



# DON'T COME TO CHURCH IF...\*

## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 October 5, 2025

“...Revival is Impossible”

### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather today, we give thanks for your abiding grace that goes before and ahead of us. You know us completely; all the sin we try to hide from others you plainly see. Still, you seek us and wish to restore us. We marvel at your love and compassion for your creation. Aid us in our study of how you restore, revive, and call us to new life in Christ. Help us as we witness to friends, family, and neighbors through all we do and say. We lift all this up in the matchless name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Psalm 85:4-7 (NRSVUE)

<sup>4</sup> “Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.

<sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.”

#### Lamentations 3:22-23 (NRSVUE)

<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

#### Romans 6:1-4 (NRSVUE)

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase?

<sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

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## INTRODUCTION

In our current sinful state, a person's gut reaction to being wronged or offended is not always gracious. We can judge, ridicule or counter-harm the person that just harmed us or a loved one. Yet the Scriptures, from cover to cover, echo a message about changing our ways to be in line with the Lord. The Lord chooses to extend us grace and love. As we more closely examine the experience of restoration, second chances, and new life in Jesus, may the Holy Spirit lead you to both a reexamination of your own faith journey and opportunities to extend grace to others. Amen?

## QUESTIONS

1. In Psalm 85:4-7 (on page 1), the Psalmist is crying out to the Lord. Amid the current trouble that is being experienced, the Psalmist asks “will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?” (v.6). When in trouble, how do you remind yourself that God has aided you in the past? How does such hope change your experience?
2. Serving as the inspiration for the great hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (UMH#140), the third chapter of Lamentations takes on slightly different tone. Still mindful of sin, yet hopeful in God's faithfulness to restore and forgive. Have you had a deeply dark moment in your life where God's assistant pulled you out of it? If so, how did that experience change your life thereafter?
3. In your experience, you may have encountered the lesson to not “abuse someone who has to forgive you.” Such a lesson focuses on being genuine in apologizing and seeking to not repeat the offense, but, rather, learn from it. Paul's opening line in Romans 6 speaks to this. When you sin, what is your approach to learning from it?
4. In all our readings today, the authors speak to our common experience of knowing that sin harms ourselves and God's intention for our lives. When you read and/or hear “newness of life” in Christ what comes to mind? In what ways to you live out this new life to the glory of God?

## FINAL APPLICATION

A key aspect of the message of Christ is repenting, changing our lives, and living the Gospel. No small task; yet supremely life changing. Thanks to Jesus, each of us is offered a second chance. While we may still struggle with particular sins, we can offer and receive grace, love our neighbors as ourselves, and seek to be at peace with one another. Which aspect most spoke to you from this study? This week, how can you either celebrate this reality more or work on it so it shines through every aspect of your life?