



# *Relational Revival*

## AWAKENING

**Leader Workbook**



# *why* the way we do community matters

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*Christian relationships are an important arena in which we practice God's kingdom among us. So whether you are meeting with one other believer in your workspace, praying as a family, or gathering with a small group, there are habits that your community can practice, right now, that will transform lives and help bring heaven to earth.*

*Revival consists of groundbreaking new behaviors and habits that establish God's presence among us and reshape families and friendships to reflect his character.*

*Welcome to Awakening Relational Revival.*

*Next to encountering Jesus and being deeply reshaped by his incredible life, the second most transformative thing you can do is practice the presence of Jesus in dynamic community.*

*The Apostle Paul concludes, “From (Jesus) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” To be connected to Jesus is to fit into his body—his family. It is an irreversible reality of the universe that what I need is provided by another. The encouragement I need comes from another. The talents I don’t possess are maneuvered by a third. The strategic wisdom to steer through a situation is provided by an elder or counsel of minds. The soothing touch in a season of chaffing comes from the compassionate hand of someone walking next to me. The lifting up of my spirits when I’ve been beaten down with discouragement is through the encouragement and faith of someone else’s hands and lips. The love of Christ is administered through others. This precisely means that the kingdom of God is only realized in relationships. Love is not simply felt, it must be expressed, and it is only expressed outward, to others and through others.*

*It is simultaneously true that God wants to capture your heart, but he needs to reform your behaviors. Your behaviors are the tangible expression of his presence rebuilding his kingdom of love on earth. His presence always moves through the behaviors of his presence-bearers who act like him in the earth. Though community will always be imperfect, uncomfortable, and messy, it should be a laboratory of love.*

*Our focus in this teaching series is to help us practice the right behaviors that connect us to God’s river of love among us. Each week is really an experiment designed to help you practice God’s presence in different ways. You’ll notice, before each week’s suggested format, a series of practical behaviors that you can exercise. These are not exhaustive but should serve as a solid mixture of ingredients that help realize God’s kingdom. As always, feel the freedom to use discernment, veer off the path, follow the Holy Spirit, and shepherd your community. May the Lord bless your times together and reveal himself to his church.*

Pastor Brian Flewelling

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Flewelling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'B' and a long, sweeping underline.



# Practicing Worship & Prayer

## ***Practice***

Inviting Jesus to come with his authority and power; worshipping Jesus as the leader.

## ***Practice***

Finding creative ways to involve the presence of the Lord in your gathering.

## ***Practice***

Meditation; communion; testimonies; ministering to each other in prayer.

## ***Prayer***

Praying in agreement for God's will to be done; in our families, local communities, and nations.

# Awakening Relational Revival | Week 1

## ICE BREAKER [15 min]

What was most memorable about this past summer: a trip you took, a moment of family relaxation, an activity you did, or something else?

## THANKSGIVING & PRAYER [15 min]

Spend a minute in silent reflection thinking about something God has done for you this last year—big or small. Then spend thirty seconds thanking him in your heart for the ways that he takes care of you.

Spend a minute in silent reflection thinking about a character trait of God that you've really appreciated this past year—his truthfulness, compassion, patience, honor, healing, etc.

Then, as a group, spend about five minutes offering prayers out loud thanking God for who he is and what he has done.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [45 min]

The word “church” in the Greek language refers to a group of people assembled to make civil decisions. So for the Messiah and ruler of the nations—Jesus Christ—his church is an assembly of “heavenly kingdom decision makers” who are partnering with him in ruling.

**Read Ephesians 1:19-23 together.** Notice how Jesus must have preeminence in our decision-making, yet he calls us to partner with him in that process!

1. In Matthew 6:10 we are taught to pray for the Father's will to be done. How do we discern what the Father's will is? Can you find scriptures to support your answer?
2. Where are all of the places you can assemble with other believers to pray for God's will on earth? Where are some creative places you've prayed with other believers?

