

# TIMES OF REFRESHING STUDY

Note: In churches there are 4 kinds of people. Use this study to deal with them.

The 4 kinds are:

- IN or OUT - if there is no immediate change they are out of the church.
- DANGER ZONE - if they don't change they'll walk away, so get them back on the right road.
- NEEDS IMPROVEMENT - doing fine, but needs to do awesome!
- DOING GREAT - encourage them to keep doing great.

*Make sure when you teach them that you make them feel you are on their side. You are simply telling them what Jesus thinks. These are not your own opinions. }*

C: Today's study is not just a regular discipling study. Today you need to make decisions that will change your Christian life forever. Some of the things we talk about will be challenging. But I'm doing this because I really care about you. Are you ready to be challenged by God's word?

Q: If we truly repent, how will we feel?  
[Refreshed . Full of Jesus.].

Do you want to be refreshed?

C: Let today's study refresh your Christian life with a real change.

Q: Are you ready?

C: We'll read one of the greatest 'personal conviction' passages in the Bible, and will consider 5 areas in our life that could get us refreshed.

In chapter 24 Joshua assembled the elders, leaders, judges, officials and all the tribes of Israel and reminded them of their past life and how God had rescued them through many dangers and problems and difficulties. Then he calls everyone to consider the covenant and renew it.

Today I want you to look back at your old life and how sinful we were and how God has helped us to overcome great difficulties and problems.

[{Ask them how much have they changed from their old way of life} and also{how much have they changed since they got baptized}]

## **SERVE THE LORD**

[Joshua 24:14-15]

C: Joshua after he had reminded people of their past way of life he commanded them to fear the Lord. Joshua also told the people to throw away their old gods. They had served the gods with fear. Now Joshua makes them to choose whether to serve the Lord or the gods they worshipped before they crossed the river. Joshua also takes a stand as a personal example in front of all the Israelites saying that 'he and his household will serve the Lord'.

Q: Do you want to make it a personal conviction to serve the Lord? How do you want to do it?

C: We fear different people for different reasons. When it comes to fear the Lord we shrink back and so we fail to serve him with all our heart. Joshua asked the people to fear the Lord. We have served our families, our offices, our appetites etc. in the past. Now we as disciples we need to serve the Lord.

C: Life has meaning when we give our best to help other people to be saved. That brings joy in our live.

Q: What is the purpose of a Christian?

[To make disciples.]

Has that been your purpose?

Q: How has your evangelism been going? Do you share your faith as you go, on your own? Who have you invited who has become a Christian this year? What would be a good goal for this year for the number of personal fruits your will bring?

{If they do not want to share their faith at all, they should leave the church.}

C: Let me give you some keys to evangelism:

\* Do 'lifestyle' evangelism as you go along, always invite people. Be sure to carry invitations everywhere. Don't just evangelize in the evenings, when you meet the brothers and sisters. Use them especially on Saturdays and before Bible Talks.

\* Have visitors over for tea, games, dinner.

\* Give yourself goals for daily or weekly conversations with non-Christians.

## **ADORE THE LORD**

[Joshua 24:16-18]

C: The Israelites remembered all the great things God has done. They remembered God bringing them out of Egypt, how God brought them out of slavery, how they performed those great signs and wonders how the Lord drove out the nations even the Amorites.

Q: Do you understand how God has taken care of you since you were conceived in your mother's womb. Do you understand how God has put you in a good family, how you were born without defects, how you escaped much disease, escaped accidents. Today God has given us food clothes etc.

Are you thankful and grateful to God? God did those things so that one day you will thank God.

{Let them share. Take a minute to pray together about the great things God has done for you}

C: Let's look at what Jesus said about prayer in Matthew 6.

Matthew 6:5-16a

Q: What does v.8 say about God?

[He knows what we need before we ask him.]

Q: According to v'9 what should we call God?  
[Our Father in heaven.]

C: In v.11, it says that we should ask God for our daily bread. We should depend on him every day. We should talk to him as our Dad.

Q: How is your relationship with God? Is it like a son-father relationship? Or do you feel like he's is your boss or far away?

{ Let them share. }

How much do you pray every day? For how many minutes? What are your prayers like? Do you feel close to God?

C: You need to pray for a minimum of 20 minutes per day.

[We spend at least 20 minutes to eat a good meal, how much more the time with God]

{ Give them a structure to help them. }

C: In verse 16a he mentions, "when you fast", Jesus expected that we would fast sometimes.

Q: Have you ever fasted? How often do you fast?  
{Let them share}

C: We all should fast and pray for all our disciples, for peace in our region and open doors for the gospel..

C: the great news is that if we come to God like a child, he is gracious and compassionate and will accept us.

C: Prayer and fasting are not the only part of our relationship with God. We must also listen to him, by reading the Bible.

Q: How has your Bible study been going? How much do you read a day?

C: You need to at least 20 minutes per day.

{ If you can read otherwise arrange for a Christian to read to you. }

## **VALUE THE LORD**

[Joshua 24:19-21]

Q: How does Joshua describe God's quality?  
[Holy and jealous because he feels protective of his chosen people].

Q: What kind of people should we be to serve God?  
[Holy and righteous].

Q: What will he do when we forsake the Lord?  
[He'll bring disaster and make an end of us].

