

R E V I V A L

Revival

# Revival

The GREAT REFORMATION was a time when the LORD's word was proclaimed in good news to the world. It was a time of freedom for the oppressed, of sight for the blind, of setting the oppressed free, to PROCLAIM the year of the LORD.

Life Group Book



The spirit of the Lord is on me  
BECAUSE he has anointed me  
to proclaim GOOD NEWS to the  
poor. He has sent me to proclaim  
FREEDOM for the prisoners and  
RECOVERY OF SIGHT for the  
blind, to set the oppressed FREE,  
to proclaim the year of the  
LORD'S FAVOUR.

LUKE 4:18-19

# REVIVAL SERIES

In His first sermon in His home town, Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah and declared that this ancient prophecy was now fulfilled in their hearing (Luke 4:18-21). He was their long awaited Messiah and it was time for God's promised salvation to break into their broken world. It was time for good news to be given to the poor; for the oppressed to be set free; for the blind to see and for God's generosity to give new hope to those living in darkness.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to do the same. Now is our time to give generously to open new doors for people to see hope and find healing in Jesus. Now is our time to step out in faith believing that God will send revival in our nation in our generation... and beyond.

We won't see revival by just doing more of what we already do well. We must live in a new dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit to open new doors for the good news of Jesus locally and globally.

## What's on during this series

### Beyond CELEBRATION night

Invite your family and friends and join us as we celebrate the work of Gateway Beyond.

6pm Sunday 5 June | Gateway Mackenzie or Online

### Commitment Sunday

Join us on **Sunday 19 June** as we make our commitment together to Gateway Beyond and give generously to open new doors.

Hear the stories of  
Gateway Beyond

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Together we are  
opening NEW doors

Learn about Gateway Beyond and  
how to give to open new doors

[gatewaybaptist.com.au/beyond](http://gatewaybaptist.com.au/beyond)

The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.

When Jesus was still in the womb, Mary sang of her son's future ministry to the poor (Luke 1:51-53). When Jesus began his ministry, He announced that He was the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy to bring good news to the poor. Throughout His ministry, Jesus cared for the poor and fed the hungry. Poor was not merely a socioeconomic reference for Jesus, but anyone who was in need of hope and help, physically, emotionally and, ultimately, spiritually.

In Jesus' parable of the wedding banquet, the master of the feast tells the messenger to go out to the highways and byways and invite those who are in need to come in. Everyone is invited. Everyone is welcome. He compels them to come in because God wants His house to be full.

We are God's messengers of good news for the poor today. We are called to invite everyone in need to receive good news. We are to welcome everyone through our doors and compel them to find good news that only Jesus offers. For everyone who recognises their need, Jesus has a message of good news.

# Discovery Bible Method

**Ask:** Pray for God to speak directly to you from the key passage in Luke 14:15-24

**Read:** Read the passage aloud. Then re-read the passage again in a different translation if possible.

Recite or re-write the passage from memory in your own words.

Re-read the passage silently one more time then ask:

1. What do you see?
2. What does this say about God?
3. What does this say about people?
4. What is God saying to you?

**Commit:** What are you going to do about it? Who are you going to tell?

## Application

**Ask:** Who are the poor today? In what ways do we neglect seeing who the poor are in our neighbourhoods, in our country and right around the world?

**Ask:** How can we bring good news to the poor as individuals and as a church?

## Beyond Month

This week for Gateway Beyond we are praying for **Care ministries**

**Pray:** For our Gateway Care volunteers that they will be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to give good news to the poor.

**Pray:** For people who come into our Care Centres to receive good news through practical help and spiritual hope.

## Beyond Celebration Night, Sunday 5 June

**Attend:** Come together as a life group this Sunday night to hear all God is doing through Gateway Beyond.

The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom  
for the prisoners and recovery of  
sight for the blind

Jesus was sent from heaven to proclaim freedom for those enslaved by sin (“...bind up the broken hearted...” Isaiah 61:1) and to help the blind see. Throughout His ministry, He set people free from sin and helped them to see the grace and forgiveness of God (John 8:1-12) and He opened blind eyes to see creation and recognise the creator (John 9).

From the very first day Jesus’ first followers were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, the church was birthed and the ministry of Jesus was multiplied. Ordinary followers of Jesus shared a message of forgiveness with people who were racked with guilt, and a new community was birthed that helped people to see the love and power of God for themselves.

This is what revival looks like. It’s fully devoted followers of Jesus filled with the power of the Holy Spirit: praying passionately, giving generously, loving one another, sharing resources and proclaiming the good news of Jesus. When the Church is filled with the power of the Spirit, the church helps people to see the promise of salvation.



