

FAMILY FILM DEVOTIONAL GUIDE
TO THE DVD

The
Great Awakening
Spiritual Revival in Colonial America

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The Great Awakening chronicles the path of the American colonists as their spiritual apathy is replaced by revival and religious fervor. This devotional guide highlights important issues of personal revival as demonstrated throughout the Great Awakening. As you watch the DVD and work through this devotional, you will become aware of God's power and faithfulness in your life.

1 Lack of Spiritual Fervor

Only 100 years after the Pilgrims came, the colonists fell away to a complacent and spiritually apathetic attitude. They became accustomed to the busyness of their lifestyle and forgot their need for God. Briefly describe some of the things the colonists were focusing on rather than Christ. Discuss biblical characters who prospered and then turned from God (e.g. Lot, Solomon).

Reflection: Do you find yourself neglecting God when life seems easy and you are not facing hardship? What is the most important thing in your own life? What can we do to make sure this does not happen in our families? Or in our nation? What are you going to do about it? Take some time to discuss what individuals can do each day to remember God.

Consider the following verses: Luke 1:50; Hebrews 2:3; 2 Chronicles 7:14.

REV. SAMUEL WILLARD, 1700

It hath been a frequent observation that if one generation begins to decline the next that followeth it usually grows worse and so on 'til God poureth out His Spirit again upon them.

BREAK IT UP

We recommend looking over the guide and watching the film as a family the first night. Then take one section of this guide for each consecutive night for your family devotions. This will be more enriching than discussing the entire guide on one evening. Remember to plan another family movie night sometime during the year to refresh your memory of what you have learned! Sunday schools and Bible studies can view the DVD and use these questions to guide the discussion and application for each audience and age group.

2 Genuine Movement of the Spirit of God

Although there were many notable preachers throughout the Great Awakening, spiritual revival came because the Spirit of God moved through individuals who were faithfully serving God day to day. When the Spirit of God was moving, the people's favorite book was the Bible and their favorite place to be was church. Discuss how the Spirit of God moved in these situations:

Jonathan Edwards's preaching

George Whitefield's preaching

Samuel Morris's reading sermons

Reflection: How do we see the Spirit of God moving today? Do you see evidence of the Spirit of God in your life? Do you love God's Word? Do you enjoy fellowship with other believers? How do you respond to the preaching of God's Word? What are the priorities in your life?

Consider the following verses: Galatians 5:22-23; 1 John 4:13; Romans 8:14-16; John 16:13.

DR. HORATIUS BONAR, 19th Century

When the voice of God awakes not one, but thousands, it may be in a day when whole villages and districts seem as if arising and putting on new life.

3 Conversion

Throughout the Great Awakening, God drew many people to Himself. Can you describe some of the ways God drew people to Himself? Who were some of the men that God used? What were some of the methods that they used to share the gospel with others? What are ways that we can share the gospel today? Discuss the different ways that God used the following men to spread the gospel. Can you name other men?

William Tennent

George Whitefield

Samuel Morris

Benjamin Franklin

Reflection: Have you come to know the Lord as your Savior? If so, share your conversion experience. How has your life changed? Who has God used to share the gospel with you?

If you are still wondering how to receive Christ, consider the following verses: Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9.

MR. E. ADAMS, 1721

Of late there has been a greater stirring than ordinary. Many have been awakened to consider and inquire with a great deal of earnestness what they should do to be saved. Oh, that the same good Spirit from on high will pour out on the rest of the country.

4 Courage to Witness

“It was easier to witness back then.” Is this an excuse you find yourself giving to avoid witnessing? Name some other excuses we use today. The men of the Great Awakening were criticized by the intellectuals of the day. The Church of England, the established church, was generally not in favor of spiritual revival. Discuss some of the criticism that the following individuals faced:

William and Gilbert Tennent, Log College

John and Charles Wesley and George Whitefield, Methodist movement

Samuel Davies, Virginia pastor

Reflection: Do you get excited about what God has done for you? Are you willing to share that with others? Do we allow others’ opinions to affect our witnessing? Have you ever shared the gospel with someone? What challenges have you faced when sharing the gospel? What price are you willing to pay to share the Word of God?

Consider the following verses and ask God to help you have the courage and opportunity to share with someone: Matthew 10:32; Revelation 2:10; 1 Peter 3:15; Hebrews 13:6; 2 Timothy 1:7.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD, 1739

Oh, that I may be enabled to lift up my voice like a trumpet and to speak with the demonstration of the Spirit and with power.

Suggested Resources Available From BJU Press® & JourneyForth®

Faith of Our Fathers: Scenes from American Church History

Church History in First Person

The Mayflower Pilgrims

A Workman Not Ashamed

For more information about these titles as well as other helpful resources, please visit us online at www.bjupress.com or call us at 1.800.845.5731.