

Hope City

Discussion Guide

August 30, 2026

It's Time to Run

Revive Me: Week 5

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Main Idea

Revival was never meant to be a temporary spiritual experience; it is meant to transform the way we live after the moment is over. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah moved from repairing the altar, to seeing the fire fall, to praying for rain, and finally to running in what God had promised. In the same way, what God revives within us should prepare us for what He wants to do through us next. We must protect what God has awakened, remain obedient when we cannot yet see the outcome, and trust Him for the strength to run into the new season He has prepared.

Anchor Verse: “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1, NIV).

Read: 1 Kings 18:41–46 (NLT)

1. DON'T LET THE MOMENT END WHEN GOD WANTS IT TO BE MULTIPLIED

The fire falling on Mount Carmel was an incredible moment, but Elijah understood that it was not the finish line. God had restored the altar, turned the hearts of the people back to Him, and demonstrated His power, but there was still more He wanted to accomplish. In the same way, powerful encounters with God should produce lasting transformation rather than temporary inspiration. Revival is not measured only by what we experience during worship, prayer, or a church gathering—it is revealed by what changes in our lives after the moment has passed. We must intentionally protect, feed, and continue what God has awakened in us.

Scripture: Romans 12:2

Discussion: What has God awakened, restored, or changed in you during this Revive Me series?

Why is it sometimes easier to have a powerful spiritual moment than to maintain the habits that allow that moment to produce lasting transformation?

What practical habit—prayer, worship, Scripture reading, serving, community, or something else—do you need to protect so that what God revived does not die again?

2. STAY OBEDIENT EVEN WHEN THE PROMISE FEELS OUT OF REACH

God had already promised Elijah that rain was coming, yet Elijah still climbed Mount Carmel, bowed down, and prayed. When his servant looked toward the sea, he initially saw nothing, but Elijah kept sending him back. This teaches us that a promise from God does not remove our responsibility to pray, believe, and remain obedient while we wait. “Nothing yet” does not necessarily mean nothing is happening, because God can be working long before there is visible evidence. Faith keeps going even when the beginning looks small because God has never been intimidated by small beginnings.

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:42–44; Zechariah 4:10

Discussion: Where in your life are you currently experiencing a “nothing yet” season?

How do you normally respond when you have prayed, obeyed, and believed but still cannot see evidence of change?

What small sign of progress might you be overlooking because you expected God’s answer to look bigger or happen faster?

What would it look like for you to “keep going” in that area this week?

3. GET READY TO RUN TOWARD WHAT YOU PRAYED FOR

The small cloud eventually became a massive rainstorm, and Elijah found himself running in the very rain he had prayed and believed for. Scripture makes it clear that Elijah did not accomplish this through natural strength alone—the Lord gave him supernatural strength for what was ahead. God does not expect us to enter a new season relying only on yesterday’s capacity; He provides grace, strength, wisdom, and power for the assignment He gives us. Sometimes the answer to our prayer also becomes the assignment of our next season, requiring us to grow into new responsibility. Revival puts God back at the center of our lives and prepares us to run toward what He has placed in front of us.

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:45–46; Isaiah 40:31

Discussion: Have you ever received something you prayed for and then discovered that the blessing also came with new responsibility? What did that season teach you?

Where might God be asking you to stop standing still and begin moving toward what you have been praying for?

What area of your life needs new capacity—new faith, discipline, strength, wisdom, or courage—for the season ahead?

What would change if Jesus were truly back at the front and center of that area of your life?

SUMMARY

Elijah's story reminds us that the fire was never meant to be the end of the story. God restored the altar, turned His people's hearts back toward Him, sent the rain He had promised, and then gave Elijah the strength to run into what came next. Revival should work the same way in our lives. God revives us so that we can live differently, remain faithful when the promise seems distant, and move forward when the new season arrives. We cannot ask God for new ground while insisting on remaining the same people we were before He revived us. **This isn't the end of revival; this is the beginning of something new.**

CALL TO ACTION

Identify one thing God has revived in you during this series that you refuse to allow to die again.

Write it down and determine one practical action that will help you protect it. Maybe you need to establish a consistent prayer rhythm, return to Scripture, join a group, begin serving, repair a relationship, remove a distraction, or continue doing something God has already asked you to do.

Then identify the area where you have been experiencing "nothing yet." Instead of giving up, commit to another step of obedience this week.

Pray:

"God, thank You for what You have revived in me. Help me protect what You have awakened and remain faithful when I cannot yet see what You promised. Give me new strength, new faith, and new capacity for what You are calling me into next. Put Jesus back at the center of every area of my life, and give me the courage to run toward everything You have prepared for me."

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Ready, Set, Run!

Purpose:

This quick group game reinforces the message that hearing an instruction is different from actually responding to it.

How to Play:

Have everyone stand where they are.

Explain that the leader will call out a series of simple actions. The group must perform the action only when the leader begins the command with the phrase **"It's time to..."**

For example:

"It's time to clap twice."

"It's time to turn around."

"Touch your shoulder."

"It's time to raise both hands."

"Take one step forward."

"It's time to take one step backward."

Anyone who performs an action without hearing **"It's time to..."** sits down for that round.

Begin slowly, then gradually speed up the commands until one person remains.

For the final command say:

"It's time to run!"

Instead of actually running, everyone jogs in place for five seconds.

Transition to Discussion:

Say:

"It was not enough to hear an instruction—you had to recognize it and respond. Elijah heard what God had promised, but he still had to pray, look again, prepare, and eventually run. Faith does not simply hear what God says; faith responds."

Then ask:

What is something you believe God has been saying to you that now requires a response?

Use that answer to transition into the first discussion question.