

JESUS



REVOLUTION BIBLE STUDY

How God Can Transform a Generation

Greg Laurie

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Greg Laurie is the senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship with campuses in California and Hawaii. He began his pastoral ministry at the age of 19 by leading a Bible study of 30 people. Since then, God has transformed that small group into a church of some 15,000 people, one of the largest in America.

In 1990, Laurie began holding large-scale public evangelistic events called Harvest Crusades. Since that time, more than 7.9 million people have participated in Harvest Crusades events in person or online. Laurie is the featured speaker of the nationally syndicated radio program *A New Beginning*. He also has a weekly television program on the Trinity Broadcasting Network and is the author of numerous books including *Johnny Cash: The Redemption of an American Icon*, *Steve McQueen: The Salvation of an American Icon*, *Live Love Fight*, *Tell Someone*, *The New Believer's Bible*, *Hope for Hurting Hearts*, and his autobiography, *Lost Boy*.

Greg has been married to Cathe Laurie for more than 40 years and they have two sons and five grandchildren.

THE JESUS REVOLUTION



God has always been interested in turning unlikely people into His fervent followers. Prostitutes and pagans, tax collectors, and tricksters. The more unlikely, the more it seems to please God and to demonstrate His power, might, and mercy. America in the 1960s and 1970s was full of unlikely people—men and women who had rejected the religion of their parents' generation, who didn't follow the rules, didn't fit in. The perfect setting for the greatest spiritual awakening of the 20th century. The Jesus Movement truly was an extraordinary time of mass revival, renewal, and reconciliation.

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM THIS STUDY

This Bible study book includes six weeks of content for group and personal study.

GROUP SESSIONS

Regardless of what day of the week your group meets, each week of content begins with the group session. Each group session uses the following format to facilitate meaningful interaction among group members, with God's Word, and with the teaching of Pastor Greg.

START. This page includes questions to get the conversation started and to introduce the video teaching.

WATCH. This page includes key points from Pastor Greg's teaching, along with blanks for taking notes as participants watch the video.

DISCUSS. This page includes questions and statements that guide the group to respond to Pastor Greg's video teaching and to relevant Bible passages.

WRAP UP. This page leads you to apply the teaching and principles from Pastor Greg's teaching to your life.

THIS WEEK. This page prepares you for the week ahead.

PERSONAL STUDY

Each week provides five days of Bible study and learning activities for individual engagement between group sessions. These personal studies revisit stories, Scriptures, and themes introduced in the videos in order to understand and apply them on a personal level.

TIPS FOR LEADING A SMALL GROUP

Follow these guidelines to prepare for each group session.

PRAYERFULLY PREPARE

REVIEW. Review the weekly material and group questions ahead of time.

PRAY. Be intentional about praying for each person in the group.

Ask the Holy Spirit to work through you and the group discussion as you point to Jesus each week through God's Word.

MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS

Create a comfortable environment. If group members are uncomfortable, they'll be distracted and therefore not engaged in the group experience. Plan ahead by considering these details:

SEATING

TEMPERATURE

LIGHTING

FOOD & DRINK

SURROUNDING NOISE

GENERAL CLEANLINESS

At best, thoughtfulness and hospitality show guests and group members they're welcome and valued in whatever environment you choose to gather. At worst, people may never notice your effort, but they're also not distracted. Do everything in your ability to help people focus on what's most important: connecting with God, with the Bible, and with one another.

INCLUDE OTHERS

Your goal is to foster a community in which people are welcome just as they are but encouraged to grow spiritually. Always be aware of opportunities to include any people who visit the group and to invite new people to join your group.

ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION

A good small-group experience has the following characteristics.

EVERYONE PARTICIPATES. Encourage everyone to ask questions, share responses, or read aloud.

NO ONE DOMINATES—NOT EVEN THE LEADER. Be sure that your time speaking as a leader takes up less than half of your time together as a group. Politely guide discussion if anyone dominates.

NOBODY IS RUSHED THROUGH QUESTIONS. Don't feel that a moment of silence is a bad thing. People often need time to think about their responses to questions they've just heard or to gain courage to share what God is stirring in their hearts.

