

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Every Praise, We Praise Your Name, How Great is the Love, Because of Who You Are

## WELCOME

**Excuse Me.** Briefly share the common excuses you make.

## WORD

### 2 CORINTHIANS 5:9–10

<sup>9</sup>Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

### NEVER MAKE EXCUSES

Today we live in a society where everyone makes excuses so that they can blame others. This habitual mindset of blaming others gets passed down to the next generation who takes on an entitlement mentality instead of assuming personal responsibility.

Here are some common excuses we make: *I did not know; I have no time; I forgot; I'm only human; Everybody is doing it.*

Instead of making such excuses, we should always be responsible for the choices we make and for the consequences of our choices.

### ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY

We better not excuse ourselves and seek other people to blame. While we should set standards for ourselves that are higher than what anyone would expect of us, we should remember to be lenient and forgiving of other people (**Matthew 7:3, 5**).

But why should we assume responsibility?

**It is God's Design (Genesis 2–3).** Adam was put in the Garden of Eden to take the responsibilities of cultivating and keeping it. From the very beginning, work was meant by God for good. In His eyes, work is an act of worship. Whenever we assume responsibility with whatever our role is — wife or husband, parent or child, boss or employee — we are demonstrating our act of service to the Lord.

The devil however attacks us to doubt, to deny God's Word and to question His character (**Genesis 3:1–6**). Eve disobeyed God because she was deceived that God, in commanding them not to eat the tree of the knowledge

of good and evil, did not want them to reach their maximum potential. To suspect that God is not good is the root of all sin.

The first negative emotion found in the Bible is when Adam hid from God because he was afraid and ashamed of disobeying Him (**Genesis 3:9–10**). The story shows how sin led to excuses after excuses. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve passed the blame to the serpent (**Genesis 3:11–13**).

**It Affects Others (Genesis 3:21).** When Adam and Eve messed up, God ended up paying for it. He made the initiative to clothe the couple with garments made up of animal skin. This marks the first instance of shedding of blood in the Bible; for to make garments of skin, an animal must be killed.

This shows that when we do not assume responsibility, somebody ends up taking the responsibility for us. Every time we become irresponsible, it affects other people. But if everyone assumes personal responsibility, it will improve our relationships with each other and ultimately with God.

**It is Good for Us (Matthew 25:20–30).** The Parable of the Talents gives us examples of people who chose to assume responsibility and an example of someone who chose to be lazy and find others to blame for his behavior. The story showed that laziness is indeed the cousin of irresponsibility.

The story teaches us that God wants people to make best use of their abilities and resources for His glory. He entrusts to us possessions according to our ability. More so, each one of us shall be held responsible for the respective role God has given.

## WORD (cont'd)

God is pleased when we work hard and own up to our responsibilities. He considers it a job well done. Because assuming responsibility is for our own good, we are actually doing ourselves a favor in doing so. Like what happened in the story, the day of reckoning will come wherein God will hold us all accountable. On that day, the blessings of abundance and the curse of worthlessness will be served accordingly (v.30).

### DO NOT BLAME OTHERS

We can blame others and make excuses after excuses today, but not when the day of accounting finally comes. Each one of us will have stand before the Lord for what

we have done and have not done, according to the responsibility bestowed upon us (2 Corinthians 5:9–10).

So, stop blaming your spouse, your children, your parents, your teachers, your students, your leaders, the government, or even the society you are in. You have no control over them. You should stop thinking that they are the ones at fault for the bad things that happen to us. Instead, focus on fulfilling your part and doing your best. Leave the rest to God's grace.

Since our life on earth is just a preparation for eternity, do not lose heart in doing good. In due time, we will have a great harvest of eternal rewards from God for taking responsibility and for pleasing Him.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

1. **Please Him.** What is the command in 2 Corinthians 5:9–10? What is the reason for such instruction?
2. **Blame Game.** Based on your experience, what are the irreversible consequences of blaming others for your behavior and choices? What did you learn from your experience?
3. **Assume Responsibility.** In a scale of 1 to 10 (10 highest), how do you rate yourself in assuming responsibility? What ways can you improve in assuming responsibility?

## WORKS

### I AM RESPONSIBLE

*"The fastest and most dependable way to eliminate negative emotions is to say, 'I am responsible!'"*

List down specific areas of your life today where you can start assuming responsibility. Write down steps of action you intend to make yourself responsible.

Example: Money

1. I will be responsible for my day to day expenses. I will not buy anything that is not part of the budget.
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends