

Revival

Life Group Leaders Guide

Objective

This guide contains the information and questions you will need to lead a life group study during our current sermon series. Our aim is to spark Spirit-led, Bible-centered conversations that anyone can participate in regardless of how biblically literate they may or may not be. **The win** that we want you to experience is when your group members **connect** more closely with each other and with God so that they are encouraged to move forward in living out their faith.

Directions

The *Purpose* and *Move* sections are for the leader to read to the group to provide clarity. **Do not feel pressured to cover all the questions.** Decide which ones may work best for your group. You will see brief notes interspersed between groups of questions to help give the group context for their answers. The *Notes and Commentary* section (when included) is optional reading for the leader to get background information and better understanding of the passages before leading the discussion.

Series Overview

In our Revival series we will study the principles of spiritual revival with the goal of rallying the people of our church to commit to seeking God first together! The sermons will be based on the revival we read about in 2 Chronicles 15 (Asa's Revival). Our Life Groups will simultaneously study a complementary book by Kyle Idleman called *Gods at War*, which exposes the idols in our lives that we must lay down to seek God first. Make sure that everyone has a book.

Revival Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic of sermon	Topic of life group
1	Oct. 14	Vision Sunday	gods at War
2	Oct. 21	Idol Tear Down	gods of Pleasure
3	Oct. 28	First and Best	gods of Money
4	Nov. 4	Covenant People	god of Me
5	Nov. 11	Commitment Day	(No study - Socials)

The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

Revival

The Big Idea

Revival comes when we find the ultimate pleasure in God.

Flow of Study

Icebreaker: When you think back to your teens, where did you typically turn for comfort?

Watch *gods at War* video - [Session 2: gods of Pleasure](#) (clickable link)

Move #1: Let's talk about the video, which is based on part two of the book *gods at War*.

1. What about the video or the chapters we read resonated with you? What thoughts or feelings arose?

Move #2: Next let's dig into a couple of relevant passages of Scripture about this topic of pleasure.

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (NIV)

1 I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. 2 "Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?" 3 I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. 6 I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. 8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. 9 I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
I refused my heart no pleasure.

My heart took delight in all my labor,
and this was the reward for all my toil.

11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done
and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under the sun.

Note: The writer of Ecclesiastes, likely King Solomon, experimented with the false god of Pleasure.

2. In verses 1-3, he describes how he turned to pleasure to cheer or comfort himself in the struggle of life. In what ways can you relate?
3. In your perspective, is cheer or comfort a legitimate need? Why?
4. Solomon asks, "What does pleasure accomplish?" (verse 2). It's a rhetorical question, but how would you answer it and why?
5. To the Hebrew understanding, "embracing folly" (verse 3) often has the connotation of immoral or sinful behavior. What makes doing some of these things so attractive or compulsive to us?
6. When does something that delights our hearts (verse 8) cross the line and become an idol?
7. Solomon had mega power and wealth and was able to indulge himself in the world's most intoxicating pleasures, yet his life felt empty and meaningless (verse 11). Why do you think that is? In what ways can you relate?
8. Have you ever tried to break the need for some pleasure in your own life? What was that like and how did it turn out?

Read Psalm 37:1-4 NIV

1 Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;
2 for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.
3 Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

9. How have you personally experienced delight, comfort or pleasure in your relationship with God?
10. How does delighting in the Lord alter the things you most desire?

Next Step:

- Read Part 3 - Temple of Power (Chapters 8-10) in *gods at War* before next week's Life Group!

Prayer: End your study with a time of praying with and for each other. Take requests, but be sure to pray also about what you've discussed today.