INPUT IS AFFIRMED AND FOLLOWED UP. Make sure you point out something true or helpful in a response. Don't just move on. Build community with follow-up questions, asking how other people have experienced similar things or how a truth has shaped their understanding of God and the Scripture you're studying. People are less likely to speak up if they fear that you don't actually want to hear their answers or that you're looking for only a certain answer.

GOD AND HIS WORD ARE CENTRAL. Opinions and experiences can be helpful, but God has given us the truth. Trust God's Word to be the authority and God's Spirit to work in people's lives. You can't change anyone, but God can. Continually point people to the Word and to active steps of faith.

KEEP CONNECTING

Think of ways to connect with group members during the week.

Participation during the group session is always improved when members spend time connecting with one another outside the group sessions. The more people are comfortable with and involved in one another's lives, the more they'll look forward to being together. When people move beyond being friendly to truly being friends who form a community, they come to each session eager to engage instead of merely attending.

Encourage group members with thoughts, commitments, or questions from the session by connecting through these communication channels:

EMAILS TEXTS SOCIAL MEDIA

When possible, build deeper friendships by planning or spontaneously inviting group members to join you outside your regularly scheduled group time for activities like these:

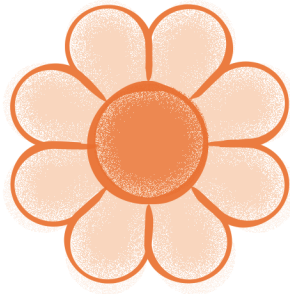
MEALS FUN ACTIVITIES

PROJECTS AROUND YOUR HOME,
CHURCH, OR COMMUNITY



Week 1

**YOU SAY YOU WANT
A REVOLUTION?**



START

*Begin with a quick question to introduce the theme.
Answers can be funny or serious.*

**What is a recent challenge you've experienced?
What happened, and how did your life change as a result?**

**When have you done something that radically changed
your life? Why did you do it? What was the result?**

Over the next six weeks, we'll see how God can move in our lives individually and in our culture at large. This first video will be a teaching on revival in general, what Greg experienced specifically during the Jesus Revolution, and how it could happen again today.

*Pray that the Lord would give us eyes to see and ears to hear
what He's saying to us in this moment.*



Use the space below to take notes as you watch the video for week 1.





DISCUSS

Pastor Greg ended by saying that if you want to see revival, start doing revival-like things. What does that mean?

What were some of the revival-like things mentioned in the video?

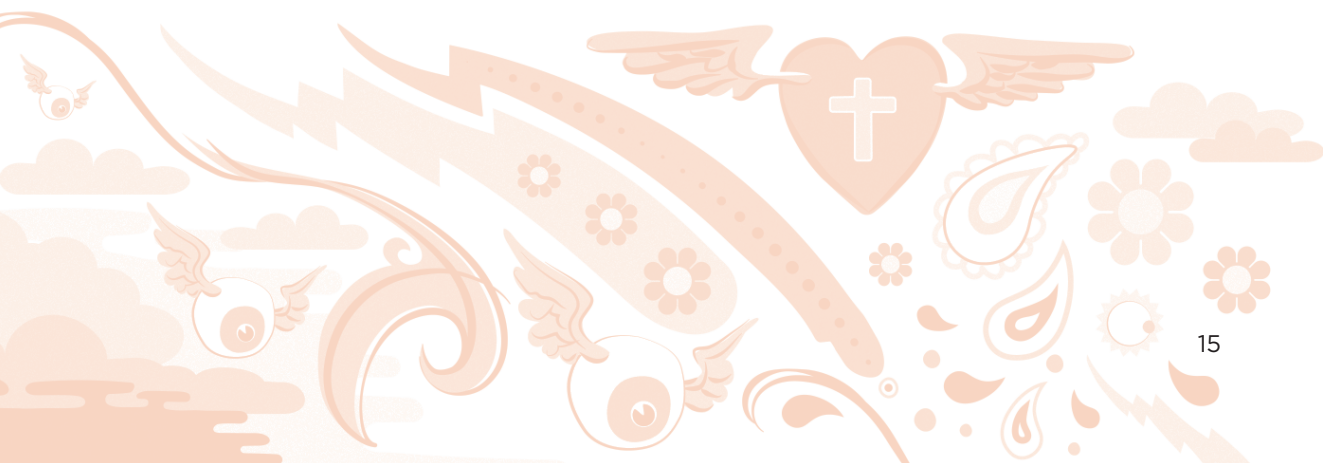
Of those revival-like things, which one comes most naturally? Which would take the most intentionality?