3. According to Matthew 18:15-20, how many people does it take to agree over God's will? Have you found that too many people can be a hindrance to praying for God's will? Why?
4. How do we keep our community connected to the "will" of the Father, and to the decision-making of Jesus?
5. How often do you pray and agree with other people for God's will to be done on the earth?
6. In your times with other believers, what are some creative ways that you can invite Jesus to join you, or that you can interact with the presence of God?
7. What are some practical habits you can create this week to help you join with other believers in inviting the presence of Jesus and praying for his will to be done?

## **OUTREACH PRAYERS [15 min]**

Think about the characteristics of God that you meditated on and were thankful for earlier in the evening. Now take time to pray for your families, local communities, school district, neighbors, and friends who might not even believe in Jesus. Pray for them to experience these attributes of God for themselves.

**Notes**



# Practicing Ministry, Care, & Encouragement

## ***Practice***

Moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12, 14).

## ***Practice***

Praying and ministering to one another in partnership with the Holy Spirit.

## ***Practice***

Attentively meeting people's physical and emotional needs.

## ***Practice***

Sharing life together throughout the week: praying, texting, celebrating birthdays, and getting coffee.

## ***Practice***

Encouraging each other in the faith and cultivating an environment to pursue God.

# Awakening Relational Revival | Week 2

## LIGHT-HEARTED BEGINNINGS [10 min]

- *If people labeled your superpower—the thing that you are most gifted at—what would you say it is?*
- *God gives each of us gifts, not to feel good about ourselves but to bless and equip others. How does your giftedness bless and equip others?*

## MEDITATION [15 min]

In a time of reflective meditation have eight different people read each of these verses. Allow thirty seconds of meditation after each verse to think about its meaning and what God is asking of you.

**Ephesians 4:16**

**Philippians 2:2**

**John 13:34**

**Hebrews 3:13**

**Colossians 3:14**

**Romans 12:10**

**1 Corinthians 14:3**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11**

After reading through all of these verses, which one is God speaking to you most about?

## TESTIMONY & ENCOURAGEMENT [80 min]

Give everyone five minutes to share the following—briefly. What has been the most difficult part of your faith journey and trusting the Lord? And what aspect of your life or thinking has transformed the most as a result of Jesus?

After each person has had a chance to share, have the group go around and pray blessings over: encouragement the Lord wants to share with them, or the timely prophetic word the Lord wants to share with them. (*This is a time to practice flowing in prayer, care, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit to build each other up*)

## WORSHIP [5 min]

End with a song of thanksgiving and worship. Here's an option:

- *Where I'm Standing Now* by Phil Wickham



## **Notes**



# Practicing God's Word in Community

## ***Practice***

Respecting and not always correcting other's interpretations and perspectives of the scripture. Together we see God's truths more clearly.

## ***Practice***

Reading, discussing, and applying God's Word.

## ***Practice***

Encountering Jesus in his Word - *Lectio Divina*.

## ***Practice***

Reorienting my life around the truth by practicing and applying God's Word.

## ***Practice***

Speaking truthfully and candidly to one another; we don't avoid sin, confusion, or uncomfortable topics. We all agreed to live by the same standard.



# Awakening Relational Revival | Week 3

## MEDITATION TIME [15 min]

Begin your group time together with a few songs of worship.

- *King of Kings* by Hillsong Worship
- *Yes and Amen* by Jesus Culture

## PRACTICING GOD'S WORD [80 min]

There are many different ways we can utilize God's Word in community. The first practice that is common is to study God's Word so that we learn from it and apply it to our lives. To help us practice, here is a scripture and questions based on the three-step process of observing, interpreting, and applying God's Word.

### EXERCISE 1 | Read Matthew 4:1-11

#### Observation Questions

1. When did Satan tempt Jesus? (What were the circumstances?)
2. What specific temptations did Satan fling at Jesus?
3. What did Jesus' responses to the three temptations have in common?

#### Interpretation Questions

1. What do we learn about how Satan works based on the "when" and "how" he designed his temptation traps?
2. Jesus' life sets an example for us on how to respond to temptation. What insight do we learn from him?

