

Riverview Baptist Church
Sunday School Teaching Plan
August 30, 2015
“Preparing for Revival”

Memory Verse

“But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to come.” John 16:13 NIV

The Big Idea

Sermon Scripture: Mark Yoho and Wesley Hunt will be our guest revival preachers this week. Revival is more than a series of meetings or services. True revival requires your participation.

Sunday School Scripture: Various Scriptures Used. See lesson.

Sunday School Title: *Preparing for Revival*

ESS: We can prepare for revival by confessing sin, dealing with the “doubtful” things in our lives, obeying the Spirit, and sharing Christ with others.

Presentation

- What comes to mind when we use the word revival?
- What IS revival?

This week we will begin our church wide revival. What IS revival? According to well-known preacher and writer Charles Spurgeon, “the word “revives” may be interpreted thus—to live again, to receive again a life which has almost expired; to rekindle into a flame the vital spark which was nearly extinguished. To be revived is a blessing which can only be enjoyed by those who have some degree of life. There must be vitality in some degree before there can be a quickening of vitality, or, in other words, a revival.”

A Quick History Lesson:

There are many great revivals that have taken place in history, but perhaps one of the most well-known revivals in history took place in Wales in 1904. Of all the names that are linked with the 1904 Revival, Evan Roberts is the most well-known. At 26 years of age in the Autumn of 1904, he was to become an instant spiritual celebrity in Wales as the local and national newspapers of the day chronicled the spreading Religious Revival.

His celebrity status was highlighted by the fact that he was a precious ‘unknown’. He wasn’t even a fully licensed preacher in 1904 – he was merely a trainee attending a grammar school to prepare him for the ministry course. He had left school when only 11 years and nine months old to help his father in the local coal mine. Having worked in coalmining for 12 years, he then became an apprentice to a blacksmith for over a year. He left that calling when he felt a greater call to reach people for Christ. The only avenue that seemed available to him at the time was the Presbyterian Ministry and it was whilst he was in pursuit of this that God radically changed his plans.

Evan Roberts had been a committed Christian from his early teenage years. He had not lived a profligate life – he was a tea-totaler committed to abstinence, a regular attendee and contributor to the ongoing life of his local church. He was a well-respected Sunday School teacher – someone who prayed publicly in the prayer meeting and rarely missed the other mid-week meetings. Friends of his at the time remember him as a committed

Christian in word and deed. His private spiritual life also matched his public profession, private prayer and bible study. These were essential components of his spirituality from an early age. But it was in the spring of 1904 that Evan was to experience an even greater feeling of God's presence. One night he was woken from his sleep and led into a deep communion with God for hours. This experience was to continue every evening for the next few months until he went away to the school at Newcastle Emlyn.

This change of scenery had an immediate cooling effect on his spiritual fervor but it wasn't to last long. Two weeks after arriving at the school, Evan attended a Convention at nearby Blaenauferch and it was here that he received what he termed as a fresh 'Baptism of the Spirit' as he responded to the prayer 'Bend me oh Lord'. This empowering of the Spirit transformed the young student into a Revivalist with a message for Wales.

Within a month he felt compelled to share this message of the reality of God and the possibility of complete forgiveness of sins with his home youth group at Moriah Loughor.

Summing up the message in 4 parts, Evan pressed it home to the astonished church

1. Confess all known sin
2. Deal with and get rid of anything 'doubtful' in your life
3. Be ready to obey the Holy Spirit instantly
4. Confess Christ publicly

By the end of the last week over 60 responded. By the end of the second week Evan had already started on a whirlwind tour of the South Wales valleys with his team of 5 girl singers and within a year or so 100,000 converts were said to be added to the Welsh Church

What was the secret of this young man's powerful ministry? I'm sure that there may be many answers including his upbringing, his bible reading, his prayer life etc. Perhaps a concise way of answering the question would be that he was willing to bow to God's Sovereign purpose for his life. This did include being a teacher of a great Revival but firstly it meant being willing to let God have this Divine way in Evan's own life. This involved a struggle between Evan's way and God's and as at Gethsemane it meant a conscious choice of "not my will but Thy will be done". (from www.welshrevival.com)

Today, we are going to use Evan Robert's 4 sermon points to learn how to prepare our hearts for revival.

1. Confess All Known Sin

Read 1 John 1:8-9 and Proverbs 28:13

If we truly desire revival, we must first be serious about our sin problem and realize that our sins separate us from God, hindering our relationship with him. These Scriptures tell us to confess our sin. The word *confess* literally means "to say the same thing about." So when we *confess* our sins, we are saying the same thing about sin that God says. Confessing is agreeing with God that we have sinned, that this separates us from Him, and that we desperately need His forgiveness. Without a humble attitude of confession, we will fail to see the need for revival.

APPLY: Take time right now to write down 1 unconfessed sin in your life.

2. Deal with and get rid of anything "doubtful" in your life.

Read John 15:1-2.

I had a pastor once tell me, “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.” We are busy people, and it’s easy to let our many obligations distract us from “the main thing.” In John 15:1-2, our relationship with Christ is pictured as a vine with branches. Christ is the vine, we are the branches, and God is the gardener. In order to keep us healthy, God prunes our branches. He cuts back the things in our lives that are extra, unneeded, or distracting. Sometimes pruning is uncomfortable, but ultimately the pruning process makes the plant (and us!) healthier and more fruitful. Are there areas of your life that need pruning? Are there activities, commitments, relationships, or obligations that need to be eliminated in order for you to have a healthier relationship with Christ? Sometimes we have to surrender to God, allowing him to prune away some *good* things in order for us to receive His BEST!

APPLY: Right now, write down 2 things God may want to prune out of your life in order to make your relationship with Him healthier.

3. Be ready to obey the Holy Spirit instantly.

Read Galatians 5:22-25 and John 14:21, 16:13-15.

As Christians, we are to live by the Spirit’s guidance. We know we are living in step with the Spirit if we are obeying Christ’s commands and have evidence of the fruit of the spirit in our lives. The opposite of following the Spirit’s guidance is following our own flesh. Which do you follow day to day, the spirit or your flesh? Is your lifestyle obedient to Christ’s commands? Henry Blackaby writes, “You cannot continue life as usual or stay where you are and go with God at the same time.” Are you prepared to make adjustments and obey when the Holy Spirit reveals truth to you?

APPLY: Look at the list of fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-25. Which of these do you want the Spirit to help you develop and display more of in your life?

4. Confess Christ publically

Read Luke 12:8-9 and 2 Corinthians 5:14 & 20

We study often about the importance of sharing the gospel with others. One result of revival in the lives of Christians should be a renewed passion for sharing Christ’s love. Once we rearrange our priorities and fan our faith back into flame, we become consumed with the love of Christ and sharing is the natural result. The love of Christ compels us to share! Our baptism is our first and easiest form of confessing Jesus and sharing our faith with others.

APPLY: Are you saved and have you been baptized to tell others that you are? If not why not? Make a commitment this morning to speak to the pastor about being baptized.

IF you are saved and baptized, write down the names of at least 2 people with whom you want to share the gospel. Commit to invite those two people to service tonight and this week. Commit to be here with them praying for their salvation.

Apply:

For each point above, make these things a matter of prayer this week. Confess and ask forgiveness for the sins you listed. Ask God to prune your life so that you can keep the main thing the main thing. Read God’s Word and be sensitive to His Spirit’s leading so that you may develop more spiritual fruit. And finally, pray for the unbelievers you listed. Watch for an opportunity to share with them this week.