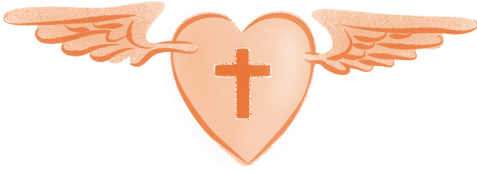
How is an awakening like a revival? Why is that a helpful distinction?

How does 2 Chronicles 7:14 help us understand revival?

How would you explain to someone who isn't in this group the significance of each distinctive from the Jesus Movement? Why is each one important to personal and church revival today?

1. Sense of Expectancy ("anointed listening")
2. The Bible was always taught.
3. People participated in worship.
4. People brought nonbelievers to church and invitations were extended.
5. Belief in the imminent return of Jesus
6. Work of the Holy Spirit





WRAP UP

Use these questions to wrap up your time together.

What does Deuteronomy 30:19 have to do with revival today?

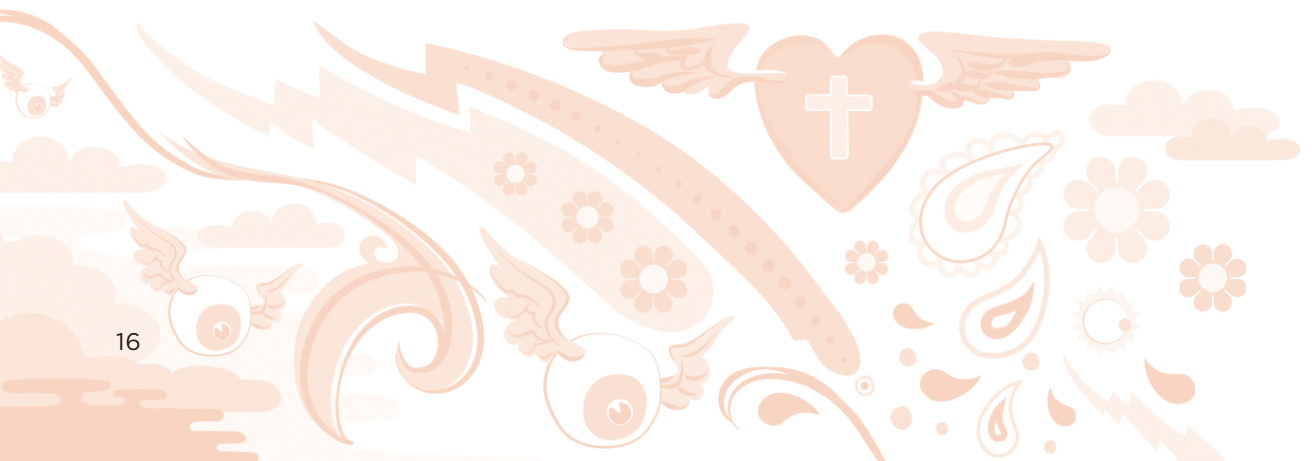
What choice are you facing right now that could lead to personal revival and influence for Jesus?

Read Habakkuk 3:2.

What awesome things have you heard about the Lord doing in the Bible? In other people's lives?

What specifically would you want God to do in this generation?

Pray for God to "revive your work in these years," pouring out mercy in your lives individually, as a group, as a church, in order to bring awakening to the culture.





THIS WEEK

In 1968, the Beatles sang about how we all want to change the world. But in John Lennon's opinion, the people who said they wanted a revolution were going about it the wrong way—their actions and attitudes didn't line up with the values and goals of their own movement. For example, public protests were turning violent in the name of peace.