#### Application Questions

1. What temptations plague you the most?  
*doubt • discouragement • lies • self-worth • financial security • not trusting others • finding value in money or things • judging others • other?*
2. When do you feel most vulnerable to temptation?
3. What can you do to prepare yourself to avoid or conquer temptations?
4. Are there a couple of scriptures you can memorize relevant to what you find tempting?

## EXERCISE 2 | Encountering Jesus in His Word

1. Read Matthew 4:1-11 again. This time read it in a posture of meditating on the presence of Jesus. The goal is to encounter the presence of Jesus in his Word so that you can worship him. At the end of the reading take a few minutes of silent reflection. Then share: How did you encounter Jesus in his Word? How does it help you worship him?
2. Have another person read Matthew 4:1-11 one last time. This time, how does the Holy Spirit want to change your life based on the presence and the truth of Jesus?

## PRACTICE MINISTRY [15 min]

A common way to build each other up is to use a scripture verse to pray over another person. Take some time to go around the circle and pray for each other using a scripture verse to encourage them with.

- **Step 1** | Select a scripture verse you feel the Lord drawing you toward.
- **Step 2** | Read the verse you feel led to.  
*i.e. "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12*
- **Step 3** | Pray for the person on the right of you using that verse.  
*i.e. Based on Psalm 90:12, my prayer for you is that you'd be able to order your life in view of God's plans, purposes, and timeline so that you can be strategic.*

# Notes

# Practicing Relationships - *koinonia*

## ***Practice***

Jesus' teaching of acceptance, kindness, honesty, forgiveness, and sacrifice.

## ***Practice***

The fruits of the Spirit, treating each other like we would treat Jesus.

## ***Practice***

Honoring and valuing others who are very different from yourself.

## ***Practice***

Eating meals together.

## ***Practice***

Spending time together.

## ***Practice***

Emotional connectedness around meaningful conversations.

## ***Practice***

Building trust and creating safe spaces.

# Awakening Relational Revival | Week 4

## DINNER/ACTIVITY TOGETHER [15 min]

Consider gathering together an hour early and eating dinner together, or even having a picnic, or eating out at a restaurant. The idea is to spend quality time sharing life together. For an extra challenge, create a discussion target of what you'll talk about. For example, you could use the Get-To-Know-You questions below.

## GET-TO-KNOW-YOU [15 min]


Pick two or three of these questions for your group to discuss together.

- What are the easiest and hardest emotions for you to express and why?
- I feel affirmed by others when...
- I tend to become anxious when...
- My reaction to differing opinions is...
- I tend to get defensive when...
- I get great satisfaction from...
- Success in life to me is...

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [80 min]

1. Read Acts 2:42-47.
  - List all of the habits you see them practicing in community.
  - How do each of these Christian practices change as a result of doing them together versus doing them by yourself?
2. What has been your experience with Christian community? What about it has been positive? What about it has been negative? Why? How did you grow through those experiences?
3. What are some creative ways to share life together? What are some meaningful ways you enjoy sharing life together with others?



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4. Quite often we try to hide our weaknesses and flaunt our talents and exceptional qualities. Or we attempt to show how independent we are and how we don't need anyone. This is unbiblical. We all need each other. We all have weaknesses that make us vulnerable. What is one way you are particularly aware that you need other people in your life, or that you have a need that others could help to meet?
  5. How do each of you receive affirmation from others and give affirmation to others?
  6. How do you steer a conversation to a deeper level? What are some of the common shallow topics we often talk about? What are some more meaningful topics that are important to growing deeper with others?
  7. Are there certain personality types you have the hardest time accepting, loving, or relating to? Why?

## **PRAYER NEEDS [15 min]**

In small groups of 3-4 take time to share what's going on in your life or something that you may be struggling with and need support. Then take the time to pray over one another.

# Notes



# Practicing Accountability & Vulnerability in Front of Others

## ***Practice***

Moving from safe to committed.

## ***Practice***

Commitment to relationships in the midst of disagreement or offense.

## ***Practice***

Sharing deeply and vulnerably. What's holding you back? Insecurity? Shame? Pride?

## ***Practice***

Speaking truth with compassion, or speaking compassion with truth.

