

TALK IT OVER

How God Heals Broken Nations

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Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

Message Notes

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"You have shaken this nation and split it open. Now Lord, heal the cracks before it completely collapses." Psalm 60:2 (NLT/LB)

"Heal the breaks! Everything is coming apart at the seams." Psalm 60:2b (MES)

"You have shown your people desperate times. We're staggering like we're drunk on wine." Psalm 60:3 (NIV)

"But you have given us a banner to rally to; all who love truth will rally to it; then you can deliver your beloved people. Use your strong right arm to rescue us." Psalm 60:4-5 (LB)

THE PATH & PROMISE OF GOD

"If MY PEOPLE who are called by MY NAME will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will HEAR from heaven and will FORGIVE their sins and HEAL their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

National healing only happens if God's people lead by example.

1. WE MUST HUMBLY CONFESS OUR SINS

"If my people who are called by my name will HUMBLE themselves..." 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ...James 4:6b (NIV)

"If we claim that we are not sinning, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8

THE PROBLEM: Instead of practicing humility, we spend more time accusing others and excusing ourselves.

"God gave us his Laws so he alone can rightly judge us. And he alone has the right to save or destroy. So who do you think you are to judge and condemn your neighbors?" James 4:12

"So when you, a mere human, pass judgment on others and yet do similar sins, how do you think you will escape God's judgment?" Romans 2:3

"For it is time for judgment to begin and it must begin with us. Judgment must start with the Family of God." 1 Peter 4:17

"People who try to cover up their sins will not succeed. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy." Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16a (NIV)

Question 1: As the divisive events at the United State's Capitol unfolded this past Wednesday, what drove citizens to take such drastic measures? What are some underlying attitudes that tempt us to cast judgement on others and ignore our own faults? How can Christians be part of the solution and not the problem?

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2. WE MUST PRAY SINCERELY

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and PRAY..." 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

THE PROBLEM: We spend more time complaining than praying.

"They do not cry out to me with sincere hearts. Instead, they sit on their couches and wail (complain loudly)." Hosea 7:14a (NLT)

"Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer, being alert and intent in your praying with thanksgiving." Colossians 4:2 (AMP)

"Pray in the Spirit at ALL times with ALL kinds of prayers, asking for ALL you need. To do this you must ALWAYS be ready and never give up! ALWAYS pray for ALL God's people." Ephesians 6:18 (NCV)

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Question 2: Complaining tends to distort a problem by making it seem bigger than it is and more important than seeking God first. How can earnest and intentional prayer combat this temptation?

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3. WE MUST SEEK GOD INTENSELY

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and SEEK MY FACE..."
2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

"God rewards those who earnestly seek him." Hebrews 11:6b (NIV)

"If you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, you will return to the Lord your God and obey him. For he is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you..."
Deuteronomy 4:29-31a (NIV)

THE PROBLEM: We spend more time seeking everything else.

"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Question 3: Rather than wholeheartedly seeking God first, we tend to put more effort into other pursuits such as careers, friendships, entertainment, hobbies or social media. What steps can we take to seek God more intensely?

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4. WE MUST TURN BACK TO GOD COMPLETELY

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS..."
2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

THE PROBLEM: We don't see our own wicked ways.

"People will be self-absorbed, loving only themselves. They will be greedy for money. They will be boastful and arrogant, insulting to God, rude and disrespectful, even to parents. They will consider nothing sacred. They'll be unkind and unforgiving. They will enjoy slandering others. They will have no self-control. They will love violence and be cruel. They will be cynical, despising anyone and anything that is good. They will betray those loyal to them. They will be reckless and rash. They will be inflated with self-conceit. They will love pleasure more than God. They'll claim to be spiritual but will reject the true power that could make them godly."
2 Timothy 3:2-5 (Multiple)

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THE PROMISE OF GOD

“IF...then I will HEAR from heaven and will FORGIVE their sins and HEAL their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

Question 4: We long for healing in our land, our relationships, and in all aspects of our lives. To receive God’s promise requires turning from our own ways and turning to a complete devotion to God. What would it look like to live a life unconditionally devoted to God?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you’ve learned today?*

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