1Timothy 4:7-12

Q: What is the value of living 'Godly lives'?

[It has value for both the present life and the life to come]

C: Spiritual training is more important than physical training.

Q: According to vs 7 what are the things that we should avoid?

[Godless myths {Idolatry, bindhi, etc.},old wives tales{believing in superstitions traditions }]

Q: What is the most valuable thing that we can put our trust in according to vs.9?

[Living God].

C: Often in this world people look down upon us because we are young.

Q: How should we be able to overcome this?

[We need to set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.]

Q: Is there any sin you have not confessed that you want to confess?

{Give time for them to confess}.

Do you spend a lot of time with worldly friends. What about your old sins? Have you fallen back into them? How is it really going with

- SEXUAL PURITY
- LYING AT WORK
- SMOKING
- DRINKING
- TOBACCO
- PAN
- ANGER
- MASTURBATION
- LUST
- LAZINESS
- NOT HELPING AT HOME.

Take this opportunity to warn them sternly if they've been repeatedly falling into a particular sin.

## **EXALT THE LORD**

[Joshua 24:22-24]

Q: How have you chosen to serve God?

[vs.23 By yielding our hearts to God].

C: When we chose to serve the Lord we are witnesses against ourselves. Not only are we witness against ourselves we are also called to be a witness to others.

Q: How can we be witness for others?

[By being an example to others].

1Timothy 5:15

C: Paul commands Timothy to serve other people and also to let them see his progress.

Q: Have you made progress in your Christian life? How?  
[Let them share].

Q: Has anyone come up to you and have said- “You have changed a lot”?

C: Our progress can be seen by other people.

Q: How can other people see our progress?

[ When they see us singing louder in the church, answering in the Bible talks, bringing visitors, being loving and kind, eager to help and encourage other disciples, having a smiling face, coming on time, helping at the meetings].

C: I want to see progress in your life starting from now. How do you feel about it?

Malachi 3:8-10

Every month we need to give at least 10% of our income (even if you are a student) as contribution.

Q: How have you been doing in this area? What did you give in November? What about his month.  
[Get them to write it down.]

For special contribution, we need to sacrifice. How did it go this year?

[If they are giving zero for special contribution and they’ve been around for more than 6 months, challenge them very hard. Everyone can give something]

We need to be generous with each other. Have you had people over to your house very often?

C: It is great to practice hospitality.

## **DESIRE THE LORD**

[Joshua 24:25-27]

Joshua set up a large stone to be witness against the Israelites. Joshua said that the stone has heard all what has been spoken.

C: When we got baptized not only there were people to listen to what has been said but the lifeless objects around us have also heard it. They will be witness against us.

C: What commitment did you make when you got baptized? Do you respect it? Have you been holding on to it? Can you say you have done God’s will when it came to decide for your future so far? What will you do in the future?

Q: You may be coming to all the meetings, but who is really in charge of your life? When you make decision about your future do you do it with God in mind? Do you get bad attitudes when people mistreat you? Do you miss meetings?

C: Some common excuse

- URGENT OFFICE WORK

- FAMILY FIGHTS AND PERSECUTION
- RELATIVES FROM OUT OF TOWN
- SMALL SICKNESSES
- URGENT HOUSE WORK
- WEDDINGS
- OTHER FUNCTIONS
- CRICKET.

If you are not regular in the meetings you can't be considered a true Christian.

C: Let me give you a few areas to focus on in your commitment.

- Having great friendship in the church. Who are your best friends in the church? Who are you really close to [If it is less than 3 they need immediate radical change, If it is less than 6 they still need to improve]
- Come on time to all the meetings. Come to fun times sports picnic optional times as much as you can don't just come 3 times a week
- Come for organized evangelism during the week [ If they have a tough schedule they don't have to come daily. But everyone should come sometimes to meet the disciples outside of the meetings
- Make sure you have weekly times with your disciple
- Do not go out town for long periods more than 15 days or without taking advice. Everyone who goes away for more than 15 days struggles.

### **Conclusion :**

2 Timothy 2:20-26

Today we've seen what we should be doing as Christians. In this passage Paul talks about how we have characters which are not only made of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. Some are noble and others are ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to his Master and prepared to do any good work.

What about you? Have you been growing day by day by reading the word of God? Who is in control of your life? Has God been in control of your money? Are you close to him? Are you seeking his righteousness? Do you tell others about him? Or is something else first in your life?

[Discuss. Talk about whether or not they have been changing their character and putting God No. 1.]

Q: Do you want to change?

C: Their great news is that God is our Father in heaven. He loves you and me. He wants us to change. If you make a radical decision today I know you'll stay faithful until death.

Let's **SERVE THE LORD** by sharing our faith with many people and bringing them to the Church.

Let's **ADORE THE LORD** and have a great relationship with God.

**VALUE THE LORD** by being open with our lives and being holy and pure.

**EXALT THE LORD** by being a witness for not only the outsiders but also to the brothers and the sisters in the church. Let's really give financially and really believe that God can do incredible things. And let's

**DESIRE THE LORD more than anybody else.**

**Let God run your life. I really love you I want you to be a happy Christian and be SAVED. That's why I've shared these things with you.**

**Q: How do you feel about this?**