.

If you've been part of Back to the Altar from the beginning, do you remember what we studied in Week 1 and 2? (Write down any key points that come to mind.)

[Leader Tip: Have small groups divide into pairs of 2 or 3 and take a few minutes to review the key points from the first two weeks.]

If you don't remember, here's an overview:

- **Week One:** The first week we studied Joel 1 and 2. We talked about preparing for revival and about our need for the Holy Spirit to rend/break our hearts.

Is Joel 2:13 becoming a reality in your life?

There were three challenges in Week 1:

The 1st challenge was to pray that God would give us a deeper hunger for Him, for His Word, and to be ready to meet Him. The 2nd challenge was to ask God to reveal any things that might be hindering our heavenward journey, and to repent and confess those sins of distraction or compromise. The 3rd challenge was to slow down and take daily unrushed time with Him.

How has God worked in your life through the above three challenges? (Write down your answers. Write down how you feel the need to grow.)

- **Week Two:** We learned how God is calling us to rebuild our altars of worship, both individually and as family, just like Elijah, and just like Abraham.

Two distinct challenges were given. The 1st challenge was to cultivate a spirit of praise and build others up instead of tearing them down. The 2nd challenge was to have worship together with your family or friends at least 1-2 times this week.

What happened this past week? Are you finding yourself praising God more, affirming others more, seeking to build others up? Did you have worship with a family member or friend?

In the coming weeks, pray that God would help worship to be a daily routine for you and your family or loved ones.

[Leader Tip: Allow small groups a few minutes to pray for one another to live the Back to the Altar principles being shared as they challenge each other to go deeper in worship.]

Learning what it means to be a disciple

For today's Back to the Altar study, we are going to start off with a fun little activity. You are going to need a partner for this activity.

1. Connect Activity

[Leader Tip: Have everyone stand up in their small groups and get in pairs of two. Next instruct one person of each pair of two, to close their eyes and keep their eyes closed, while their partner walks beside them and directs their steps around the room, around obstacles etc. The seeing partner should NOT touch the blind partner, only speak directions to guide the blind partner safely to a designated destination. After 1 minute has passed, have the partners switch roles and repeat the activity for another minute.]

If you are able, find a partner, whether it's someone studying this lesson with you, a family member, or just a friend nearby. Ask them to close their eyes and trust you on a blind walk. Be nice. Don't do anything that would hurt them. Just have them keep their eyes closed as you lead them around a room, or around some obstacles on the floor or ground. You are not to touch them, but you can walk beside them. They simply need to follow your voice to know where to walk. After a minute or so, switch roles and ask your partner to do the same for you.

This might seem like a strange activity, but do it, and you will understand in a moment, why this activity is significant.

(Do the above activity before going further in today's lesson!)

Wasn't that fun? Chances are you both had some good laughs through that little exercise.

Now ask yourself, "How does this little *trust walk* teach me practical lessons on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?" (Write down your thoughts or share them with your friend or family member.)

Do you long to walk every day as a trusting disciple of Jesus Christ?

You may be wondering: What is a disciple of Jesus? How do I trust Him more? Thankfully, the written Word of God answers this question.

2. Lessons from the Disciples of Jesus

It's time to open our Bibles and learn together what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

In your notebook, or on a piece of paper write: "A Disciple of Jesus..." and then start making a list based on the following Bible passages.

Read/Reflect on Matthew 4:18-22 – How many characteristics of a disciple of Jesus can you find in this passage?

As you reflect on this passage, we will watch a short video to help take this passage deeper.

- **Play Video 1** – “What it means to be a Disciple” - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID7>

Now read and reflect on the following passages of Scripture.

[Leader Tip: Give Bible passage and assignments below and have small groups discuss and answer in their own circle. If possible, put a white board or chalk board at the front of the room and have participants come and write characteristics of a disciple of Jesus on the whiteboard/chalkboard. This is a great way to get everyone involved.]

Read/Reflect on John 13:35 and John 15:7-8 – What is a disciple of Jesus based on these two passages?

Read/Reflect on Matthew 16:24 and Matthew 28:19-20 – How many characteristics of a disciple of Jesus do you find in these two passages? (There should be 6 or more.)

How is this study speaking to your heart?

[Leader Tip: Ask small groups if any want to raise their hand and share with everyone what spoke to them most from this study? Ask them to keep their responses brief so multiple people can share. Give chance for feedback.]

