

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Today is the Day, You are God, Fairest Lord Jesus, Who You Are, Revelation Song

## WELCOME

**M.A.D.** What is the importance of making a difference as followers of Christ?

## WORD

### HAGGAI 2:23

<sup>23</sup> *'On that day,' declares the Lord of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the Lord, 'and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,' declares the Lord of hosts.*

Haggai is a story about restoration from ruin. After 70 years of captivity in Babylon, the Jewish people were given the privilege by a pagan king, Cyrus, to return to their land and rebuild their temple. But the Jews got distracted and encountered opposition so for some time the rebuilding stopped.

But nothing can stop God's plan. The next king of Persia, Darius, resumed a decree to rebuild the house of God without any cost from the Jews. The full cost was to be paid out of the royal treasury, out of the taxes of the very people who opposed and discouraged the Jewish people (**Ezra 6:3-4, 8**). What a great privilege and blessing it is for the Jews!

### WE ARE GOD'S HOLY TEMPLE

When we put God first, everything else falls into the right places. We actually begin to experience the greatest privilege and the greatest blessing that we could ever have on earth that nobody else can offer but God alone. This greatest privilege is none other than being God's temple, the dwelling place of his glory. The greatest blessing is having the presence of God in our life (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**).

The Christian life is not so much about building a temple, but being God's temple ourselves where the Holy Spirit, God's very presence, resides. But what does it mean to live as God's holy temple?

In ancient times, people would look at the temple and say, "God is there, His glory dwells there." Today, God wants people to look at us His followers and say, "God is there, His glory dwells in them." However, this is not because His followers are perfect but because people can see the difference God is making in their lives.

When we are called to be God's holy temple we are on a one-on-one, committed, devoted, and set apart relationship with Him. "Holy" is indeed a big word. So how do we live to be God's 'holy' temple?

In our Christian lives, there is positional holiness and progressive holiness.

### POSITIONAL HOLINESS

Our positional holiness is our promotion to a status that we never deserve, but which God initiated to do for us. He chose us, as we are. He loves us and accepts us the way He found us. But at the same time, He will not leave us the way He found us. He will make us holy and blameless before Him (**Ephesians 1:4**).

We were spiritual paupers but in Jesus, we experience the richness of His mercy and love. We were spiritually dead in sin and helpless but in Christ we are made alive by His grace because He lives in us, if indeed we have truly surrendered our life to Him. Our positional holiness involves being raised up with Christ and being seated in a place of honor beside Him (**Ephesians 2:4-5**).

### PROGRESSIVE HOLINESS

Progressive holiness is learning to live like royalty after being transported from spiritual poverty to a royal position in Christ.

We have to work out our salvation from inside out. We have a responsibility to be intentional in living as God's holy temple. However, God also knows that we cannot do that with our own strength. Therefore, He, Himself, will work within us to help us live a holy life (**Philippians 2:12-13**). This should not remove our sense of responsibility; instead, it should keep us fully dependent on God for our spiritual growth.

## WORD (cont'd)

Holiness is never by osmosis, but by a personal lifestyle change. We cannot ask somebody to live holy for us, it is our responsibility to do so. We do not become a Christian automatically just because our parents are Christians; neither does joining a Christian church makes us Christians. It is a personal lifestyle choice.

If we claim we are followers of Jesus but there is a sin that we refuse to give up, God will not tolerate it for we must be living a committed relationship with Him (**Isaiah 1:12–20; Haggai 2:10–23**).

If we say something but do another, it dishonors God and it is a disgrace to His people. We need to live a life that represents God on earth.

### LIVE AS GOD'S HOLY TEMPLE

How could we live as God's holy temple? Let us go back to our mission – Honor God and make Christ-

committed followers who will make Christ-committed followers. If we follow the sequence to honor God first, then making disciples who will make disciples will be a breeze. First things first and the rest will follow. We need to live out what we want to pass on to our disciples.

Zerubbabel is an example of how God can use ordinary people to do extraordinary work beyond our imagination to represent God's work on earth (**Haggai 2:23**). A descendant of David, he formed part of the line where Jesus the Messiah came from (**Matthew 1:12–13, 16**). God had chosen Zerubbabel, as He had also chosen us to bear His seal of royalty. Is it not mind-blowing, that God has chosen ordinary undeserving people like us? What an amazing privilege and blessing that God has in store for us!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

1. **Signet Ring.** What does receiving a signet ring mean in **Haggai 2:23**? What does it symbolize today?
2. **God's Temple.** What does being a holy temple of God mean to you? How do you live as God's holy temple?
3. **Holy Calling.** In what specific ways are you fulfilling our mission of honoring God and making Christ-committed followers who will make Christ-committed followers?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

*We must be holy, because this is the only sound evidence that we have a saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ – J.C. Ryle*

Live as God's holy temple that people will say to us, "God is there, His glory dwells in them". Here are some ways we can live it out:

1. Honor God and make disciples (**Matthew 28:19–20**)
2. Proclaim God's excellency (**1 Peter 2:9**)
3. Present our bodies holy (**Romans 12:1**)
4. Guard our mouth and our heart (**Psalms 141:3–4**)
5. Let God make a difference in your life (**1 Peter 2:12**)

### 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