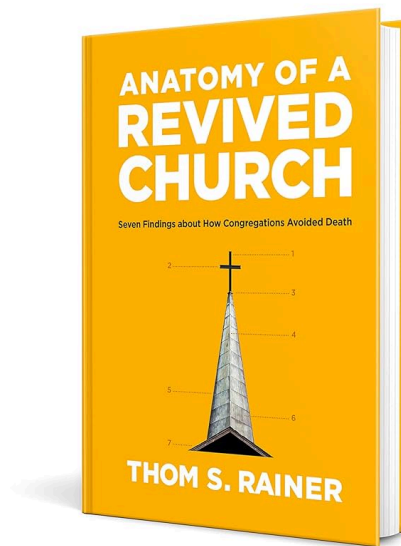




Resource Guide for *Anatomy of a Revived Church* Book Study



Resource Guide Content

[Implementation Plan \(pg. 3\)](#)

[Small Group Facilitator Guide \(pg. 5\)](#)

[Revival Readiness Checklist \(pg. 10\)](#)

[Youth Sunday School Leader Guide \(pg. 12\)](#)

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[Pre-Study Survey \(pg. 16\)](#)

[Links to a separate document](#)

[Survey Directions Document](#)

[Small Group Facilitator Notecatcher](#)

Implementation Plan

Launch Date

Sunday, February 1, 2026 (First Sunday in February)

Study Duration

8 Weeks (February 1 – March 22)

Timeline

- Planning Team Kickoff – Tuesday, August 19
 - Review core themes, assign roles, finalize promotion strategy.
- Promotion & Sign-Ups – Mid- August (ongoing)
 - Announcements, CONNECT, email, and social media.
 - Sign-up forms for small groups and Sunday school classes.
- Distribute Pre-Study Surveys- Week of September 14; deadline to complete survey October 5
- ARC Leader Kickoff – Tuesday, September 16
 - Walk through resources, distribute study guides, review facilitation tips.
- 2025 Revival: September 30- October 2

Updated Launch Schedule

- Recirculate Pre-Study Surveys- Week of January 18; deadline to complete February 1
- 38th Church Anniversary- January 25
- Book Study Launch – Sunday, February 1
 - Week 1- February 1
 - Introduction and Finding #1: Accepting Responsibility
 - Kickoff Sunday: Sermon introduction, leader commissioning, and distribution of participant handouts.
 - Week 2- February 8
 - Finding #2: Overcoming the Traps of Traditions
 - Week 3- February 15
 - Finding #3: Expanding the Scorecard
 - Week 4- February 22
 - Finding #4: Committing to Powerful Prayer
 - Midpoint Check-in (Planning team gathers feedback, adjusts logistics, supports leaders)
 - Week 5- March 1
 - Finding #5: Dealing with Toxins

- Week 6- March 8
 - Finding #6: Seeking Silver Bullets No More
- Week 7- March 15
 - Finding #7: Choosing Meaningful Membership
- Week 8- March 22
 - Conclusion: Change or Die
 - Palm Sunday/Commitment Sunday:
 - Closing service, testimonies from participants, and written commitments for ongoing renewal.
 - Distribute Post-Study Surveys; deadline to complete March 27

***Note: CTOF Leadership Retreat tentatively scheduled for March 14 or March 28 (Saturdays). Additional information forthcoming.*

ARC Book Study Planning Team

- Associate Ministers
- Christian Education Leaders (SS/BTU/SGDM)
- Ministry Work Group Leaders

Responsibilities

- Pastor, Associate Ministers, Sunday School Teachers: Sermon integration and adult/youth study facilitation
- Deacons: Serve as small group facilitators; follow up with assigned ministry groups on study progress
- Youth Leaders: Implement youth study track (aligned themes, youth-focused activities)
- Small Group Leaders: Facilitate discussion groups with the provided guide
- Ministry (Auxiliary) Heads: Facilitate discussion groups with the provided guide during ministry meetings
- Prayer Team: Weekly intercession for revival and church renewal
- Communications: Weekly updates, reminders, and success stories

Resources

1. Implementation Plan
2. Small Group Facilitator Guide
3. Revival Readiness Checklist
4. Youth Sunday School Leader Guide
5. Youth Sunday School Student Handout
6. Pre-Study Survey
7. Post-Study Survey (Not included)
8. Small Group Facilitator Note Catcher

Small Group Facilitator Guide

Adapted from the ARC Discussion Guide for Anatomy of a Revived Church by Thom S. Rainer (2022)

The Facilitator Guide provides key information to support your facilitation, such as a suggested agenda, facilitation tips, and discussion questions.

Complete the [Small Group Facilitator Notecatcher](#) at each session.

