Study Guide & Discussion Questions

Chapter One: "If"

1. If - This two-letter word exemplifies the concept that dynamite comes in small packages. Would you agree, and if so, explain.

Jesus packed a powerful "If" punch in this verse: Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory **if** you believe? ~ John 11:40

2. "If" became a major bargaining chip in Genesis 18:22-33. Talk about the plea from Abraham, and how the "If" prompted the actions of a loving God.

In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction. ~ Romans 9:22

3. The word "If" is a choice:

It is a prompter for results – good or bad.

It represents a tipping point toward consequences or fulfillment.

How is this possible? When have you experienced the choice of an "If" in your life? Give a personal example of consequences that you faced by ignoring or defying the "If".

4. The most sincere and transformative "If" happened in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Who modeled submission over desire to us? (Luke 22:42)

How does this prayer give us permission to seek God for relief?

5. God's Word is filled with "If you will....then I will..." statements. His promises can seemingly feel conditional. If God's love is unconditional, explain the parameters He sets by using this conditional blessing.

Chapter Two: "My People"

- 1. Who are "My people"? ("My people" refers to those who confess Jesus is Lord and who because of God's grace, are in right standing before God.) Are you one of His people?
- 2. How will the world know that we are His people? Look at John 13:35 to see a most powerful way!
- 3. If you bear the name of someone (your last name), you were born with it, or you acquired it through marriage or adoption. It is most important to uphold the reputation of that name! What are some responsibilities that we have as God's people?
- 4. I Peter 2:9 10 tells us of the great position and the privileges that are ours if we carry the great name of our God! Read this passage and discuss the weight of our name if we are in Jesus Christ. Thank our God for choosing us to be His own!
- 5. How does each one of us have the right to be a child of God? (John 1:12)

notes:

Chapter 3: "Who Are Called"

- 1. God spoke to Samuel and made His message very clear to him. Has there been a time in your life when you have heard the "voice of God" speaking to you clearly? Did you listen? How did you react? In fear? In obedience? In disbelief?
- 2. God calls us to be His followers. He wants action from us what does He call us to do? (Matthew 28:19-20)
- 3. Romans 11:29 tells us that the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable. What does that mean for you?
- 4. God needs nothing from us, yet He wants everything from us heart, mind, soul, and strength. (Mark 12:30) Revival begins with the people that He has called being fully surrendered to Him. Tell us about a time that you have seen the power of revival begin through one who is called.
- 5. How is God calling you to be part of His revival in our nation? In your community? In your home? In your heart?

notes:

Chapter 4: "By My Name"

- 1. From early on, names are important! Famous names come and go, but one day every knee will bow to one name! Read Philippians 2:9-10 and read about the one who bears the name that is above all names. What do these verses remind us will occur one day?
- 2. Jesus turns the world's measure of greatness upside down. In Mark 9:35, Jesus told His followers how to be the greatest. He gave us the model for leadership. What does this model look like?
- 3. God takes His name very seriously. In Exodus 20:7, He tells us that there will be consequences if we misuse the name of the Lord. God's name is reserved for our eternal reverence, not our earthly rage. Describe a time when you or someone has chosen to misuse, degrade, or undermine the name of the Lord God.
- 4. God's name is above all names His name is the greatest! He rules over all nature and everything that He created. He was here before the foundations of the earth were laid. His name is holy. He is the great "I AM". Discuss some of the names of God and how they convey His attributes.

- Ponder the greatness of His name and describe the emotions that are evoked in you.

5. How can you honor the name of God & Jesus in a practical way? Are you doing that intentionally each day?

notes:

Chapter 5: "Will Humble Themselves"

- 1. Our actions can speak that we are our own "god". How are these actions seen in the world around us?
- 2. How does one walk in humility before the God of the universe? Paul reminds us of the ultimate model of humility. Read about true humility in Philippians 2:5 8. Commit to make this attitude a mindset!
- 3. The apostle Paul tells the people of Corinth the way to humility. (I Corinthians 15:31) What is the key element required in humbling yourself before God? What does it mean to "die daily"?
- 4. Jesus gave us the greatest example of humility in one of His final encounters with His disciples. Read John 13:12-17 and describe what Christ did in humility before the ones He loved so much.
- 5. The world tells us that life is about us. Climb the ladder of success, accumulate the most stuff, and be the most beautiful. Jesus tells us to stop chasing the things of this world, to take the focus off ourselves, and place it on God. What are the two things that He tells us to pursue? (Matthew 6:33)

Chapter 6: "And Pray"

- 1. When was the last time that you told someone you would pray for them? Did you do it with fervency, consistency, and passion? God wants us to pray like we mean it!
- 2. Prayer is a measure and a natural result of true humility. When we pray, we recognize that there is a sovereign God (and it is not us), and that we are completely dependent upon Him. What are some things in your life that cause you to forget these things?
- 3. Prayer is talking to God communicating with the One who made us and knows every detail about us, and every need that we have. Why does God want to communicate with us through prayer?
- 4. Jesus gives a model for prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. But before He gives us this important model, Jesus gave an ad monition that taught authenticity when we pray. What specific things did he tell us to do or not to do when we pray? (Matthew 6:7)
- 5. God's Word consistently commands us to pray. Jesus focused on the fundamentals of prayer, rather than a casual approach that would have diluted the measured and intentional importance of communicating with our Creator. What are three fundamentals that we should implement in our prayer life? (See page 76.)

notes:

Chapter 7: "And Seek My Face"

- 1. It's time! "It is time to seek the Lord." ~ Hosea 10:12
 - What are you doing with your time?
 - What is keeping you from taking time to seek the Lord?
 - Are you spending time alone with God to look into His eyes, His heart, and His desires for you and for our country?
 - What does it mean to truly seek His face?
- 2. Typically we seek God's face when we are out of all other options, when we are at the end of ourselves, when something important is at stake, or when an urgent situation is looming and nothing else will do. Describe a time that this was you.
- 3. Seeking God's face is about setting our hearts on Him. Seeking His face is focusing on God's Word, His ways, and His purpose. When focus is lost by distraction or complacency, there is turmoil in our lives. Look at II Chronicles 12:14 and talk about what happened when King Rehoboam did not set his heart to seek the Lord.
- 4. David knew his own frailty and understood his desperate need for God. What was the one focus of David's heart? (Psalm 27:4). Will you make this the prayer of your heart right now?

