

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Great God, Majestic, Here I am, Here I am to Worship, Because of Who You Are

WELCOME

What are you looking forward to this New Year? Share with the group.

WORD

GENESIS 22:1-3

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."² He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

What is your reason to live? Many of us may have good reasons to live but there is a **BEST** reason to live. As we face the New Year, what will be different? How can our 2020 be extraordinary? How can we not just exist but **LIVE** according to God's amazing plan for our lives?

Let us learn from the lives of several Bible characters each called by God and each responding the same – "**HERE I AM!**" These same words can revolutionize not just our New Year but our whole life.

In the original language in the Old Testament, "Here I am" or *hineni* literally means saying to God "Behold, me!" It is like saying to God, "I am ready. I am focused on You. There is no other place I'd rather be." It is an offer of total availability, regardless of cost or consequences. Why should each of us say, "Here I am" to God today and for the rest of our lives?

1. GOD CAN DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

Read **Genesis 22:1-3, 10-12**

God promised **Abraham** that he will have a son, and through that son become a great nation. God finally fulfilled that promise of a son but later on asked Abraham to offer him as a sacrifice. When God called Abraham, he had no clue what God would ask him to do. Yet he responded, "Here I am" (**Genesis 22:1**) and obeyed without hesitation (**v. 3**). He responded the same way when he was about to sacrifice Isaac (**vv. 10-11**) showing how he feared God – he had a deep reverence, an overwhelming sense of awe, and a high view of God. As **Hebrews 11:17-19** narrates, Abraham was convinced that God can do the impossible! In the same way, God can ask us to do the unthinkable because He can do the impossible! (**Matthew 19:26**)!

2. GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Read **Genesis 46:1-4, 6-7**

Sometimes, saying "Here I am" may require us to step out of our comfort zones. We see this in the latter years of **Jacob's** life. For 13 years, he thought his son Joseph was dead, only to find out that his son was now the Prime Minister of Egypt. God used Joseph to save his family and the entire nation of Israel. When Jacob (also called Israel) was about to go down to Egypt, God called him and he responded, "Here I am." (**Genesis 46:2**). In **verses 3-4**, He lovingly told Jacob not to be afraid and reassured him of His promises. God knows that even though we are obeying Him, we may still have fears and apprehensions. Jacob then took everything with him to Egypt (**vv. 6-7**). Here we can learn that when we say "Here I am" to God, we leave nothing behind – we entrust Him with everything. He may lead us through narrow and unfamiliar roads, but our greatest assurance is His presence. He who promised is faithful! (**Hebrews 10:23**)

3. GOD HAS A GREAT PLAN FOR YOU

Read **Exodus 3:2-4, 10**

After forty years of being a nobody, God showed **Moses** a miracle that really caught his attention – a burning bush. When he turned aside to look, God called him and he responded, "Here I am." (**Exodus 3:4**) God then sent him to bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt (**v.10**). God had an amazing plan for the life of Moses – beyond his wildest imagination – and He has an amazing plan for all of us as well. This does not mean things are going to be easy but our challenges are not meant to destroy us but are meant to display God's miracle to point people to Him! (**Isaiah 43:2**)

4. GOD HAS FORGIVEN YOU

Read **Isaiah 6:5-8**

Isaiah saw a vision of God on His throne and when he saw the holiness of God, he saw his sinfulness. He would not be able to stand in the presence of a holy God. He understood

WORD (cont'd)

the seriousness of sin (**Isaiah 6:5**). But God through the altar's burning coal that touched his lips pardoned his iniquity and forgave his sin (**vv.6-7**). As he understood the grace of God, he was able to say, "Here am I. Send me." (**v.8**). The fuel for our faithfulness to God is the fact that He has forgiven us.

5. GOD IS THE LORD

Read **1 Samuel 3:3-6, 8-10**

Samuel was a young boy dedicated by his mother to the Lord to serve Him at the temple under the priest named Eli. When Eli realized that God was calling Samuel, he instructed him to say, "Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening" (**1 Samuel 3:9**). This is the essence of saying "Here I am." – God is our Boss and we are His servants. To say "No, Lord" is an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms. It is always, "Yes, Lord!" As God's servants, we are to listen to Him so we can know His ways and obey Him for He is LORD!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

1. Are you sometimes reluctant to say, "Here I am" to God? Why or why not?
2. Which among the reasons given has encouraged you the most to say "Here I am" to God?
3. Is Jesus your Lord? If yes, in which area do you need to show your obedience to Him? Be specific with your answer.

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

God wants to use you to help others know Jesus! Be ready to say "Here I am" and allow God to lead you to people you can share the love of Jesus with. Revisit and update your Pray, Care, Share List and trust God to work extraordinarily through your life!

6. GOD WANTS YOU TO HELP OTHERS KNOW HIM

Read **Acts 9:10-11, 13, 15**

Ananias was reluctant when God called him to minister to Saul (**Acts 9:13**). But God told him that Saul was His chosen instrument to bear His Name (**v.15**). We have no clue what God has planned for other people but this we know – God wants to use His people to help other people know Jesus. Part of His amazing plan in our life is to let others know that He has an amazing plan for them as well.

The best example and the most important reason why we should say "Here I am" to God is **JESUS**. He once said "Here I am" to the Father when He came to earth so we can be reconciled with God (**Hebrews 10:5, 7**). Will we respond in the same way today? This New Year, let's be ready to say "HERE I AM!"

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