# Discovery Bible Method

**Ask:** Pray for God to speak directly to you from the key passage in **Acts 2:42–47**

**Read:** Read the passage aloud. Then re-read the passage again in a different translation if possible.

Recite or re-write the passage from memory in your own words.

Re-read the passage silently one more time then ask:

1. What do you see?
2. What does this say about God?
3. What does this say about people?
4. What is God saying to you?

**Commit:** What are you going to do about it? Who are you going to tell?

## Application

**Ask:** Jesus healed physical blindness, but what other types of blindness may need to be restored in our world and in the church today?

**Ask:** In what ways is the early church in Acts 2 different than the church today?

**Ask:** Is there anything that we as believers can do to see the Lord add daily to those being saved?

## Beyond Month

This week for Gateway Beyond we are praying for **church campuses**

**Pray:** For everyone who calls Gateway home to be filled with the Holy Spirit to shine a light for Jesus wherever they are sent.

**Pray:** That we would open new doors, with creative ways of reaching more people in more places with the love and power of Jesus.

The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom  
for the prisoners and recovery of  
sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free

Everywhere Jesus went the oppressed were set free. In a crowded street, Jesus set free a broken woman who had been stuck in isolation because of her infirmity. On a beach, He set free a naked man who had been chained and excluded from community for years. In a packed lounge room, a man was lowered through the roof with broken legs and Jesus set Him free to walk out the door healed and whole. Wherever Jesus went, the oppressed were set free by the power of the Spirit within Him.

Eighteen years after the resurrection of Jesus, the early church had taken the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, but nowhere near the ends of the earth. As the local church in Antioch fasted and prayed, God spoke to them and 2 disciples were set apart to proclaim the gospel to new people, in new places. This moment caused a missional spark that would see Christianity become the dominant religion in the Roman Empire within 250 years, and the church alive and growing in every nation on earth today.

Around our globe there are still people living in the oppression of poverty and the darkness of sin. There is no hope for freedom if someone will not go to share Jesus with them. When the Church seeks God in prayer, we are set apart and filled with the power of the Spirit to share the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

# Discovery Bible Method

**Ask:** Pray for God to speak directly to you from the key passage in Acts 13:1–2 and Acts 13:44–52

**Read:** Read the passage aloud. Then re-read the passage again in a different translation if possible.

Recite or re-write the passage from memory in your own words.

Re-read the passage silently one more time then ask:

1. What do you see?
2. What does this say about God?
3. What does this say about people?
4. What is God saying to you?

**Commit:** What are you going to do about it? Who are you going to tell?

## Application

**Ask:** Oppression can take many forms, both blatant and hidden. What is some of the oppression you see locally and globally?

**Ask:** What spiritual practices and practical resources does it take to set the oppressed free in our world today?

## Beyond Month

This week for Gateway Beyond we are praying for **Beyond workers**

**Pray:** For our Gateway Beyond workers who are already serving in cross-cultural ministry locally and globally.

**Pray:** For more people to hear and respond to the call to cross cultural ministry to share the gospel and set people free from darkness.

## Commitment Sunday – 19 June

**Ask:** God to prepare your heart to give generously to Gateway Beyond. Have a conversation in your household this week about how you can help to open new doors for people to discover the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom  
for the prisoners and recovery of  
sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of  
the LORD's favour.

When Jesus declared that He had come to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, He was alluding to the year of Jubilee. This was a year in Israel's calendar when all debts were cancelled, slaves were set free and the poor had their land returned to them. It was a year when they did not sow or reap crops but they enjoyed time with their family and they trusted God to provide all they needed. The year of Jubilee was a tremendous gift from God but it required great trust in God's ability to provide an abundant generosity from people to give to those who were in need. It was to happen every 50 years in Israel, but most historians have concluded that it was never fully celebrated as Israel failed to trust God for long periods of time. When Jesus stood in the synagogue, He proclaimed that He had come to usher in the gift of Jubilee.

If followers of Jesus today would trust in God's provision and give generously to those trapped in slavery, suffering in poverty and dying in sin, we would see a jubilee-like revival in our time.

## Discovery Bible Method

**Ask:** Pray for God to speak directly to you from the key passage in Leviticus 25:1–13

**Read:** Read the passage aloud. Then re-read the passage again in a different translation if possible.

Recite or re-write the passage from memory in your own words.

Re-read the passage silently one more time then ask:

1. What do you see?
2. What does this say about God?
3. What does this say about people?
4. What is God saying to you?

**Commit:** What are you going to do about it? Who are you going to tell?

## Application

**Ask:** Looking at Leviticus 25, why was it so important to practise a sabbath year and also the year of jubilee?

**Ask:** In what ways do you practise sabbath and rest now? What daily, weekly, monthly and yearly rhythms might you need to develop to better practice sabbath?