5. God is not playing games with you. He is not playing hide and seek. The more we seek Him, the more He will be found! What is the only condition to finding Him according to Jeremiah 29:13?

God wants a wholehearted cry, not a halfhearted whimper! We must earnestly seek His face!

"His purpose was the for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him - though He is not far from anyone of us." ~ Acts 17:27 NLT

What would it look like today to "feel our way toward Him"?

notes:

Chapter 8: "And Turn From Their Wicked Ways"

- 1. No one is exempt from sin. The world tells us that we are good people. God tells us that we are sinners! If we believe we are without sin, we are deceiving ourselves. (I John 1:8-10) What is the natural condition of our hearts according to Jeremiah 17:9?
- 2. God loves us because He loves us, and there is nothing we can do to make Him love us more, or less. But He is a God who hates sin. (Psalm 45:6) All of us are sinners saved by grace through the work of Jesus on the cross, who was raised from the dead to finish God's work of redemption! We can never measure up that's why we need a Savior! When was the last time you came to God with a heart that was weighed down by sin in your life?

What will God do when you come to Him with a truly repentant heart? (I John 1:9)

- 3. When we turn FROM something, we turn TO something else! Describe a time in your own life that you turned away from sin and turned your face toward the only true God.
- 4. Revival can only come as we encounter and embrace the transforming God! Have you gone in for the bear hug, or are you still giving awkward handshakes or side hugs to the God who loves you and wants your full embrace? What would it look like to fully embrace God in your life?
- 5. God is love, but God is just. He will not tolerate sin. We cannot clean ourselves up, but we can turn away from our wicked ways. God does the cleansing through His forgiveness and grace. We must recognize, repent, and address the sin in our lives in order to experience revival. What sin (big or small) is God asking you to lay at His feet?

Chapter 9: "Then I Will Hear From Heaven"

- 1. "If" sets prerequisites and "then" activates the promises of God and brings the desired revival. "If" I see the authenticity of your heart, "then" I will hear your prayer this is a pivotal point of II Chronicles 7:14. Let's review the prerequisites what are the "ifs"?
- 2. God hears us! He hears our deepest cries and our heartfelt desires. Read these verses that confirm that He will hear! Psalm 34:15, Proverbs 15:29, Jeremiah 33:3, I John 5:14. Which verse speaks most to you?
- 3. God will hear prayers that are made on behalf of others. What does I Timothy 2:1-4 tell us about God's heart when He hears our prayers for all people? For rulers?
- 4. God reminds us of His whereabouts He is in heaven! This is a reminder that He is over all and above all. He is seated on His throne, high and lifted up! Read Isaiah 6:1-3 and consider and describe the glory of God and His position as the Most High God over heaven and earth.
- 5. Luke 11:9-13 is a passage that offers such great promise and hope. God is a faithful Father and He will hear us as a Father who wants to give good things to His children. What is He asking us, as his children, to do so that He can answer us?

notes:

Chapter 10: "And Forgive Their Sins"

- 1. What is the "WOW" factor that becomes the transition to full restoration with God? Don't forget what a big deal this is it's rare, it's special and when it's realized, it's celebrated!
- 2. Read John 8:2 11 What are three practical points that "wow" you from this passage?
- 3. Forgiveness is in God's character. It is the very reason that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. It is the very way that He could justify us and make us whole again. It is the very way that He shows His unfailing love and His unending mercy to us. The familiar words of John 3:16 describe the completeness we have through the forgiveness of God. Speak these words aloud by memory, and share a new truth that came to you as you heard or spoke these words today.
- 4. Do you believe that forgiveness for us as a people and as a nation is within reach? Tell us how you really feel.
- 5. A poignant picture of God's love and forgiveness is found in Luke 15:11 32. Skim through the story silently on your own, and then share something profound about the father's forgiveness, and correlate it to our Father's amazing grace!

Chapter 11: "And Heal Their Land"

- 1. Healing often comes as we push through pain and hardship. Healing can be a very slow process. Healing comes only through the trademark of God's promise to heal. What is that trademark by which we are healed? (See page 123).
- 2. Fifty years ago, Americans had a dream to see the glory of the Lord revealed together as one flesh. (Martin Luther King Jr. "I Have a Dream" speech) We, God's people must have a dream for a healed land. We must believe that God can do the impossible. What is your dream for your home? Your city? Your country?
- 3. We must take the focus off ourselves and place it on God alone. Often our focus is on the desired end. We must refocus on the priorities that God tells us to start with in Matthew 6:33. What are the two focal points that will cause everything else to fall in line?
- 4. Our country, our values, our morals, and God's righteousness are under attack. Many are in near total denial of the shift from God to government and to ourselves. Similar to the tragic attack on 9/11, how can we respond as a people?

Jesus is the only answer – nothing else will do! How can we bring our world the only solution? What will you commit to do?

5. The sum of leadership is "cause above self". We need people who will lead! We need people who will believe and know that HE IS GOD! What will it take for God to heal our land? Is it possible? Will you pray for revival at 7:14am and 7:14pm every day?

notes:

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ~ 2 Chronicles 7:14

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