Week 1 – Owning Up (Accepting Responsibility)

<p>Scripture: Galatians 6:5 – 'For each will have to bear his own load.'</p> <p>Theme: Renewal begins with honest evaluation. Revived churches acknowledged their decline without excuses and owned their condition instead of blaming culture, pastors, or past events.</p>	
Facilitation Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Encourage honesty without judgment.● Share a short personal example to model openness.● If silence lingers, prompt gently with 'What stands out to you in this scripture?'
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Welcome & Prayer (5 min)● Icebreaker: share one challenge you faced this week (10 min)● Scripture Reading & Reflection (10 min)● Discussion: taking responsibility (20 min)● Prayer commitments, Revival Readiness Checklist, and closing (15 min)
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● How do we typically respond when we hear hard truths about our church?● What excuses have we made for our struggles?● What does it mean to take responsibility personally and collectively?● How can ownership move us toward renewal?

Week 2 – Overcoming the Traps of Tradition

<p>Scripture: Mark 7:8 — 'You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.'</p> <p>Theme: Healthy churches honor tradition but don't idolize it; they refuse to let 'the way we've always done it' dictate the future.</p>	
Facilitation Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep examples lighthearted to start. • Guide discussion toward what traditions honor God vs. hinder growth.
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome & Prayer (5 min) • Icebreaker: favorite family or church tradition (10 min) • Scripture & Reflection (10 min) • Discussion on traditions (20 min) • Prayer commitments, Revival Readiness Checklist, and closing (15 min)
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What traditions have helped us remain faithful to God's mission? • Where have traditions become traps? • How do we discern what to keep, release, or reshape?

Week 3 – Expanding the Scorecard

<p>Scripture: Matthew 28:19–20 — 'Go and make disciples...'</p> <p>Theme: Revived churches measure success by disciple-making and transformation, not just attendance or budgets.</p>	
Facilitation Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirm answers, then gently shift focus to discipleship. • Encourage participants to think about their spiritual growth personally.
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome & Prayer (5 min) • Icebreaker: What do you hear people brag about? (10 min) • Scripture & Reflection (10 min) • Discussion: redefining success (20 min) • Prayer commitments, Revival Readiness Checklist, and closing (15 min)
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we currently use as our 'scorecard'? • How can we better measure spiritual growth and discipleship? • What would it mean to celebrate fruit over numbers?

Week 4 – Committing to Powerful Prayer

<p>Scripture: Philippians 4:6 – 'In everything by prayer and petition, present your requests to God.'</p> <p>Theme: Revitalization flows from dependence on God through prayer. Churches became houses of prayer again.</p>	
Facilitation Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remind group prayer is not about perfection. ● Model short, simple prayers for nervous participants.
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome & Prayer (5 min) ● Icebreaker: funniest/strangest place you've prayed (10 min) ● Scripture & Reflection (10 min) ● Group Prayer Circle (20 min) ● Prayer commitments, Revival Readiness Checklist, and closing (15 min)
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What role has prayer played in our church historically? ● How can we cultivate a deeper prayer culture now? ● What rhythms of prayer should our leadership team model?

Week 5 – Dealing with Toxins

<p>Scripture: Ephesians 4:31-32 – 'Get rid of all bitterness... be kind and compassionate.'</p> <p>Theme: Toxic attitudes, gossip, and conflict poison churches. Renewal requires addressing them honestly and biblically.</p>	
Facilitation Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage grace-filled honesty. ● Remind the group not to name names or gossip in the session.
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome & Prayer (5 min) ● Icebreaker: name one 'pet peeve' (10 min) ● Scripture & Reflection (10 min) ● Discussion on gossip/toxins (20 min) ● Prayer commitments, Revival Readiness Checklist, and closing (15 min)
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What toxins (attitudes, behaviors, habits) might hinder our church's health? ● How can we confront toxicity with grace and truth? ● How does forgiveness and reconciliation create space for revival?

Week 6 – Seeking Silver Bullets No More

<p>Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58 – 'Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord...'</p> <p>Theme: Revived churches stopped chasing 'quick fixes' (new pastor, new program) and embraced long-term faithfulness.</p>	
Facilitation Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Affirm perseverance stories. ● Contrast worldly 'instant results' with God's call to long obedience.
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome & Prayer (5 min) ● Icebreaker: share a time you stuck with something long-term (10 min) ● Scripture & Reflection (10 min) ● Discussion on quick fixes vs. faithfulness (20 min) ● Prayer commitments, Revival Readiness Checklist, and closing (15 min)
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What silver bullets have we chased in the past? ● Why is long-term obedience better than quick fixes? ● How do we stay faithful when results come slowly?