It's worth asking yourself the same question: Are you going about things the right way? Does your life match what you value? Awakening and revival sound great, but do you honestly want God to change the world? If so, are you ready to join His movement? He's done it before. He can do it again.

Don't worry, this won't be a guilt trip—it's a road map. You'll see where personal revolution begins and where it leads. In the following weeks, you'll begin to see what the Bible teaches about spiritual change and personal revolution. But here's the key—change is all about your relationship with Jesus.

This week, you'll read and reflect on what the Bible says about life. The next time you meet with your group, be prepared to share something that you learned or experienced during one of the following days:

DAY 1

Jesus and Treasure

DAY 2

Chasing the Wind

DAY 3

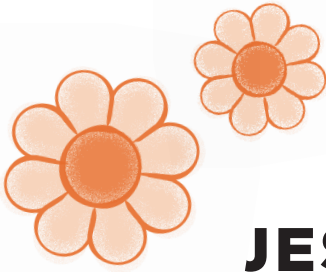
The Last Place Anyone Expects

DAY 4

Where is Your Hope?

DAY 5

Personal Reflection



Day 1

JESUS AND TREASURE

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.

MATTHEW 13:44

Can you imagine finding a buried treasure like the one Jesus described? Countless stories have been written about the adventures people experience in their pursuit of treasure. Jesus used this parable to describe the joy that comes from understanding He is King.

In the verse above, circle the word describing the man's emotions.

Out of context, the man's behavior would seem irrational or foolish, but here it's obvious, joyful, and wise.

What does the man's emotion reveal about the treasure's value?

A few chapters later (see Matthew 19:16-22) Jesus meets a man who asks Him about the cost of being a disciple, except this man does not greet Jesus' invitation with joy.

At the end of this short conversation, what invitation does Jesus offer the man?

What connection is Jesus making between eternal life, treasure in heaven, and following Him?

Jesus wasn't saying that a person had to sell everything that they owned in order to gain eternal life. Throughout Scripture, people from across the income spectrum follow God—from helplessly poor (like widows) to immeasurably rich (like kings). Jesus challenged this particular man because He knew the man's possessions were keeping him from fully trusting God.

Did you notice the pride in the man's response to Jesus? The rich young man was laser-focused on—or distracted by—his own achievements. Jesus pointed the young ruler back to the Father. God desires more than your religious activity. He wants a relationship with you.

Religion is focused on earning an eternal reward through work. A relationship with God is about accepting eternal life as a gift—a treasure to be enjoyed. In Matthew 13, the man considered the kingdom of heaven as a greater treasure than anything he had. In Matthew 19, the man sulked away because he valued earthly things over heaven.

**What earthly pleasures keep you from following
Jesus completely and joyfully?**

The world doesn't need more self-righteous or "religious" people. It doesn't need anyone to make following Jesus seem more relevant or accessible. The world needs people who are full of a joy and freedom that can only be explained by the incomparable treasure found in Jesus. When people love Jesus with that kind of passion, their lives, families, jobs, schools, churches, and communities will be radically changed—now and for eternity.

**Reflect on Jesus' revolutionary words in Matthew 6:19–34.
Pray that you would trust in the goodness of God and seek
His kingdom as your heart's greatest treasure.**





Day 2

CHASING THE WIND

I have seen all the things that are done under the sun and have found everything to be futile, a pursuit of the wind.

ECCLESIASTES 1:14

The Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes has an unfortunate reputation of being “depressing.” At first glance, it’s easy to see why—just look at the verse above. Why would such a seemingly hopeless and negative commentary on life be included in the Bible?

Summarize Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 in a sentence or two.

The key to unlocking the wealth of knowledge hidden in the pages of Ecclesiastes is a simple phrase: under the sun. Those three words focus the reader’s attention on the author’s true message. Suddenly, the entire book can be seen clearly in light of the intentionally limited perspective—like a riddle that feels so obvious after learning the answer.

What does “under the sun” mean? How does this phrase change your perspective on the Teacher’s message?

