

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

God is Here, All Because of Jesus, God is Able, Victor's Crown

## WELCOME

**Sad-Glad.** What makes you sad? What makes you glad?

## WORD

### PHILIPPIANS 2:3–5

<sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup>do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

Self-centeredness, self-absorption, Narcissism and egotism are different names describing our obsession to self which we can collectively call as "Selfietitis." It is a spiritual disease characterized by excessive preoccupation with ourselves and our own needs without thinking of others. People afflicted with selfietitis believe that the key to happiness is putting their "self" first before God and others; however, they usually turn out unhappy and miserable.

Self-centeredness is the root problem of sin (**Isaiah 53:6**). By nature, we are selfish. Our tendency is to take care of ourselves first, think a lot about our self and we want to do things our way. The Bible, however, teaches us some divine principles: to think of others more than ourselves; to receive, we must give; the last shall be first; and to lead we must serve.

Thinking of others first does not mean that we are lesser than they are but that we humbly consider them more important than us. The Bible also does not tell us to disregard self-care in doing what is good for others. The antidote to selfishness is to learn to genuinely love people the right way.

### ABRAHAM AND LOT (GENESIS 13)

Selfietitis usually breeds in the family and in other committed relationships. The Bible shows a contrast of attitude in the light of self-interest between Abraham and his nephew Lot.

When there was strife between the herdsmen of Abraham and of Lot, Abraham initiated to settle the conflict by dividing the land with Lot. He surrendered his personal interest on the land they were dividing by setting aside his patriarchal right to make the first choice and gave them over to Lot. Culturally, Lot

could have refused the favor with due respect to his uncle, but he did not. He surveyed the land and chose the best portion for himself eastward and then settled his tent near Sodom, a progressive city but known for wickedness.

Our selfishness tends to compromise our moral values for the sake of gains. Sometimes we think we are just pursuing abundance for our family but in reality, we are just thinking of ourselves.

In the case of Lot, he became successful but he did not have moral integrity and ascendancy to his family, even to his sons-in law (**Genesis 19:14**). When he alerted them that they need to leave Sodom and Gomorrah because God will destroy the city, they did not believe him. He could not convince them about God perhaps because he himself was hesitant to go.

Selfish people are shortsighted and they only think of temporal gains. By committing incest with his daughters, Lot lost everything he had in his lifetime including his descendants the Moabites and Ammonites who were completely eradicated in history. In his desire to gain more, he lost all. Selfishness eventually destroys a person and at the end it will lead to misery.

On the other hand, Abraham who was selfless was blessed by God (**Genesis 13:14–15**). For him, intimacy with God is far more important than real estate. He can afford to be generous because he knew that the blessing does not come from the land but from God.

Knowing who God is and what He has promised to do will keep us from selfietitis. The more we know the Lord, the more we become generous because we know God is taking care of our future.

# WORD (cont'd)

## JESUS' SELFLESS MODEL (PHILIPPIANS 2)

The antidote for selfietitis is following the model of Jesus (v.3–4). The attitude and mind of Jesus is servanthood, obedience, humility and love. He came to serve and not to be served. To save us from sin, He emptied Himself of His glory and divine privileges. He became man, and not just a mere man but a lowly servant. He was willing to die for us, and not just to die but to be crucified. Exchanging His life for our life, He was thinking of us because He loved us.

If we are proud and we think we cannot humble ourselves, the Bible is telling us to look to Jesus. If He can do what He has done for us, then who are we not to learn to humble ourselves and think of others. In

servicing others, we should look to Jesus and follow Him as our model (v. 5–8). But we cannot have the attitude and mind of Christ until we have totally surrendered our life to Him. We need to first surrender our life to Jesus.

One day, all beings in heaven, on earth and underneath will bow down to Jesus (v. 9–11). You do not need to wait for that day because you can make that choice now to believe in Jesus as your Savior and bow down to Him as your Lord.

The antidote for selfietitis is looking at Jesus. For practical application, think of J.O.Y. – Jesus, Others, You. To experience true joy, prioritize Jesus first, others next, and you last.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

1. **Others-centered.** What is Paul's instruction in **Philippians 2:1–5** about being selfless? Briefly explain.
2. **Selfie or Selfless.** What did you learn from the story of Abraham and Lot? How is it applicable to you?
3. **True Joy.** What makes you truly joyful? How does prioritizing Jesus, others next and you last, give you true joy?

# WORKS

## PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Life application: Pray and care for others by applying practical ways of being selfless which gives you the opportunity to share Jesus. Below are some practical suggestions:

- If there's a job that no one wants to do, I'll do that job.
- If someone cuts me on the road, I will let him in and not retaliate.
- If someone needs a taxi, I'll let that person ride first and I'll just take the next one.

## 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