

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
“REVIVE US” — PSALM 85
SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPEN

This past week we were painfully reminded that a new year is never a clean break from the past one. Our weariness is an invitation to pray and seek God's sustaining hand. Over the month of January, we'll be in a series called "Prayers of the People," where we look at four prayers (Revive Us, Bless Me, Send Me, and Empower me) in Scripture that we want to shape our own hearts and minds. Before we read and discuss Psalm 85 together, let's take some time to reflect and share:

1. What is the dominant emotion you're experiencing coming into our time together?
2. As you reflect on what was revealed (again) about our country and the church this past week, how do you sense the Lord inviting you to respond?

READ PSALM 85.

DISCUSS

3. The psalmist here is asking for revival, renewal, and restoration. What comes to mind when you think of those words? What does the psalmist have in mind?
4. The psalmist writes "Restore us *again*." This points to the God's past faithfulness and mercy to his covenant people, but we also know that our own spiritual journeys are filled with peaks and valleys. As you think about your own story, when have you experienced the Lord restoring and reviving you?
5. Pastor Curtis introduced us to the concept of *holy discontentment*. In his book *Reappearing Church*, pastor Mark Sayers says renewal begins with *holy discontentment*, which he defines as "deep dissatisfaction with the low state of our faith, the church, or the culture." What distinguishes holy discontentment from cynicism is a hunger for something better and a desire for God to work. As you think about the season we're still in, where have you experienced discontentment most substantially? What would it look like for that discontentment to become *holy*?
6. Pastor Curtis identified three ways in which we need reviving based on this psalm: (1) in how we view God, (2) in how we walk with God, and (3) in how we relate to God's people. We need transformation in all of these areas, but which one most resonates with you right now? What do you hear in this Psalm that you need to embrace in order to posture yourself to receive God's renewing work?

PRAY

As you move into a time of prayer, use the words of Psalm 85 to guide your own prayers. Confess any indifference and/or cynicism in your heart and ask the Holy Spirit to restore a felt sense of the Lord's presence. As you pray for personal revival, also pray for our church.