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Conference Training Plan

This conference is a two-hour overview of the book *Comeback Groups*. The plan is designed to expose Bible study and church leaders to the basic concepts and ideas presented in this book.

Purchase a copy of the book at lifeway.com/trainingresources or download the free PDF version there.

The training plan was created by Ken Braddy, author of *Comeback Groups*.

Initial Planning

• Date for the training: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

• Time for the training: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Note: Many churches experience success with gathering individuals for training if the time immediately follows the Sunday worship service.
* Provide meals and childcare for the participants, if needed.
* Decide who will lead the training. Consider the following:
* Senior pastor
* Sunday School director/discipleship pastor
* Guest presenter
* Associational Missionary Strategist
* State convention staff member
* Denominational leader

Their names:

* + - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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• Budget for the event: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

• Meal

• Copies of the book, *Comeback Groups*

• Guest presenter honorarium and travel expenses

• Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Steps to Ensure a Great Training Experience

1. Pray for yourself and for future participants.
2. Secure copies of *Comeback Groups* for each participant at lifeway.com/trainingresources.
3. Download a free PDF copy of *Comeback Groups* at lifeway.com/trainingresources.
4. Read *Comeback Groups* and make notes throughout the book.
5. Promote the training event weekly, beginning six weeks prior to the training date:
   1. pulpit announcements
   2. brochure
   3. email
   4. text messaging
   5. website
6. Enlist a person (or team) to prepare or order the meal, if provided.
7. Enlist a person (or team) to manage the childcare (or childcare vouchers) for participants.
8. Enlist a person to help manage the audio-visual needs for the training event.
9. Arrange the training room for maximum impact:
   1. Seat participants in semi-circle(s) facing a focal wall.
   2. Seat participants at round tables, four people at each table, with an open space at the front, so everyone is facing the focal wall.
10. Secure name tags and pens for participants, along with permanent markers.
11. Start on time and end on time.

Two-Hour Conference Plan

**Welcome (10 Minutes)**

1. Welcome participants to the training event.
2. Distribute copies of *Comeback Groups*. Explain that the purpose of this training event is for participants to gain an understanding of the contents found within the book.
3. Pray, asking God to use this time to help participants better understand the importance of revival in their lives and in the lives of people in their groups.

**Introduction (20 Minutes)**

1. Ask your attendees to respond to the following question: “When have you experienced the power of a spiritual revival?” (Remind attendees that their answers can relate to a personal experience, or a revival at a church or other venue.)
2. Deliver a mini-lecture using content from the following sections of the Introduction, helping participants understand revival in the Old Testament and beyond. Choose the content from the sections you believe will best help your group leaders gain a more thorough understanding of revival:
   1. God’s Pattern for Revival and Spiritual Awakening
   2. Revival in the Old Testament
   3. But Wait, There’s More!
   4. Fast Forward
   5. Why Comeback Groups?
3. Tell your attendees that while we hope and pray for revival in our lives, we can never know when God’s Spirit will do a transformative work. In the meantime, we can still focus on elements of revival that we see in Scripture.
4. Inform your attendees that they will examine three elements of revival that took place under King Asa, highlighted in 2 Chronicles 14–16.

**Chapter 1 (20 Minutes)**

1. Summarize the setting of 2 Chronicles 14:
   1. King Asa was a boy king.
   2. King Asa worked hard to reform Judah’s spiritual life by removing the objects and places of false worship.
   3. Judah was threatened by a million-man army that came up from Egypt.
   4. Judah was severely outnumbered; death was imminent.
   5. King Asa prayed for God’s help and deliverance.
   6. God granted Judah a great victory over the Ethiopians.
2. Focus attention on the section titled “Realizing the Power of Prayer.”
   1. Divide attendees into three groups (doubling up if necessary). Assign each group one of the bulleted paragraphs in the section:
      1. Godly leaders and their groups pray for opportunities to share the gospel.
      2. Godly leaders and their groups pray for lost people by name.
      3. Godly leaders and their groups pray for revival.
   2. Ask each team to quietly read their assigned section and be prepared to deliver a short report about the content to all attendees.
3. Focus attention on the section titled “Realizing God’s Work on Our Behalf.”
   1. Ask participants to share stories of God’s work in their lives (or His work in the lives of people in their groups).
   2. Remind attendees that experiencing and reflecting on God’s work in our lives is often a part of the revival process.

**Chapter 2 (20 Minutes)**

* + - 1. Review the opening section that relates to the conversation between Azariah and King Asa, as he returned from battle. Emphasize that although Asa had already begun spiritual reforms in Judah, more work was needed to rid the land of false worship.
      2. Focus their attention to the “We Respond” sections. Assign one section to each of the six different groups (have attendees number themselves from 1 to 6, repeating the process until everyone has been assigned a number). Ask attendees who were assigned the same number to do the following:
      3. Read their assigned section.
      4. Discuss how the assigned “We Respond” section applies to their Bible study group.
      5. Select one person in the group to deliver a sixty-second overview for the rest of the attendees.
      6. Suggest at least one implication for Bible study groups that come from the assigned section.
      7. Conclude this part of the training by summarizing other information found in the “Renewed Commitment in Your Bible Study Group” section. Remind attendees that when a person or a group of people experience revival, they respond to God and do things that shows evidence in their newfound commitment to God.

**Break (10 minutes)**

**Chapter 3 (20 minutes)**

* + - 1. Using the introductory section, summarizing the events of 2 Chronicles 16, which details what happened when King Asa was attacked by King Baasha. Emphasize that Asa chose not to seek God’s help, but to use gold and silver from the temple treasury to entice a third king, Ben-hadad, to fight against Asa’s enemy, King Baasha. Although the plan succeeded, it displeased God, who sent a seer to hold Asa accountable for his foolish behavior.
      2. Instruct attendees to reflect on ways that God has supported them or has supported someone in their Bible study group. Invite them to turn to a neighbor and share those experiences.
      3. Ask attendees to identify ways that King Asa had changed from “good King Asa” in chapters 14 and 15 to the evil person portrayed in chapter 16. Invite attendees to consult   
         2 Chronicles 16:7-14 in their Bibles for insights into Asa’s character.
      4. Emphasize the reason for Asa’s change (see the section titled “There Was No More War”).
  + Focus on the fact that Asa and his people experienced twenty-five years of peace and prosperity (good things, of course), but without pressures and troubles (which we read about in 2 Chronicles 14), he drifted from God. The revival highlighted in chapter 15 faded away.
  + Share the story titled “Two Degrees of Drift.” Emphasize that the pilots were ninety-eight percent accurate in their flight plan, but the two degrees of drift cost everyone’s lives that day when the plane crashed.
    - 1. Ask the attendees to brainstorm ways they can lead their groups to remember the mighty acts of God on behalf of their group (or themselves). Have them suggest ways they can help the people in their groups avoid the dangers of drifting from God spiritually.

**Chapter 4 (20 minutes)**

1. In advance, download the hymn, “Revive Us Again.” Play the hymn from your mobile device (consider pairing your phone to a Bluetooth speaker). Invite attendees to follow the lyrics.
2. Summarize the section titled “The Chicken or the Egg.” Lead attendees to focus on the bulleted items that can be done as a result of, or prior to, revival.
3. To help attendees focus on practical ways to use the content from *Comeback Groups*, ask them to identify three actions they will commit to lead their groups to do as they pray for and await revival. Invite attendees to share their action items with a neighbor.
4. Conclude the training by leading the group to pray for revival in their lives, and in the lives of their group members.