We are learning that a disciple of Jesus follows Jesus wherever He leads, even if it's uncomfortable. A disciple looks like Jesus, lives like Jesus, loves others, and sacrifices self to bring others to Jesus.

Perhaps you feel like you don't have enough experience to bring others to Jesus. You are just barely walking with Him yourself. Or maybe you have lots of experience, but you are tired and weary and feel like you've lost your first love.

Let's take a few minutes to watch a precious testimony about how God can use even a child to be a disciple calling a whole church to revival. If God can use a child, He can use any one of us.

- **Play Video 2** – “Testimony: Discipleship from a Little Child”
<https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID8>

What a precious testimony. The question we should consider is, “What is Jesus asking of me right now?”

3. Personal Practical Application

Here are three practical Back to the Altar challenges for this coming week.

- **1st Challenge:** Study the Bible passages again on your own, that we covered in this lesson. Those passages are Matthew 4:18-22, John 13:35, John 15:7-8, Matthew 16:24

and Matthew 28:19-20. For each passage, ask God how He wants to apply these principles of discipleship to your life.

- **2nd Challenge:** Take a step of faith and follow Jesus in a way that you never have before.

Next week, we are going to start sharing short revival lessons from the life of Elijah. It's a study that you do not want to miss as we continue this Back to the Altar journey! Invite family and friends, even neighbors.

Don't forget, you are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome!

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> **Password:** 18442025

[Leader Tip: Transition to this week's Back to the Altar prayer focus. Encourage participants to open their Bibles and claim the Bible promises listed as they pray together and for one another. There is power in praying the Word of God. Consider printing up and giving participants a copy of the following prayer focus sheet, if possible.]

Time to pray!

Week 3 | April 18 – 24 | To Be a Disciple | Prayer Focus

Bible Promises to Claim as you Pray



“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” 1 John 2:6

“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3-4

“Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life.” *Desire of Ages*, p. 195

Prayer Focus for Week 3

1. **HUMBLE:** Pray that God would strengthen us as a church family to humble ourselves as little children at the foot of the cross, to put away our quarrels, our grievances, to press together, and to prepare our hearts for Jesus’ soon coming. (Claim Isaiah 57:15)
2. **DISCIPLES:** Pray that we would be true disciples of Jesus—in our home, in our workplace, in our school, in our business, and in private where no one sees but God. (Claim Romans 2:28-29, 1 Samuel 16:7)
3. **WORSHIP:** Pray that no distractions would keep us from daily worship and that we would live at the altar, both individually and as families, with all our heart and soul. (Claim 1 Chronicles 16:29)
4. **WITNESS:** Pray that the General Conference session theme, “Jesus is coming, I WILL GO” will be acted upon with urgency by every believer around the world, starting with ourselves. (Claim Isaiah 6:8, Isaiah 43:10)
5. **DEEPER:** Pray that each delegate and attendee at the General Conference session will experience a renewal of their “first love experience” with Jesus once again and be forever changed. (Claim Revelation 2:4, Mark 12:30)
6. **HONOR:** Pray for the logistical details and planning that is going on right now behind the scenes, for General Conference session. Pray that everything will fall into place for the glory and honor of God. (Claim Matthew 7:7-8, 1 Corinthians 10:31)
7. **OUTPOURING:** Pray that these upcoming General Conference meetings will be a turning point in our church history, that will help usher in the Latter Rain. (Claim Luke 11:13, Acts 1:8)

Back to the **Altar**

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 4 | April 25 – May 1, 2025)

Come to Jesus as You Are - Resource Materials

Week 4 | April 25–May 1 | Come to Jesus as You Are | Leader's Guide

Leader Encouragement & Tips

- Be real with God, with yourself, and with others. Humble vulnerable leaders are able to reach hearts, in ways that self-confident prideful ones cannot. People can tell the difference. Don't be afraid to admit that you don't know everything. But point people to the One Who does.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." James 4:10

"You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 146

- Pray by name for those who came last week and for more to come this week.
- This week we add a new focus on the life of Elijah. If possible, watch the video segments in advance for the Elijah study and the main Back to the Altar Bible study.
- On the night of the revival, before people arrive, set up chairs in small circles of six. When people arrive, invite them to return to the same circle they sat in the first three weeks. If they are new, invite them to join a circle, or make a new circle with someone who was present last week, so they can review what they missed.

