

Prepare for an

# AWAKENING

Based on the book by Stovall Weems

WEEK 1 :: MARCH 9, 2011

## Irrepressible Worship

*Some of the teachers in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."*

—LUKE 19:39-40, NIV

One day when I was a college student, I heard a speaker say, "If you've never really walked with God, you need to walk with God this summer." A simple challenge, but I knew I had heard the voice of God. I needed to surrender to God totally, not just treat Him as an add-on to an already busy life. So in my heart I responded, *Yes, God!* And from then on, everything was different for me. Every day, God was at the forefront of my thoughts and at the heart of my emotions.

Believe it or not, that's how we're all supposed to live all the time. We all need an awakening to the Lord that lets us live close to him, with passion and freshness. The apostle Paul put it as a command: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11).

Where this passion comes out most naturally is in worship. We *can't help* singing praise songs to God. We *can't help* telling Him how wonderful He is and how much we love Him. To be awakened is to worship, and thus we fulfill the purpose for which we were created.

As we approach Easter and revisit Christ's death and resurrection, let's ask ourselves if we're worshipping our great God with joy and abandon. Are we filled with zeal? Have we held on to our spiritual fervor?

This can be the season when you awaken to a new life of passion for Christ.

*Worship is the thank you that can't be silenced.* —MAX LUCADO

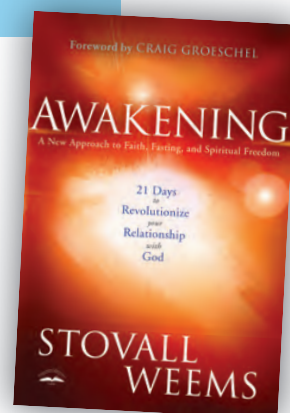
*You know what's really wild? This massive God, who has never known any shortage of worship, wants to be worshiped . . . by you. Right now.* —LOUIE GIGLIO

## Bible Reading Plan: Matthew 21:1-17

### Prayer Focus:

Lately, has worship for you been more a matter of "ought to" or "want to"? What is the temperature of your heart for God—cold? lukewarm? burning hot? How do you want to be different by Easter? Pray about these things.

Based on the book, *AWAKENING: A New Approach to Faith, Fasting, and Spiritual Freedom* by Stovall Weems



### About the Author

Stovall Weems is the founder and lead pastor of Celebration Church in Jacksonville, Florida, a thriving, multi-site church with locations both regionally and internationally. In addition to being a pastor, teacher, and conference speaker, Stovall leads Awakening, a 21-day spiritual campaign of prayer, fasting, and personal devotion that takes place each January. Stovall and his wife, Kerri, have three children. Learn more at [www.awake21.org](http://www.awake21.org).