



Recovering Church Health

A Six-Week Emphasis

The Six-Week Devotional

- 1. The 42-Day Devotional Guide** is the backbone of this six-week emphasis. This is because church health is primarily a spiritual issue. The pastor (and other leaders) must strongly promote and encourage personal use of the devotional guide.
- 2. Devotionals in Audio:** Available at: www.smalltownbaptist.net/recovering.htm
Those who don't enjoy reading or who have busy schedules can listen during their daily commute (it is suggested that people listen both on the way to work and on the way home). There is a QR code available to place in your printed materials.
- 3. Devotional Review:** Ask your adult Sunday School teachers to begin their lessons each of these six weeks by asking class members to briefly mention one thing in the devotional booklet the previous week which spoke most to them, challenged them, or most encouraged them. An alternative is to do this in your mid-week service.
- 4. Events:** In addition to the devotionals, there is below a menu of possible events, which can be helpful in strengthening the health of your church.

Events Menu

- 1. Prayer Revival:** No church rises above its prayer life and no church can be fully healthy without praying! You can start with a prayer emphasis that lasts a week, two weeks, a month, or 40 days. This booklet lists options for a prayer emphasis: www.smalltownbaptist.net/pdf/worship_booklet.pdf
- 2. A Solemn Assembly:** This is a time of guided prayer and repentance in a single worship service. The Not I, but Christ Tract could be used as a tool for preparation or in the service itself. It is available here: www.smalltownbaptist.net/pdf/not_I.pdf
- 3. Deacon Training:** An outside facilitator would lead a Saturday session (morning or afternoon) on the biblical role of deacons and then discuss deacon skills such as hospital visitation, crisis management, conflict resolution, etc. Contact your state office for assistance.

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- **4. Memories Workshop:** A Memories Workshop involves an outside facilitator, meeting with your congregation in a church-wide event, to review the timeline of your church's history. This person helps you celebrate victories in the church's history and listens to the agony of its defeats. He will help your congregation better understand what brought your church to your current juncture, identify patterns of strength and weakness, and help you think about these events as God. Contact your state office and ask for the person who assists churches with Transitional Pastors.
- **5. Conflict Resolution Sunday:** Invite a respected area pastor, someone with much experience and a great reputation. This needs to be someone who knows how to set a warm tone and make people feel safe. Ask this person to speak in a morning service on the topic: "From this Day Forward." The theme will be: Regardless of how anyone here may have handled conflict in the past, from this day forward, these are our ground rules, following biblical principles.
- **6. "Lift Up Your Eyes" Leader Summit:** Hold this event (or these events) on a weeknight. Invite someone from the State Office or your Director of Missions to review the demographics for your community with your deacons and key leaders. You will want to give your guest a good drive-through tour before they speak. You may also invite a local real estate agent who is a believer to report on trends in the area. Ask your speakers to help everyone "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields."
- **7. Great Commission Sunday:** The focus of this day is evangelism and discipleship and every Christian's responsibility to be involved. You will want to give your members something to do – something that anyone can do – as you call them to action. You can use "Who is Your One?" or some other emphasis.
- **8. Celebrate Church Membership Rally:** This is an uplifting service with a special guest preacher, who can really ring the bell! According to your church's style of music, this needs to be done "big." You could include baptisms, a testimony, or introduction of new members. You can download and use the "I Am a Member of the Church" responsive reading (http://www.smalltownbaptist.net/ppt/i_am_member.pptx). (You will want to practice with a core group ahead of time, in prayer meeting or choir practice, so it won't sound like a Gregorian chant.

What Do You Preach On During This Emphasis?

- Preach on the six main functions of a church: Christ-centered worship, biblical instruction, prayer, world evangelization, nurturing fellowship, and caring acts. Avoid those matters being covered by guest speakers in the events chosen from the menu. Or, preach a series on the Doctrine of the Church.

Music for this Emphasis

- 1. Notes to Worship Leaders:** It is understood that there's a limited number of songs for this emphasis. Some listed below are old by today's standards, but if your younger members have never heard them, the songs could bless them for the first time. You're a good musician; you'll know how to freshen them up!

Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old. – Matthew 13:52

- 2. Celebrate Church Membership Rally:** If your church chooses to have this service, the music needs to be, according to your church's style of music, big! Your praise team and/or choir needs to look forward to this service and talk it up in the church.

- 3. Hymns:**

The Church's One Foundation

Congregational: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=1LZVz1guz2c>

As a Solo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckeOcd4K8pE>

Guitar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waVPFivnFa0>

Orchestra: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BA-JXeHRRDw>

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DxULr6NAZE&list=RD9DxULr6NAZE&start_radio=1

- 4. Keith and Kristyn Getty:**

Facing a Task Unfinished: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFHdPCNliwM>

O Church Arise: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZmS81yLiMg>

- 5. Choir or Praise Team:**

Triumphantly, The Church Will Rise: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gz3qK78Wadc>

Come Holy Spirit, John W. Peterson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5Qedreh0II> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qUc0e305h8>

With Narration: The Church Triumphant

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xws7I6iX8Jo>

Church: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz6tBXF-plo>

- 6. Solos** (As sung by Steve Green)

Touch Your People Once Again: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtFrhgBZO-w>

Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1t2QLazckPA&list=RD1t2QLazckPA&index=1>

Bring Back the Glory: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG_ejDSYWeQ