Lesson: The Prayer of Solomon

WORSHIP (15 MINUTES)

Play worship music to create an atmosphere of worship and help everyone prepare their hearts. If the venue is public, invite everyone to share the highs and lows of their week to build connection and fellowship.

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

Welcome guests and first-time visitors warmly. Start with a simple icebreaker question to help everyone get acquainted, create a comfortable atmosphere, and encourage guests to feel included.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

If you could dedicate one thing in your life completely to God, what would it be? Why?

WORD (30-45 MINUTES)

Main Text: 2 Chronicles 6:12-20, 40-42 NLT.

Intro: The Bible gives abundant testimony of people who prayed, showing us God hearing and answering prayer and repeatedly calling us to a life of continual dependence on Him. The Holy Spirit also preserved the prayers of people of faith so we can study and learn from them.

Solomon's prayer in 2 Chronicles 6 is one of the longest recorded prayers in Scripture, consisting of 29 verses. Solomon prayed this prayer when dedicating the Temple after planning, constructing, furnishing, and establishing it according to God's instructions. From Solomon's prayer, we see what his prayer was about, how God responded, and how this applies to New Testament believers.

1. He prayed, dedicating the Temple as a place for God's name and presence. Read 2 Chronicles 6:1-2 NLT.

After the Ark was brought into the Temple, the glory of the Lord filled it. The Temple's purpose was to be the place where God put His name and manifested His presence among His people – a place to worship, pray, and seek Him. After Solomon prayed, fire consumed the sacrifices and God's glory filled the Temple, showing that He accepted Solomon's request.

"***Dedication"*** means recognizing God as the owner and ultimate authority, surrendering its purpose and use to His will. The Temple was built according to God's design, not human preference. Though no building can contain God, He chose the Temple as a place to manifest His presence. Because Solomon obeyed God and prayed according to His will, he could boldly ask for His presence.

Q: What does it mean to dedicate something to God and recognize Him as its ultimate owner and authority?

WHAT IT MEANS FOR US TODAY: Through faith in Jesus, we become God's temple through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we should surrender our lives to God daily, live as holy temples devoted to Him, remain sensitive and obedient to the Holy Spirit, and pray that our lives reflect His presence.

Q: What does daily surrender to God look like in your life?
Q: How can we make sure our lives reflect God's presence?

2. He prayed, dedicating the Temple to fulfill God's purposes. Read 2 Chronicles 7:12-16.
The Temple was built for sacrifices, worship, and prayer. After Solomon built and dedicated it according to God's instructions, God's glory filled it, demonstrating His presence and approval and consecrating it for its intended purpose. Through the Temple, God's people could approach Him in worship and prayer and seek His presence and guidance.

In these verses, God said He had heard Solomon's prayer and called His people to humble themselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways, promising to hear, forgive, and restore.

In the Old Testament, rebellion and desecration resulted in God's presence and favour being withdrawn, and restoration required repentance (which is turning away from sin and returning to God). Likewise, in the New Testament, we are meant to turn away from sin and become people used for good and honourable purposes.. We are called to be sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work.

As believers, God has a call and purpose for each of us. When we dedicate ourselves to His presence and purposes, He shows His glory in and through us. We reflect Him through the fruit of the Spirit, as well as our spiritual gifts, services, and ministries. Therefore, we must continually dedicate ourselves to God's holiness and purposes, allowing Him to make us fit for His use.

Q: What are some things that can make our life spiritually "cluttered" or distracted from God's presence and purposes?
Q: How can we intentionally clear these distractions and make more room for God's presence and purposes in our lives?

Conclusion:
Something can belong to God yet become unfit for His use through sin and disobedience. Therefore, God calls us to continually pursue holiness and cleansing so that our lives remain useful to Him. We need to dedicate ourselves fully to God – to His presence, His holiness, and His purposes. And the time to do it is now.
Q: What is one specific area of your life that you are now willing to fully surrender to God so that He can use you for His purposes?

WORK (15 MINUTES)

Application
1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.
2. Pray and prepare a Hit List (max. of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.

What is your take-away from this lesson? Closing Prayer