Though the author is only identified as the Teacher, most people believe that King Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes. Solomon was the wisest, wealthiest, most powerful, and most successful man who ever lived. The rich young ruler Jesus met in yesterday’s reading would pale in comparison to Solomon’s greatness in every way. Unlike the rich young ruler, however, Solomon was not saddened by the thought of giving up his earthly things. Rather, he had accomplished, acquired, and experienced everything imaginable and found none of it to be satisfying or of true worth.

What are some of the things in this world that people treasure, value, or live for—believing that those things will give life meaning or significance?

Chances are that your list proves Solomon's point: there is nothing new under the sun. Since the beginning of time, no matter how advanced we think we're becoming, people keep repeating the same futile mistakes. We put "good" things on the throne of our hearts, living for treasures under the sun, rather than treasures in heaven and with God on the throne.

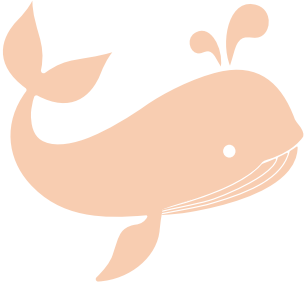
Check the boxes below for things you're prone to elevate from "good" to "God." Then read the related verses for the Teacher's sobering conclusions.

- Wisdom and education (1:12-18)**
- Pleasure and experience (2:1-3 and 8-11)**
- Possessions and achievements (2:4-11)**
- Work and skill (2:18-26)**
- Power and justice (3:16-4:3)**
- Wealth and legacy (4:4-6:7)**

When your hope and faith are in Jesus, the truth of Ecclesiastes is liberating not depressing. Like the man who eagerly sold everything to enjoy buried treasure, we know that the world is full of things that are good, but they're not God.

To end, read and reflect on the Teacher's final conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12:9-14. Pray that God would give you an eternal perspective rather than a heart set on everything under the sun.





Day 3

THE LAST PLACE ANYONE EXPECTS

"Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it because their evil has come up before me."

JONAH 1:2

Chances are good that you're familiar with the story of Jonah. Most people could describe a Disney-like scene similar to Pinocchio in the belly of a whale. But rather than focusing on the reluctant prophet's time underwater, you'll journey through the whole story today. Don't worry, it's really good (and really short). As you read Jonah's story, consider how you can relate.

Read Jonah 1-2.

In chapter 1, Jonah tries to run from God's presence, fleeing to Tarshish, a city in the opposite direction of Ninevah.

**When have you tried to run and hide from
God or blatantly disobeyed Him?**

In chapter 2, Jonah accepts the consequence of his sin and repents by turning back to the Lord.

**What specific examples of God's all-powerful, all-knowing,
always-present goodness stand out to you in chapters 1 and 2?**

**How have you experienced the undeserved grace
of the all-powerful and all-knowing God?**

In chapters 3–4, what did everyone do and why? Describe how God worked in the city of Ninevah. What was Jonah’s response?

God’s call on Jonah’s life didn’t change. His will for the people of Ninevah didn’t change either. This was the most violent and sinful culture imaginable—the last place anyone expected a city-wide revival to happen. Even though God had just shown Jonah miraculous mercy, saving him with a big fish, he didn’t want others to receive mercy for their rebellion. Like many of us, Jonah felt somehow entitled to God’s grace while believing that other people didn’t deserve any more chances.

Have you ever considered that God’s will for your life isn’t just about you? The grace, mercy, and goodness that He gives to you are not for you alone. The opportunity for salvation and blessing is even for “that person” who hurt you personally or “those people” who you may honestly want God to judge for their sinfulness in general.

Identify a needed change that only God can bring in each of the following.

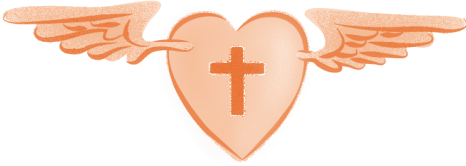
Culture / “those” people:

Enemy / “that” person:

You:

If you’ve ever doubted God’s ability or willingness to work through you, let Jonah encourage you. If you’re discouraged that your family, friends, coworkers, or country seem to be hopelessly lost with no desire for God, take heart. If there’s a person you’ve given up on, remember that if it can happen in Nineveh, it can happen anywhere!