Week 7 – Choosing Meaningful Membership

<p>Scripture: Romans 12:4-5 – 'Each member belongs to all the others.'</p> <p>Theme: Membership shifted from names on a roll to genuine discipleship, responsibility, and commitment.</p>	
Facilitation Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight the importance of commitment. ● Encourage brainstorming ways members of all ages can serve together.
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome & Prayer (5 min) ● Icebreaker: best part of being on a team/group (10 min) ● Scripture & Reflection (10 min) ● Discussion on belonging (20 min) ● Prayer commitments, Revival Readiness Checklist, and closing (15 min)
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How does our church currently view membership? ● What does meaningful membership look like biblically? ● How can we invite members into deeper responsibility and engagement?

Week 8 – Change or Die

<p>Scripture: Romans 12:2 – 'Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'</p> <p>Theme: Churches that thrive are willing to change, even when it's hard, because faithfulness to Christ requires it.</p>	
Facilitation Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Challenge the group to apply lessons beyond the study.● Encourage each person to make a personal commitment.
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Welcome & Prayer (5 min)● Icebreaker: 'two roads' – choose between comfort or growth (10 min)● Scripture & Reflection (10 min)● Discussion on needed changes (20 min)● Prayer commitments, Revival Readiness Checklist, and closing (15 min)
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What specific changes must we commit to moving forward?● Where is God calling us to be courageous in change?● What next steps will sustain revival beyond this study?

Revival Readiness Checklist

Accepting Responsibility

- ☐ Leaders and members acknowledge the church's current health honestly.
- ☐ We avoid blaming outside factors (community, culture, other churches).
- ☐ Leadership has taken ownership of change.
- ☐ Regular evaluation of church vitality is part of our practice.

Overcoming the Traps of Traditions

- ☐ Traditions are reviewed regularly for alignment with the mission.
- ☐ No program or ministry is 'untouchable.'
- ☐ The church honors heritage without idolizing the past.
- ☐ Leaders communicate clearly when a tradition must shift or end.

Expanding the Scorecard

- ☐ Success is measured beyond attendance and giving.
- ☐ Discipleship, service, prayer, and outreach are tracked and celebrated.
- ☐ The church monitors community impact, not just internal growth.
- ☐ Testimonies and spiritual fruit are part of the evaluation.

Committing to Powerful Prayer

- ☐ Prayer is central in all gatherings (leadership, worship, planning).
- ☐ Prayer teams/intercessory groups are active and visible.
- ☐ Leaders model dependence on prayer.
- ☐ Prayer for community needs is a regular priority.

Dealing with Toxins

- ☐ Toxic attitudes (gossip, division, entitlement) are addressed directly.
- ☐ Leaders and members are accountable for biblical conduct.
- ☐ Forgiveness and reconciliation are actively practiced.
- ☐ Leadership models healthy, Christlike communication.

Seeking Silver Bullets No More

- ☐ The church resists quick fixes (new pastor, single program, building).
- ☐ Long-term discipleship and mission strategies are in place.
- ☐ Members understand revival is a process, not an event.
- ☐ Leadership embraces patience and perseverance.

Choosing Meaningful Membership

- ☐ Membership expectations are clearly communicated.
- ☐ New members are discipled and integrated into ministry.
- ☐ Membership is viewed as a covenant commitment, not a casual affiliation.
- ☐ Leaders regularly affirm the value and responsibility of membership.

Change or Die

- ☐ Leaders and members embrace the necessity of change.
- ☐ Fear of loss does not outweigh faith in God's future.
- ☐ The church has identified areas needing immediate change.
- ☐ Leaders are commissioned to carry revival forward.

Youth Sunday School Leader Guide

Week 1 – Owing Up (Accepting Responsibility)

Scripture: Galatians 6:5 – 'For each will have to bear his own load.'

Theme: Renewal starts when we stop making excuses and admit what's really going on.

Activity: Write one excuse you've made when things got hard → tear it up → replace with a prayer for responsibility.

Discussion/Reflection: Why is it powerful to own our mistakes instead of blaming others?

Week 2 – Traditions: Help or Trap? (Overcoming the Traps of Traditions)

Scripture: Mark 7:8 – 'You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.'

Theme: Good traditions keep us close to God; bad ones hold us back.

Activity: Tradition Showdown – name a school, family, or church tradition. Decide: helpful or trapping?

Discussion/Reflection: What traditions in youth group are worth keeping?

Week 3 – What Really Counts? (Expanding the Scorecard)

Scripture: Matthew 28:19–20 – 'Go and make disciples...'

Theme: Success is not numbers – it's lives changed for Jesus.

Activity: Design a 'Kingdom Scoreboard' – list ways to measure spiritual growth (prayer, serving, inviting friends, etc.).

Discussion/Reflection: How would you know if your faith is growing?

