

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Praise God, The Great Divide, No Greater Love

## WELCOME

**One Verse Gospel.** Ask one from your group to demonstrate sharing the Gospel using one verse.

## WORD

### MATTHEW 22:37-39

<sup>37</sup> And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup> This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup> The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’  
<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

### GOD’S PLAN

The Ten Commandments summarize the ordinances God gave His people. But Jesus summarized them further into the two greatest commandments: Love God, and love others (Matthew 22:37-39).

God gave us His commandments so that we would be different from all the other people. When we obey, people know that we are His own possession. God’s plan for us, His people, is to be His own possession, His special chosen treasure (Exodus 19:5-6). His plan then and today is the same.

By the blood of Jesus, we are God’s priests. We have direct access to His holy presence. As priests, we also represent God before people. All men will know that we are His disciples when we obey His command for us to love one another (John 13:35).

We are also a holy nation, set apart to please Him and to give Him glory before all men throughout the earth. But we cannot do all these by our own strength. We need God.

### THE ORDINANCES OF GOD

The next few chapters after Exodus 20 are detailed ordinances of the Lord with specific day-to-day applications of the Ten Commandments.

The first ordinance is about slavery, reminding the Israelites of where they came from (Exodus 21:1-2). From the beginning, God was against human trafficking and forced slavery. The ordinance reveals the grace and love of God and how we should also express the same toward others.

Another example of God’s ordinances is one about misbehavior. People will pay the consequences for

doing wrong to others (Exodus 21:18-19a). We should rather think of what is good for others (v.19b), put ourselves in their shoes, and treat them the way we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).

The list of God’s ordinances goes on (Exodus 21:33-34; 22:1, 21-22, 26-27). Each reveals to us the heart of God, the compassion, mercy and love of God for all people. The most unheard of God’s radical love is love for our enemies (Exodus 23:4-5), which Jesus reiterates in Luke 6:27-28.

### A HEART CHECK

The ordinances of God also remind us of the deficiencies of our own hearts. God needs to give us commands because our natural tendency is to do the opposite.

The true purpose of the commandments is to lead us to the conclusion that we cannot obey them by our own strength; therefore, we need God. We need a change of heart in order to love God and love others, but only God can change our heart.

Even King David, a man after God’s own heart admitted that he needed a heart checkup (Psalm 139:23-24). He began his prayer with the need to search his heart because the condition of his heart would affect his thoughts and his ways. Like David, we also need to pause and pray the same, “Search me oh God, and know my thoughts...”

Even if we have followed Jesus for a long time, we still need to have our heart checked, much like an annual physical exam. Along the way, our heart could have become hard, doubtful, divided or embittered, so we need a change of heart.

## WORD (cont'd)

### GOD'S LOVE CHANGES OUR HEART

The people of God had the desire to obey God's laws and ordinances (Exodus 24:3, 7). Today, followers of Jesus would also like to obey but like the Israelites, we have a heart problem, one of disobedience. We must bridge the great gap between the heart of God and our sinful heart.

The secret of obedience is not memorizing the commandments, not trying harder but having a heart that is changed from the inside out.

We love God and love others because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). It is His love that will change our heart. The outflow of our love for God is to love others. If you cannot love others, it is possible that you do not love God.

We can only love God and others when we first experience the love of God. But some of us have not really experienced the love of God in the first place. Our sins have separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2).

The shedding of blood in Exodus 24 was a foreshadowing of the ultimate and perfect covenant in the blood of Jesus Christ. Such is God's love for us that He made a covenant to reconcile us with Him.

When we admit that we need a Savior to forgive us, to save us and to transform us, our hearts are sprinkled clean by Jesus' blood and we can enter confidently into His presence (Hebrews 10:22).

God will give you a new heart, and His Spirit within you will enable you to carefully obey His words, which will ultimately give Him glory and honor (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

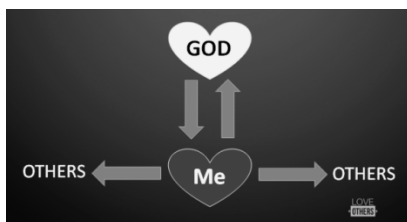
- 1. Attention Disciples.** What is the command in Matthew 22:37-39? To whom was it given?
- 2. Heart Makeover.** What usually causes you to disobey God? In what areas do you need a change of heart?
- 3. I Love You.** Do you love God? Do you love others? How can you point people to Jesus this week?

## WORKS

### TWO HEARTS OF LOVE

What principles can you draw from the diagram based on Scripture references?

Ex: *We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).*



Some reasons why we don't always obey God are: *unanswered prayer, trials and tragedies, wrong views of God, pride, refusal to admit mistakes, self-centeredness, insecurities, anger, bitterness, unforgiveness.*

Which of these can you identify with? Which of the principles you listed above can help address it?

### 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

- New Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

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