To end, read and reflect on Jonah 2. Pray that God would give you a humble heart eager to be used for His purposes.



Day 4

WHERE IS YOUR HOPE?

Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen. For by it our ancestors won God's approval.

HEBREWS 11:1-2

Life changes quickly. Trends come and go. Teams win and lose. Relationships, careers, finances, policies, health, everything can change in an instant. You had to face this harsh reality when a pandemic swept through the world—not just in the news but affecting your own life. Over the past three days, your readings have led you through Scriptures that all point to the same crossroad. You have a question to answer that will determine the direction of your life now and forever: “Everybody puts their hope in something (or someone). Where is your hope? And where will it lead you in the end?”

Are you storing up treasures on earth or in heaven? Are you chasing the wind for fleeting moments under the sun or content knowing that everyone will face God in the end? Are you waiting for the gavel to drop in judgment of everything you think is wrong with the world or examining your own heart?

What does Hebrews 11:1-2 say about the right kind of hope?

The rest of Hebrews 11 is sometimes called “The Hall of Faith,” offering a highlight reel of biblical history from the Old Testament. Take a few moments and read the rest of the chapter now. Not only does it provide a bigger perspective on life, but it is also truly inspiring.

Which example(s) from Hebrews 11 stood out to you personally?

How does this chapter (or the verses you identified) give you a “bigger” perspective on life?

The next chapter is directly linked to the incredible summary of men and women who put their hope in God and experienced incredible movements of His power as a result. A good rule of thumb for reading and studying the Bible is to ask yourself, “What is “therefore” there for?”

Read Hebrews 12:1-2. How should you respond to the lives of real men and women recorded in your Bible?

How do these men and women ultimately point us to Jesus Christ?

It’s tempting to dismiss miracles as something God did back in biblical times. But the Bible isn’t a book of fairytales, myths, and legends. The pages of Scripture include the experiences of real men, women, and children. And when you put your hope in Christ, this is your family history too. The people in Hebrews 11 are your ancestors through your common faith.

Write Hebrews 13:8 in the space below.

Based on that reality, write a personal declaration of hope starting with “therefore.”

Read and reflect on the rally cry of Joshua found in Joshua 24:15 (his life was alluded to in Hebrews 11:30). Pray for faith that pleases the Lord—a confident hope in His power and goodness.

Day 5

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Everybody processes thoughts and feelings differently—it’s part of how God created us uniquely. Day 5 of each week is designed to give you room to be yourself.

For example: maybe you’re not even sure what you think or how you feel until you start writing. You might like to doodle or could even be a talented artist who best expresses yourself visually. Perhaps you resonate deeply with music or poetry. Whatever works for you—journaling, drawing, writing poetry, favorite song lyrics, or a prayer—invite the Spirit to make this a personal time of reflection.

Use this space to reflect on everything you’ve been reading this week about life.

**What specific truths or general ideas
have been meaningful to you?**

God is not finished with our generation.

Throughout history, many cultures have experienced various spiritual awakenings. These eras are often short-lived, but the people who experienced them are transformed forever.



In the late 1960s, Greg Laurie was a drug-using hippie. A few years later, he was a new believer eager to see others come to know Christ. What happened? The Jesus Movement—a spiritual awakening that changed the lives and destinies of countless men and women.

Despite being half a century apart, the cultural climate of that notable era is surprisingly similar to our modern times. In this video-driven Bible study, Greg Laurie expounds on those similarities and lays the groundwork for a new movement.

- Learn about revival and see how it can begin again in our time.
- Understand the unique role the Holy Spirit plays in bringing revival.
- Return to God with a passion for pursuing spiritual disciplines.
- Allow God's Word to guide your life and teach you who God is.
- Live with an increasing awareness of Christ's return.
- Join the Jesus revolution by taking the gospel to our communities and around the world.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

JESUS REVOLUTION LEADER KIT

Includes resources for leading a six-session group study: one *Bible Study Book*, two DVDs, digital downloads, and the original book.

Leader Kit
005823248 **\$89.99**

DIGITAL CONTENT

An *eBook*, video teaching sessions, and free promotional materials are available at lifeway.com/jesusrevolution