Suggested outline for a 1 hour 30 minute revival meeting

- Welcome everyone including newcomers. **(3 mins)**
- Sing 2-3 songs of worship and praise. **(5-8 mins)**
- Make sure people return to the same small group that they were part of last week. (Group number of 6 best!) By now people should be starting to feel like family in their small groups. That is the goal.
- Make sure everyone has a Bible, a notebook, and a pen.
- To begin, ask everyone to share around their group circle the following: **(2 mins)**
 - Their favorite person in the Bible, and why.
- Opening prayer **(2 mins)**
- Share Testimony: "An Imperfect Broken Offering." **(5 mins)**
- Have small groups pray together for the Holy Spirit to bless the study. **(5 mins)**
- Follow "Come to Jesus as You Are" study outline. **(30-40 mins)**
- Pray in small groups for the "Prayer Focus" for the week. **(20-25 mins)**
- Invite participants to join the Back to the Altar revival on zoom every Sunday at 6 A.M. EST Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025

At the end of the meeting

- Pull the small group leaders together. Ask how it's going in their group. Pray for them!

Week 4 | April 25 – May 1 | Come to Jesus as You Are | Testimony

“An Imperfect Broken Offering”

By Melody Mason

*“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.” Psalm 51:17*

I will never forget the time a number of years ago, as I was preparing to lead a prayer service for a large event the next day, how the Holy Spirit convicted me of something specific in my life that I needed to make right with God. Overwhelmed, I sank to my knees on the floor that night as I prayed, “Oh Lord, please forgive me...”

However, while I confessed my sin to God, certain steps were necessary to make proper amends. But I couldn’t take these steps immediately, so I wasn’t sure what to do. Should I still go forward with my prayer ministry responsibilities or should I get someone else to fill in for me until I had made things right?

As a respected leader in ministry, it was very humiliating to think of admitting to others that I had failed God in a specific area. I didn’t want to make a stir and appear spiritually weak to my teammates, or to the many strangers in attendance at the meetings. So, with a heavy heart and tears in my eyes, I went to sleep that night, determined that I would just ask someone else to lead the prayer service the next day.

However, the next morning as I set out to find someone to take my place, God stopped me in my tracks as the Holy Spirit began speaking to my heart. “Melody, you need to lead the prayer service this morning. Don’t get someone to replace you!”

“Wait God...You can’t mean this!” I said as fresh tears came to my eyes. But the Holy Spirit continued to speak to my heart.

“Yes, I want you to lead, however, you are not to lead it as *the person you want everyone to think you are*. Don’t you see? I’m not looking for people to lead who cover up their sins and go on as if everything is okay. I’m looking for *yielded broken vessels*; vessels that will humble themselves to such a degree that pride is gone. Only then can I really use them for my glory. I know this hurts, but you need to share with the congregation what I convicted you of last night. Be honest about how you’ve failed Me! Then invite them to come *with you* to the cross to put away all sin and compromise. You see, if people wait to come until they have everything in order, they will never come.”

Again, I began to protest. “I can’t do this, Lord! What will everyone think when they see how I’ve failed you?”

The Holy Spirit spoke softly to my heart as He turned my eyes toward heaven. “It doesn’t matter what they think. This is not about protecting your reputation. This is about bringing glory to God. But, if He is to work, you must humble yourself.”

Oh, how I did *not* want to obey the Holy Spirit's promptings that morning. If I could have run away like Jonah, or crawled in a cave, I would have done so immediately. But I knew what I must do. I had to obey.

Shaking and with tears in my eyes, I went before hundreds of people that morning and shared what the Lord had laid on my heart. You could have heard a pin drop in the room as everyone listened. "Jesus tells us to come as we are," I said softly, as I continued to wipe tears away from my eyes. "So, I'm coming as I am and I'm inviting you to join me at the foot of the cross."

At this invitation everyone got out of their chairs and came forward to the front of the room. There was soft weeping here and there as different people asked God's forgiveness for those areas of sin and compromise that had crept into their lives. And the Holy Spirit was there. In hindsight, I think it was one of the most sweet, sacred prayer services I've ever experienced, for God did a deep work of cleansing among us that morning. Many hearts were broken, but how beautiful and healing the brokenness was.

