

“Our Hope for America”

Pastor Tom Demaree

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Tom Demaree spoke to the New Life congregation this weekend. He has a unique perspective as one who has walked across America, partnering with other church bodies in a ministry of unity and national repentance. In his travels he has seen breakthroughs worth pursuing in our own community. Below are some of his keys to breakthrough in repentance, prayer and unity and the scriptures supporting them.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Have you ever participated in a prayer walk? If so, share a little about it with the group.

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Pursuing genuine unity through intimate friendship

Q1. Read John 17:20-23

Pastor Tom has observed that many of us have few if any genuinely close intimate friends. He believes we're better at *getting* together than *being* together. How would you describe the nature of the relationship between believers that Jesus sought in His prayer in John 17:20-23? What are some of the practical expressions, and personal costs, that this level of unity involves? Do you currently have anyone with whom you share such a bond? What does John 17:23 tell us is revealed by such unity among believers?

Repenting as His People

Q2. Read 2 Chronicles 7:13-15

The only true hope for America is God. In his ministry Pentecost Walk, Tom is calling the body of Christ across the country to “bow before heaven as one people in prayer.” This requires both unity and repentance. In 2 Chronicles 7, God calls upon His people¹ to do what four things? Which of these do you feel is most challenging?

Q3. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10

2 Corinthians 7:10 contrasts the results of godly sorrow and worldly sorrow. Repentance involves both changing our mind and our actions. How might humility create in us godly sorrow that leads to repentance? What is your response to God viewing us as collectively responsible for the sins of the nation? In a statement titled “Unvarnished Confession”, Pastor Tom wrote, “No more finger-pointing at everybody else. As the Church goes, so goes the nation.” How would you respond to that statement?

¹ am- defined as nation, or people

Praying with Passion

Q4. Read Acts 2:42-47

Change happens when God’s people are unified in prayer. In Acts chapter 2 the early church was committed to the apostles teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. Their prayer was described as ardent and continuous. Have you ever experienced a time when you joined with other believers in long-term, passionate prayer? What was the occasion of that prayer and what results did you see?

National Prayer of Repentance

Read the prayer on the reverse side

Today in your group, you have the opportunity to join together in prayer for our country. On the reverse side you will find the “National Prayer of Repentance” used by Tom Demaree in his ministry. Join together in praying aloud this prayer and anything else your group feels led to pray for.

WRAP-UP

The motto for Pentecost Walk is “Repentance in Unity for One Nation Under God.” We don’t need to point fingers at what is wrong in our country, we, as Americans, and as Christians, need to humbly repent before God, not only for our own individual sins, but also for the sins of our country. To be effective we need to be in unity with one another, fostering genuine bonds of friendship and brotherhood, allowing ourselves to experience deep sorrow in response to the sins of our nation, and committing to on-going ardent prayer.

Memory Verse

14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge

Take a prayer walk around your neighborhood, praying as God leads.