**Ask:** What do you think the year of the Lord's favour looks like in our world today?

## Beyond Month

This week for Gateway Beyond we are praying that we would be a **generous church**.

**Pray:** For God to use our generosity as a church to open more doors for the gospel than ever before. Pray for families and communities to be transformed by the love and power of Jesus.

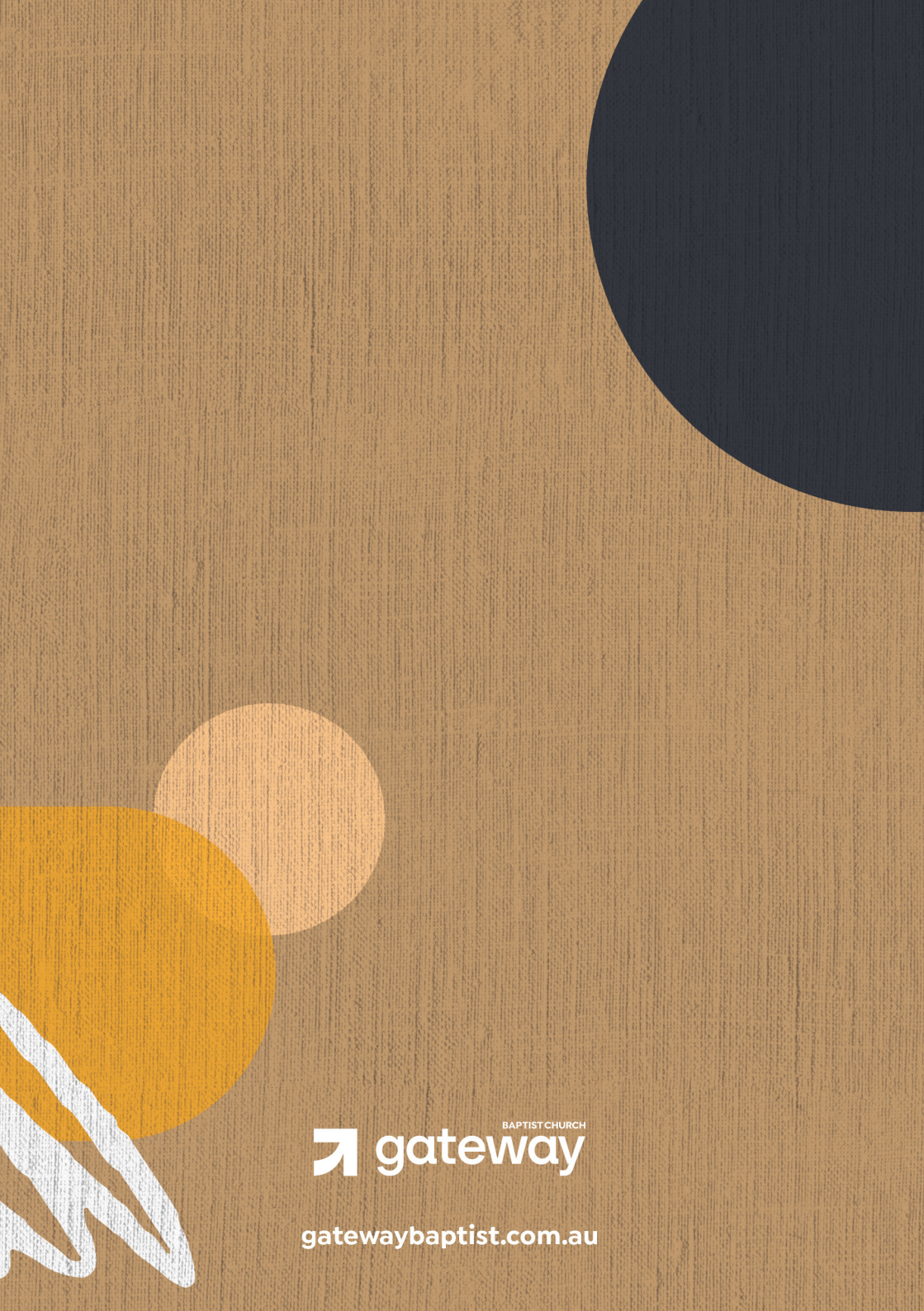
**Give:** How will you give generously to see new doors opened for Jesus, locally and globally? Visit [gatewaybaptist.com.au/newdoors](http://gatewaybaptist.com.au/newdoors)

# RESOURCES

For messages from this teaching series and other study resources from Gateway Baptist Church, visit [gatewaybaptist.com.au/media](http://gatewaybaptist.com.au/media)

If you would like to get connected with our church or contact someone to learn more about Jesus, visit [gatewaybaptist.com.au/connect](http://gatewaybaptist.com.au/connect)





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