In the book *Steps to Christ*, we are told:

"If you see your sinfulness, do not wait to make yourself better. How many there are who think they are not good enough to come to Christ. Do you expect to become better through your own efforts? 'Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.' Jeremiah 13:23. There is help for us only in God. We must not wait for stronger persuasions, for better opportunities, or for holier tempers. We can do nothing of ourselves. We must come to Christ just as we are" (p. 31).

Of course, making things right with God privately is what matters most, and what happens in secret between us and God is always more significant than what happens in public. But since the Holy Spirit convicted me to share, I knew I needed to be transparent and open that morning.

I will never forget one elderly gentleman who came forward after the service. He told me how he had come to the meetings with a crusty heart of skepticism and doubt but seeing me honestly share my struggles and my need of the Savior had convicted him of his own need, and, as a result, that morning he decided to give his heart to the Lord.

"I've never seen leaders on the platform be real before like you were today, Melody," he told me through moist eyes. "It always seems like such a performance at religious events. But you showed me today that God is real, because I saw how He was convicting you, breaking you, and changing you. Thank you..." His voice cracked as he reached out to hug me.

Melody Mason works for the General Conference Ministerial Association and assists with training and resource development for the Back to the Altar revival initiative. She is author of three books: Daring to Ask for More, Daring to Living by Every Word, and most recently, My Single Joy. Melody is passionate about prayer and will be coordinating the prayer room at the General Conference Session in St. Louis, July 3-12, 2025.

Week 4 | April 25 – May 1 | Come to Jesus as You Are | Study

Welcome to another **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** revival lesson.

Have you ever spent extra time brushing and flossing your teeth on the day that you had an appointment to get your teeth cleaned at the dentist? [**Leader Tip:** *Allow participants to answer!*]

We can laugh, but if we are honest, many of us have done this because, well, we want to try to look our best when we see the dentist.

Perhaps you sometimes feel that you need to be in a certain condition before you can come to Jesus? Maybe you think you must be positive, happy, responsible, or all clean physically and mentally. Maybe you think you must be feeling spiritual and have your best foot forward before He will accept you. Maybe you think you have to have your life all in order or have certain qualifications before you can follow the “I WILL GO” call, to tell others about Jesus’ soon return.

Before we begin our study on what it means to come to Jesus as we are, let’s take a look at the life of Elijah. We can learn so many lessons from his story that apply to our spiritual walk.

- **Play Video 1** – “Introduction to Elijah’s Story”: <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID9>

Elijah was a man who God called and used to rebuild the broken down altar of worship in Israel. Fire fell in response to Elijah’s faith and obedience. But this would never have happened if Elijah hadn’t taken the first step forward, coming in obedience just as he was, in answer to God’s call.

Today, God is calling us to repair the broken down altars in our own lives and hearts. He’s calling us to be “The Last Elijah,” calling to a world in need. This is why we are going to be studying the life of Elijah in small segments for the rest of this Back to the Altar revival series.

1. Who Can Come to Jesus?

Here's some encouragement straight from God's Word.

[Leader Tip: Allow small groups to read and discuss the following passages together.]

Read/Reflect on Matthew 11:28-30 – What invitation do we find in this passage? Who is the one making the invitation? Do you qualify?

Read/Reflect on Luke 5:30-32 – According to Jesus who qualifies to come to Him?

We are all unworthy, we are all sinners in need of a Savior. And that’s why we can come just as we are. Jesus will never turn away the person that comes to Him in need.

However, even as we see these truths in Scripture, many of us still struggle believing that God could really save us. We feel so unworthy. We feel so unlovely. We just don’t feel at peace.

The discipleship survey we took in the very beginning of this Back to the Altar series gave evidence to that fact that even some taking part in these revival sessions don't know if they would be saved if Jesus came back tomorrow. Perhaps that person is you!

Before we study how we can have peace about our salvation, let's pause a moment.

Do you know how much God loves you? If you aren't sure how much He loves you, you will especially appreciate the message in this short video illustration.

- **Play video 2** – “Jesus will Never Let You Go” - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID10>

Now that we have been reminded nothing can separate us from God's love, let's open the Word for some more study.

2. Seven Steps to Having Assurance and Peace about our Salvation

We are going to study seven simple steps that show us how we can have assurance and peace about our salvation. Get your notebook out, as you will want to write these passages down to remember.

