AN IMMERSION THAT WILL BRING A CHANGE OF HEART AND LEAD YOU INTO REPENTANCE. | MARK 1:4 TPT

# REVIVE

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# REVIVE OUR HEARTS PREPARATION QUICK GUIDE

Revival starts in our own hearts and overflows. It demands radical humility, prayer, and repentance; a willingness to be consecrated or "set apart" vessels.

We are confident that Jesus wants to empower us to have clean hands and pure hearts, emptying ourselves from idols, sin, lies, strongholds and generational patterns.

Emptied of these things, we make more space for Him and can be filled up with more of God's love, grace, and Holy Spirit.

This three part guide is designed to help you prepare to receive afresh from Jesus by spending intentional time before Conference praying and asking God to reveal what He wants to remove, making space for the new.

We bless you on this journey, we believe with you for breakthrough and we pray that these next three exercises are helpful.

Let's start by taking a heart posture that gives God permission to search our hearts and acknowledge that He is our healer and Wonderful Counselor, eager to empower us to receive the fullness and freedom of abundant life:

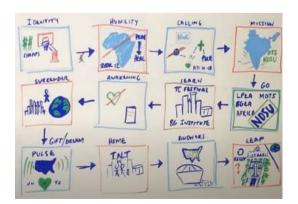
> "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

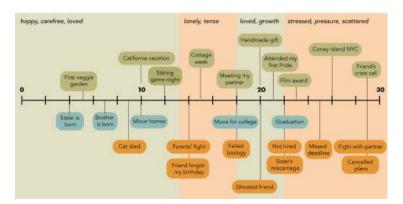




## **1 LIFE STORY REFLECTION**

- Select pivotal events and big decisions in your life. It might help to talk to a close friend or family member to help you reflect on these.
- Don't worry if it doesn't feel 'complete'. Our journeys with God are rarely linear, and yours isn't finished yet!
- As you draw your life story, reflect on the highs and lows, blessings and challenges, and the ways God has carried you through each season (since you met Him and even before then; remember He has always been in your story even if you didn't know it!).
- You may also want prayerfully consider with God significant moments and relationships that have shaped your belief system, the way you see yourself, the world and who God is.
- Remember that this should be the most honest version of your life story between you and God, not a highlight of achievements so don't hold back from sharing memories of disappointment, heartbreak or confrontation.
- If it helps you, you can use a storyboard like the example below. But of course your story reflection does not have to be visual and if you'd prefer to journal, bullet-point or timeline, those are also helpful processing methods.





## **2 GENERATIONAL MAPPING**

- Map out 3-4 generations of your family tree down to your immediate family (e.g. you and any siblings, your parents), using the symbols in the key below.
- In each generation, think about your spiritual and emotional inheritance. What blessings were received and passed on? What challenge or hardship is evident? Especially consider and note "earthquake events" that led to trauma, damage, separation, or unforgiveness.
- Don't worry if there are parts you don't know about. If it's appropriate, you could ask a family member for more information.
- When you're finished, look for patterns through the generations by comparing them with your present blessings and struggles.

# Earthquake Events 1. Betrayal by brothers 2. Loss of country, family, culture 3. Prison 10 years (unjust) Example FROM THE LINEAGE OF ABRAHAM Ksy: Sibling Rivalry Flavoritism Unhealthy Marriage | Weel | Concubines | C

## **3 IDENTIFYING IDOLS**

The quotes shared below are from the book "Counterfeit Gods" by Timothy Keller to help us first define idolatry in a relatable way (it's not only those golden calfs these days). Hopefully these provocations help us prepare to remove idols from our heart in order to receive blessings God wants to release to us:

- Anything can serve as a counterfeit God, especially the very best things in life.
- An idol is a "God," ... Whatever controls us is our Lord. The person who seeks power is controlled by power. The person who seeks acceptance is controlled by the people he or she wants to please. We do not control ourselves, we are controlled by the lord of our lives.
- If I have that (the idol), then I will feel like my life has meaning. Then I'll know I have value. And I'll feel significant and secure.
- An idol is anything more important to you than God. Anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God. Anything you seek to give you what only God can give. Anything that is so central and essential to your life, that should lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living.
- The Bible uses three basic metaphors to talk about how people relate to the idols of their hearts: they love idols, trust idols, and obey idols.
- We can locate them by looking at our nightmares: What do we fear the most? What if we lost it would make life not worth living?
- The most painful times in our lives are times in which our Isaacs, or idols, are being threatened or removed.
- It is worship that is the final way to replace the idols of your heart. You can't just get relief by figuring out your idols intellectually. You have to actually get the peace that Jesus gives...and that only comes when you worship. Analysis can help you discover truths, but then you have to pray them into your heart. That takes time.