## ***Practice***

Forgiveness. This group is predetermined to help you succeed in taking steps forward no matter how many steps you've taken backward.

## ***Practice***

Forgetting the ideal. Live in reality and not your fantasy. Invest in the person in front of you, even if they aren't your favorite person.

# Awakening Relational Revival | Week 5

## MINISTRY STARTER [10 min]

- *What I am currently learning from the people around me is...*
- *Something I could have only learned by working it out in relationship with others is...*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [60 min]

1. What erodes trust in relationships? What helps you develop relational trust or emotional connectedness with others? What are some practical next steps you can take this week to develop healthy emotional connectedness or relational trust?
2. Have you ever successfully worked through disagreement or offense with another person? What was the difficulty you encountered, and what enabled you to work through it?
3. In relationships do you think we should always be bold and blunt, in a loving way? Or how do you determine if you've developed enough trust with someone to speak honestly about their blind spots and failures?
4. How do shame and superiority both, in their own way, inhibit relationships? How do you overcome these in a community?

## SCRIPTURE [20 min]

### Read Philippians 2:1-11

1. From verses 1-2, list each of the qualities of ministry the believer receives from the Lord. Tell of a testimony you have of receiving these qualities from the Lord.
2. Then in verses 3-4 Paul essentially invites us to be the source of these qualities to others. Fill in the blank with different people in your life. What are tangible ways you can "consider your \_\_\_\_\_ better

than yourself,” and “look to their interests?”

- a. spouse
  - b. brother or sister
  - c. member of your church/group community
  - d. team member or a committee member
3. Have someone read Philippians 2:5-11 out loud. As you listen to this text meditate on the presence of Jesus. How do you sense his presence encountering you? Is there any word, phrase, or action that seems to jump out to you? At the end of the reading take a few minutes of silent reflection. Then share as a group what you discerned.

## **PRAYER TIME [15 min]**

Make a list of people that you need to humble yourself to by blessing and speaking God’s life and success over them (You’re not praying for their selfish success, but for the success of God’s plans in their life). Include the following people in your list:

- a. family member
- b. government official
- c. teacher
- d. specific neighbor
- e. a member of this small group

Now take five minutes for everyone to pray at the same time, under their breath, for the people on their list. Speak life, blessings, protection, salvation, the prosperity of their purpose, and truth over these various people.



**Notes**



# Practicing Devotion to Jesus and His Family

## ***Practice***

Being connected, not isolated. We need to be attached to a local church community.

## ***Practice***

Being loyal and putting your roots down.

## ***Practice***

Financial commitment to the success of God's mission and people.

## ***Practice***

Being connected to healthy leadership and church government.

## ***Practice***

Releasing ministry and authority to trustworthy people; not hoarding authority for yourself.

## ***Practice***

Honoring other people and churches with different visions or values without trying to control them.

# Awakening Relational Revival | Week 6

## COMMUNION [15 min]

Begin your group time together by celebrating communion.

*See instructions on the next page.*

## MINISTRY STARTER [30 min]

In groups of 5-6 take time to share what's going on in your life: successes, failures, concerns, anxieties, pending changes, etc. Then take the time to pray over one another. Listen to the Holy Spirit and share a word of encouragement, a scripture, or a prophetic picture the Lord might be giving to encourage one another—this practice is a primer for flowing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit: word of encouragement, prophecy, knowledge, healing, faith, tongues, or other.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [45 min]

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-10; 1 Corinthians 12:3-19**

1. Based on the text, and from your personal experiences, what are some of the things that disunify us and bring division in the Body of Christ?
2. Based on the text, how is Christ's Body designed to function and help each other? Have you seen that done well?
3. When we isolate and functionally live separated from others through busyness, shame, division, or undue privacy, in what ways is the kingdom of God diminished—both within the believer and in the world?
4. How does healthy church leadership bring accountability, authority, and energy to what God is building?

## WORSHIP SONG [15 min]

End your group time by lifting your attention to the Lord and honoring him with a song of worship.

