



## Group Leader Guide “If My People...” - Revival November 1, 2020

### Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

### // Message Summary

How does a nation heal? How does a church heal? Lead Pastor Jim Burgen kicks off the new series “**Revival**” with a hard look at the state of our church and nation and how we as Christians should be responding to it. Recognizing that God is the only one who can heal our world should lead us to humility and repentance and away from throwing stones at one another.

### // Biblical Background: Differing Political Views, Same Mission

Simon the Zealot and Matthew the tax collector were both members of Jesus’ inner circle, the 12 disciples. Their titles give us a window into their polar opposite political views. However, they were able to put that aside to align in their mission of following Jesus.

**Simon the Zealot:** A Zealot was the title given to a person who was part of the Jewish revolutionary movement to overthrow the Roman government. They hated Rome and put an extremely high value on Jewish nationalism. Eventually (nearly 40 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus), the Zealots succeeded in overtaking Jerusalem in 66 AD. However, Rome retaliated by completely destroying Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD. Simon was out of the movement by this time. However, to be identified as a Zealot still reveals how passionately he clung to his political beliefs,

at least until he met Jesus.

**Matthew the Tax Collector:** Matthew, on the other hand, was a Jewish man who actually worked for the Roman government. Tax collectors were hated by the Zealots and most Jewish people because they were viewed as traitors to their own country. They would enforce the oppressive taxes that Rome put on the people they had conquered. In addition to this, they would usually charge more than necessary to line their own pockets.

We can speculate that there were probably more than a few lively debates between these two while traveling with Jesus. However, the only evidence we have is that they worked together to follow Jesus and spread His message. They were willing to put their political beliefs and passions on the backburner to serve a greater purpose.

### // Biblical Context: The Day of the Lord

The term “The Day of the Lord” was first used by the prophet Amos in Amos 5:18-20. Other prophets used it as well. It usually referred to a time in the future when God would reveal His presence to a nation in order to bring judgment. Different prophets refer to different circumstances. However, the Jewish people also looked forward to a final “Day of the Lord” in which God would lay down His final judgment on the world. The New Testament writers continued this tradition and applied it to the second coming of Jesus,

which is what the author of Hebrews is referring to.

### // In Preparation

Yay! Politics!

I'm just kidding, but in all seriousness, with the topics brought up in the talk, there will probably be some people in your group with some pretty hot takes. However, as Jim stated, this is not a talk or a series geared around politics. It is a series geared around taking an individual look at our responses to people who disagree with us but claim to love. It is about taking personal responsibility for how we have treated others based on their and our views. It is about humbling ourselves before God and asking Him to correct how we view and treat others so that healing may come to our church and nation. But things often get twisted in people's minds, so be prepared to remind people of this who decide to take this as an opportunity to rant. Simply remind them that, as a group, we are trying to look into our own lives on how we can be doing things better and more Christ-like. I would advise having someone, or a couple people, read through the scriptures used in the talk (listed on the discussion questions page) before jumping into the questions just to remind everyone what this is really about.

### // References

Currid, John D., and David W. Chapman. *ESV Archaeology Study Bible: English Standard Version*. Crossway Books, 2017

GotQuestions.org. (2012, July 5). Home. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Zealots-Bible.html>.

Keener, Craig S Ph.d. *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. InterVarsity Press, 2014.

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version: the ESV Study Bible*. Crossway Bibles, 2008.



## Group Discussion Questions

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#### // Bible References

Hebrews 10:23-27; Matthew 19:34-40, 45; Matthew 19:26; 1 Chronicles 7:14; Romans 8:22

#### // Message Screenshots

- Sins of Commission: I did something I shouldn't have done.
- Sins of Omission: I didn't do something I should have done.
- Revival and healing always come directly and proportionately to the posture of humble repentance of God's people.
- We are not waiting on God to move our direction.
- God is waiting on US to move back towards Him.
- He turns mourning to dancing, He gives beauty for ashes, He turns shame into glory.
- He turns graves into gardens, He turns bones into armies, He turns seas into highways.

#### // Community Questions

1. How did you show undeserved grace to your children (or someone else) this past week?
2. What did you or your kids dress up as for Halloween? Or what is the best Halloween costume you saw this year?

#### // Core Questions

1. Before we get into specifics, which part of the sermon stuck with you or was especially convicting for you?
2. Did this talk make you angry or hopeful for the future? Why?
3. What is your typical response when someone does something you don't agree with?
4. What is your typical response to another Christian who has differing political beliefs than you?
5. How do you primarily identify other people, even if it is done subconsciously? Political party? Race? Nationality?
6. How do you primarily identify yourself?
7. If someone were to study your life, who or what would they say you are putting your hope in to heal this world?
8. In what area do you typically judge other people the harshest?
9. Is this an area that you are willing to lay before God in humility? Why or why not?



### // Challenge

This is a big week in our nation. And while we, as Christians, are ultimately citizens of the Kingdom of God and answer to a higher power than whoever the president is, we still live here in this country. The challenge this week is to pray for whoever wins the presidency and other elections in our country right now. Pray, whether you agree with them politically or not, that God will use them to lead and govern well. This may be hard, especially if the person(s) you voted for doesn't win. But we are commanded to love one another, even our enemies, and pray for each other. So, take some time this week to intentionally pray for the men and women who are leading or will lead our country.



**Student Group Discussion Questions**  
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**// Parent Resource**

Talk with your student about ways you can help out your community in November.

**// Discussion Questions**

1. Can you think of someone in a movie or show who is doing something wrong but thinks everyone else is wrong?  
EX. Ron Weasley any time he gets moody in Harry Potter.
2. Is there a time that you were wrong and didn't realize it?  
What happened?
3. What's a time when you ignored someone who was in need?
4. Read **Matthew 25:33-40, 45** twice.  
Have one student tell you what is happening.  
What stands out to you?  
What do you not understand?  
Read it again.
5. What are you more like Sheep or Goats? Why? Helpful Hint: Sheep—Are Christians who help people when they are in need. Goats—Are Christians who only help themselves.
6. What is something that you can do to take care of people more?  
On your own?  
With your Small Group?  
With your Family?
7. Prayer: God help us to see people who are hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, and in prison so that we can treat them like we would treat you.

**// Leader Feedback**

Please let us know how these questions went over in your group. Email your feedback to [caleb\\_flowers@flatironschurch.com](mailto:caleb_flowers@flatironschurch.com)