"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.

Q1

John 17:20-23 ESV - 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Q2

2 Chronicles 7:13-15 ESV - 13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, 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. 15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

Q3

2 Corinthians 7:10 NIV - 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Q4

National Prayer of Repentance

Yet still, we take You for granted. We come before You now, in desperate need of Your forgiveness. We confess that the liberty You so graciously gave us has become a license to do as we please. Our culture mocks You; our highest courts are esteemed above Your Word. We've traded genuine spirituality for temporary pleasure, true virtue for hollow celebrity. We teach our children self-indulgence, yet stand mystified at the blood on their hands. We lust after material things, yet wonder why our souls are empty.

Revive us, O Lord. Your Presence is our only hope. Impart to us Your passion for good over evil. As we humble ourselves and seek Your face, forgive us O God, and heal us. Make us one, that America would be the land You envisioned from the beginning...a beacon of hope lifted to the world, a people free to serve You and one another, in genuine love.

Almighty God, we thank You and praise You for Your unending mercy and grace poured out upon our nation. You have delivered us in times of war, reunited us after conflicts among ourselves, and filled our lives with such abundance, Your blessings overflow our borders.

In the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—in the name of Jesus we pray. AMEN.

Acts 2:42-47 ESV - 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Prayer requests con't _____