Week 4 – Prayer Power (Committing to Powerful Prayer)

Scripture: Philippians 4:6 – 'In everything by prayer and petition, present your requests to God.'

Theme: Revival comes when God's people pray.

Activity: Prayer Circle – each person prays one line for the group.

Discussion/Reflection: How can prayer make our youth group stronger?

Week 5 – Clearing Out the Poison (Dealing with Toxins)

Scripture: Ephesians 4:31–32 — 'Get rid of all bitterness... be kind and compassionate.'

Theme: Gossip, grudges, and negativity choke out life in the church.

Activity: Role play — how to respond to gossip in a kind but firm way.

Discussion/Reflection: What 'toxic stuff' do teens face that also hurts unity in church?

Week 6 – No Quick Fixes (Seeking Silver Bullets No More)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:58 — 'Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord...'

Theme: No one program or leader magically saves a church; faithfulness matters most.

Activity: Write 'quick fix promises' vs. 'long-term commitments' on two posters. Compare the difference.

Discussion/Reflection: Why do you think people want quick fixes instead of long-term faithfulness?

Week 7 – Belonging for Real (Choosing Meaningful Membership)

Scripture: Romans 12:4-5 — 'Each member belongs to all the others.'

Theme: Being part of a church means responsibility, not just attendance.

Activity: Youth Membership Covenant — brainstorm ways teens can take ownership in church life.

Discussion/Reflection: What does belonging to a church family mean to you?

Week 8 – Change or Die (Conclusion)

Scripture: Romans 12:2 — 'Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'

Theme: Churches only live when they choose change and renewal.

Activity: Two Paths posters — one for a church that refuses change, one for a church that chooses revival.

Discussion/Reflection: What changes can you help make in our youth group and church?

Youth Sunday School Handout

Week 1 – Owning Up (Accepting Responsibility)

Scripture: Galatians 6:5 – 'For each will have to bear his own load.'

Theme: Renewal starts when we stop making excuses and admit what's really going on.

Activity: Write one excuse you've made when things got hard → tear it up → replace with a prayer for responsibility.

Reflection Question: Why is it powerful to own our mistakes instead of blaming others?

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Reflection Question: What changes can you help make in our youth group and church?

Pre Study Survey

Section 1: About You

1. What is your church role?

☐ Member

☐ Visitor/New Attendee

☐ Leader (Deacon/Ministry Lead)

☐ Other: _____

☐ Pastor/Staff

2. How many years have you been a part of the CTOF community?

☐ <1 year

☐ 3-10 years

☐ 1-3 years

☐ 10-15 years

☐ 15+ years

3. Select your age range

☐ 13-17 years old

☐ 30-49 years old

☐ 18-29 years old

☐ 50-65 years old

☐ 66+ years old

Section 2: Perceptions of Church Health

The next section asks you to rate the health of Compassionate according key traits of a spiritually healthy church.

4. Rate the health of Compassionate in each area below? (0 = unhealthy, 5 = healthy)

	Belief in the Power of the Gospel: A healthy church genuinely believes that the Gospel has the power to transform lives, as demonstrated by the church's actions and its reliance on God's power rather than human effort.
	Courageous Leadership: Healthy churches have leaders who are not afraid to make bold, biblical decisions. These leaders, often called "Joshua leaders" by Rainer, are willing to take risks and face criticism for the sake of the church's mission.
	Embracing Change: Spiritually healthy churches are not nostalgic and don't resist change for the sake of tradition. As long as it doesn't conflict with biblical truth, they are willing to adapt their methods to be more effective in reaching their community.
	A Clear Outward Focus: Healthy churches are not self-serving. Members are actively engaged in their communities, seeing their daily lives and vocations as mission fields to reach non-Christians.

	Accepting Responsibility: Instead of blaming culture, their denomination, or other churches for their struggles, healthy churches view cultural shifts as opportunities to engage with the world.
	Intentional Discipleship: A healthy church has a clear, strategic process for helping people grow spiritually. This includes strong, biblical preaching and vibrant small groups.
	A Realistic View of Themselves: Healthy churches make an intentional effort to see themselves as they really are, identify areas for improvement, and view them as opportunities for growth.

5. Overall, how would you rate Compassionate's health, on a scale of 0-10? (0 = unhealthy, 5 = healthy)

0 1 2 3 4 5

6. What 3 words would you use to describe the current state of our church? Why?

7. Based on your experience, what challenges or barriers is our church currently facing?

Section 3: Expectations for the Study

8. Why did you choose to participate in this book study?

9. What do you hope to learn or experience through this study?

10. How open are you to change if it leads to church revitalization?

Not at all open Somewhat open Open Extremely Open

11. How ready are you personally to see our church make difficult changes for the sake of revitalization (0= not ready, 5= extremely ready)?

0 1 2 3 4 5

