

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Joy to the World, Hark the Herald, Good, Good Father, Great is Thy Faithfulness

## WELCOME

**Purposeful Life.** Briefly share what you believe to be your purpose for living.

## WORD

### COLOSSIANS 4:2–6

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; <sup>3</sup> praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; <sup>4</sup> that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. <sup>5</sup> Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

### LIVING WITH THE RIGHT PURPOSE

The greatest tragedy in life is not death but living life with the wrong purpose.

Many people struggle with their purpose for being. They go through life not knowing why they exist. But a life devoid of meaning can lead to depression and anxiety.

Though some people may be living a life with a purpose, it may not necessarily be the right one. The truth is we will never know our true purpose in life unless we consult our Maker.

The Bible is clear: we are made by God and for God.

*“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.” – Colossians 1:16*

Until we understand this reality and believe it with all our hearts and minds, life will be meaningless. Right belief will lead to right living. If we know why we exist, then when problems come our way, we can survive and thrive in our lives.

### LIVING A LIFE PLEASING TO GOD

To be pleasing to God is the right purpose for our lives and ought to be our driving motivation (**2 Corinthians 5:9**). Making it our top priority will simplify our lives. It will lead us to use our time and resources for what will please God. More so, it will make our decision-making clear and simple. If we are driven instead by money or by pleasing people, we will tend to make decisions based on pursuits that are fleeting and beyond satisfaction.

If we believe in Jesus, and we know that we are made by Him and for Him, it just makes sense to live a life pleasing to Him. Here are some ways to do so:

#### 1. Praying to Please God

*Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; – Colossians 4:2*

To devote means to give all energy and attention with defined intention. God wants us to spend time with Him in prayer because we are created by Him and for Him. Prayer brings intimacy with God and reminds us of God’s purpose for our lives. Our prayer life actually tells a lot about the status of our spiritual lives.

We should pray with thanksgiving and the peace of God will guard our hearts and our minds (**Philippians 4:6–7**). Prayer is an act of expressing faith in God and thanking Him even before the prayer is answered. Praying is not telling God what to do but aligning our lives to His will. The Apostle Paul prayed three times for God to take away the thorns in his flesh, but God’s answer was “no” (**2 Corinthians 12:8**). For Paul, God’s grace is sufficient, and God’s power is made perfect in his weakness.

Whatever is going on in our lives, we can trust God. He wants us to experience His truth. We will never know that God is sufficient until all we have is Him. God allows problems for us to draw closer to Him, not to push us away. Many times, we have lots of substitutes for Jesus. We run to friends and all kinds of people for help. But sometimes God allows us to be all alone so that we will have no one to go but Him. It is only then can we experience God’s amazing

# WORD (cont'd)

grace and it comes only when we become humble and helpless before Him.

But of course, we also need the prayers from other people. Asking others for prayers can be an act of humility. In fact, prayer and helplessness are meant to be inseparable.

## 2. Making Disciples to Please God

Paul devoted himself in prayer even while he was in prison. But instead of seeking for his release, he prayed to have open doors so he can share the gospel even in jail (**Colossians 4:3–4**). The Bible tells us that he did seize the opportunity to evangelize the Praetorian guards who were assigned to him (**Philippians 1:13**).

If our purpose in life is to please God, what then is His mission for us? We exist to fulfill God's mission to make Christ-committed followers who will make Christ-committed followers.

As followers of Jesus, we should live out our lives with wisdom towards others, our words always filled with grace and seasoned with salt, so that our transformed lives will turn people to Jesus. Christmas is coming, we can seize the season to share the gospel and make disciples by bringing out the true meaning of this season.

When we live with the right purpose, the reward is not always now or in our lifetimes on earth because we are not really home yet. So, keep on living for the right purpose. One day, we will all stand before God to make an account for all that we have done.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

1. **Prayer Lessons.** Why should we devote ourselves in prayer according to **Colossians 4:2–4**?
2. **Purposeful Life.** Are you pursuing the right purpose God has created you for? How are you living out your purpose in the light of eternity?
3. **Carpe Diem.** How will you seize Christmas season to live out your purpose to please God?

# WORKS

## PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Write and practice your One Minute Witness gospel sharing tool with the following summary guide:  
Reference: [www.OneMinuteWitness.org](http://www.OneMinuteWitness.org)

1. The greatest thing that ever happened in your life
2. Your life before you met Jesus
3. How did you come to know Jesus
4. How did Jesus change your life
5. What your life would look today, if you had not surrendered your life to Jesus

Try to share the One Minute Witness gospel sharing tool with at least 3 person this Christmas. Ask your accountability group to pray for your intention this week.

## 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