- *Hymn of Heaven* by Phil Wickham

# A Guide to Experiencing Communion Together

## PREPARATION

You will need:

- **Bread:** it can be any kind of bread (crackers, unleavened wafers, loaf, chunks)
- **Juice:** grape juice or wine
- **Cups:** for each person to receive the grape juice
- **Your Bible:** marked and ready to read from Matthew 26:26-29 or 1 Corinthians 11:23-29
- **Music:** if you want any soft music or worship music playing in the background

### A word of instruction:

The Bible doesn't give exact instructions on how to celebrate communion. Different faith communities have different traditions that make it meaningful to them. The important thing is to affirm God's presence. Giving people clear instructions is helpful in guiding them through the process so that they aren't confused about the details and can focus on connecting with the Holy Spirit.

## IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNION

Sometimes it is meaningful to remind people why we celebrate communion together. When we celebrate communion, we are:

- Remembering the price Jesus paid for our forgiveness of sins
- Re-affirming our covenant and commitment to him
- Celebrating the community of God's people living in love, unity, and forgiveness toward one another

## FOLLOW UP

Because communion is so powerful, experiential, and intimate it is usually a great opportunity to lead people directly into a time of worship, a time of confession of sins (groups of 2-3), or into a time of personal sharing.

# Suggested Script for Communion

**Say:** In the gospel of Luke Jesus instructed his disciples to, *“do this in remembrance of me.”* (Luke 22:19)

## BREAD

**Say:** In Matthew it says *“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’”* (Matthew 26:26)

The bread represents the body of Christ that was broken so that we could be restored to God.

**Action:** Hand out the bread.

**Pray:** Pray out loud on behalf of the group. Pray from your heart as you feel led. It is usually appropriate to thank God for giving his son Jesus, to thank Jesus for giving himself for us so that we could be healed, and to recognize God’s presence in our midst.

**Action:** Eat the bread (Take your time; give people time to pray and reflect).

## CUP

**Say:** Again in Matthew it says *“Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”* (Matthew 26:27-28)

The cup represents the shedding of Jesus’ blood so that our sins could be washed away, and we could be made new.

**Action:** Hand out the cups.



**Pray:** Pray out loud on behalf of the group. It is usually appropriate to thank Jesus for his blood and the cleansing from our sins and freedom we experience through his blood.

**Action:** Drink the juice.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Pray:** Pray out loud on behalf of the group or invite others to pray out loud closing the time of communion.

# Kingdom in Community:

## A Biblical Foundation

- A. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, possesses authority to rule over all things in heaven and on earth.


**COLOSSIANS 1:18-20**

- B. The word “church”—*ecclesia*—in the Greek language, refers to a group of people assembled to make civil decisions in their community.
- C. Jesus assembles his “church,” his decision makers, to be his operational hands and feet on earth.

**EPHESIANS 1:19-23**

- D. According to Matthew 18:15-20 it only takes an assembly of two or three people for Jesus to rule among us!
- E. Jesus’ church assembly of two or three individuals has the delegated authority to “bind or loose,” which means forbidding or permitting (even forbidding fellowship, or releasing forgiveness to someone in the community).
- Binding and loosing was a rabbinic expression which speaks of the authority to make decisions within their community
- F. Jesus’ assembly is taught to pray for the Father’s will to be done (in contrast to personal opinions or prejudices). Consequently we are binding and loosing the Father’s will.

**MATTHEW 6:1**

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- G. The church must be careful not to live and operate disconnected from Jesus like the rest of sinful humanity. Jesus is building his body of believers who would partner with him in establishing God's rulership.

**COLOSSIANS 1:9-23**

- H. According to Matthew 16:13-20, the church—"assembly"—is built on the revelation of Jesus' will and truth (v. 18) which has already been decided in the heavenly realms (v.19).
- We are simply releasing what he has decided. The technical translation from Greek reads, *"whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven."*

## **SUMMARY**

The church of Jesus Christ is to gather and call upon his name. When Jesus shows up, the church discerns what he desires and what his will is. Then as a community we can pray, declare, act, and enforce the will of Jesus in our community and outward to the nations of the earth.