Now, take time with the Holy Spirit to read through the below idol chart and see which if any resonate with you and your life story and your generational patterns.

Some people might know right away if they're challenged with an idol and how it manifests - and others might find it easier to identify through thinking about their biggest problem emotions or worst nightmares.

### **IDOLATRY CHART**

|          | WHY IT GOES<br>UNRECOGNIZED,<br>HOW IT LOOKS | PRICE WE'LL<br>PAY          | WORST<br>NIGHTMARE | BIGGEST<br>PROBLEM<br>EMOTION | OTHERS FEEL                       | GOSPEL REALITY<br>THAT IT<br>COUNTERFEITS |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| COMFORT  | LAIDBACK,<br>EASYGOING                       | LACK OF<br>PRODUCTIVITY     | STRESS,<br>DEMANDS | BOREDOM                       | HURT,<br>NEGLECTED                | PEACE IN<br>CHRIST                        |
| APPROVAL | LIKABLE,<br>FRIENDLY                         | LESS<br>INDEPENDENCE        | REJECTION          | COWARDICE                     | SMOTHERED                         | GOD'S LOVE                                |
| CONTROL  | COMPETENCE                                   | LONELINESS,<br>SPONTANEITY  | UNCERTAINTY        | ANXIETY                       | CONDEMNED,<br>JUDGED,<br>OFFENDED | GOD'S<br>BLESSINGS                        |
| POWER    | CONFIDENCE                                   | BURDENED,<br>RESPONSIBILITY | HUMILIATION        | ANGER                         | USED,<br>MANIPULATED,<br>HANDLED  | RIGHTEOUSNESS                             |





Below are other idols you can pray about and see if they feel relevant to you:

### Life only had meaning / I only have worth if...

- **Helping** "people are dependent on me and need me"
- **Independence** "I am completely free from obligations or responsibilites to take care of someone"
- Work "I am highlight productive and getting a lot done"
- **Achievement** "I am being recognized for my accomplishments and excelling in my work."
- **Materialism** "I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions."
- **Religion** "I am adhering to my religion's moral codes and accomplished in its activities."
- A person "This one person is in my life and happy tobe there and/or happy with me"
- Irreligion "I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living by a self-made morality"
- Racial / cultural identity "my race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior"
- Inner circle "a particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me in"
- Family "my children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me"
- **Relationship** "Mr. or Mrs. 'Right' is in love with me"
- **Suffering** "I am hurting, in a problem; only then do I feel worthy of love or able to deal with quilt"
- **Ideology** "my political or social cause is making progress and ascending in influence or power"
- Image "I have a particular kind of look or body image"

# PRAYER TO CLOSE THIS TIME OF PREPARATION

We trust that God has met you personally in this process and revealed opportunities for confession, repentance and breaking generational patterns in order to make more space for Jesus, receive His blessing and bearing fruit.

You'll have plenty of opportunity to work through these areas further through prayer, worship, input, seminars and small groups during conference.

In the meantime, we will be praying for you and invite you to pray now just to bring closure to this stage of the process and prepare your heart for the next:

God, I thank you for pursuing me all the days of my life and that you want to do a new thing, starting in my heart.

Thank you that you want to bless me and the generations that come after me. Thank you that you help me in the process of seeking you first with my whole heart and life.

Thank you for what you've shown me and helped me to start seeing in this reflection time and I invite you to keep speaking and preparing my heart. I ask you to protect my mind and heart in this process and to give me supernatural peace amidst unresolved tension, triggers or confrontation that this reflection time has surfaced.

I've given you five days as this year comes to an end and the next one begins and I say, 'Lord, have your way in me.'

I pray for revival and I acknowledge that it starts with you, reviving my heart. Amen.