[Leader Tip: If time allows, give the small groups the assignment to discuss each step and find the answer. If time is short, ask volunteers to take turns reading each passage out loud (maybe via a microphone so everyone can hear) and then ask the whole group/congregation to answer together what how to fill in the blanks in each step.]

Read/Reflect on Romans 5:8. How do you know that God loves you?

We just learned in Romans 8:38, 39 that nothing can separate us from God's love. Here's our first step to assurance of Salvation. We will fill in the first answer for you.

- **Step 1:** You can be sure that nothing will separate you from God's love.

Read/Reflect Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23 (first part). What problem do we all have?

- **Step 2:** You can be sure, as a sinner, you need _____. *[Answer: “the Savior.”]*

Read/Reflect on Romans 6:23 (last part) and Ephesians 2:8, 9. What free gift does God offer you?

- **Step 3:** You can be sure that salvation is God's _____. *[Answer: “free gift to you.”]*

Read/Reflect on John 3:16. How does this free gift of eternal life become yours?

- **Step 4:** You can be sure that Jesus is your Savior when you _____. *[Answer: “believe in Him.”]*

Read/Reflect on Ephesians 2:22 and 1 Corinthians 6:19. Who wants to live in us?

- **Step 5:** You can be sure that Jesus wants to make His home in _____.
[Answer: "your heart via the Holy Spirit."]

Read/Reflect on 1 John 1:9. What does Jesus do for you when you confess your sins?

- **Step 6:** You can be sure that Jesus completely _____. [Answer: "forgives and cleans your heart."]

Read/Reflect on 1 John 5:13. What does this verse tell you that you can know for sure?

- **Step 7:** Finally, you can be sure that Jesus gives you _____. [Answer: "eternal life."]

God tells us in Revelation 7:9 that there will be a countless multitude of those who are saved in heaven. God has planned for *you* to be one of them!

As we close this session, listen to this powerful appeal from Revelation 3:20. What is your answer to Jesus?

- **Play Video 3** – "Jesus is Knocking" - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAVID11>

3. Personal Practical Application

As we close, don't forget the gift Jesus offers you in Himself. Remember He loves you, and nothing can separate you from His love.

- **1st Challenge:** Practice every day coming to Jesus just as you are. Allow Him a place in your home and your heart.
- **2nd Challenge:** Share the study we just completed on the assurance of salvation with someone this week.

Don't forget, you are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome! Zoom link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> **Password:** 18442025

[Leader Tip: Transition to this week's Back to the Altar prayer focus. Encourage participants to open their Bibles and claim the Bible promises listed as they pray together and for one another.]

Let's pray!

Week 4 | April 25 – May 1 | Come as You are | Prayer Focus

Bible Promises to Claim as you Pray



“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9

“If you come to Jesus now, with contrition of soul, He will take you just as you are, sinful and polluted. He will take away your sins, He will give to you His own righteousness.”

Letters and Manuscripts, Letter 29, 1893

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." John 6:37

Prayer Focus for Week 4

1. **COME:** Pray that God would help you come to Him just as you are every day. But also pray that you would not remain as you are, but that He would change you from the inside out. (Claim Ezekiel 36:26, 2 Corinthians 5:17)
2. **SHARE:** Pray that you could have an opportunity to share the sweet assurance of salvation with another. (Claim 1 Peter 3:15)
3. **ABIDE:** Pray that Jesus would abide in you, and you would abide in Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Claim Ephesians 2:22)
4. **LOVE:** Pray for your unsaved loved ones or family members to catch a glimpse of the incredible love of Jesus. (Claim Romans 5:8)
5. **WORSHIP:** Pray that these Back to the Altar principles would become a part of your daily life, and that you would learn to live at the altar. (Claim Ps. 27:4)
6. **RECONCILE:** Pray that “What Might Have Been” in 1901 would happen in 2025 and that there would be confessions, humbling of heart, reconciliations, selfless service, and renewed focus on mission, for all in attendance at the General Conference session. (Claim 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 85:6)
7. **FILL:** Pray that God will fill the St. Louis Stadium (the building where the General Conference meetings will take place) with His presence and that as soon as people walk into the stadium, they will sense the power of the Holy Spirit. (Claim Isaiah 65:24)