



# HOME GROUP MATERIAL

DEDICATION AND CELEBRATION

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## I. Dedication

1. How would you describe or explain the word “dedication”?
2. What do you think it means to dedicate your life to God?

*Some ways to describe dedicated are:*

- *Set aside for a specific purpose and use*
  - *Devoted to*
  - *Offered to*
3. How dedicated to God would you say you are at this point in your life?
  4. How do you think you can practically be more “set aside” for God’s use and purposes?
  5. What is the biggest obstacle to your being entirely dedicated to God right now?

*Read 2 Chronicles 7 vs 1-4:*

*“As soon as Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and burned up the offerings. The LORD's dazzling glory then filled the temple, and the priests could not go in. When the crowd of people saw the fire and the LORD's glory, they knelt down and worshiped the LORD. They prayed: "The LORD is good, and his love never ends." Solomon and the people dedicated the temple to the LORD by sacrificing twenty-two thousand cattle and one hundred twenty thousand sheep.”*

*It is interesting to note that God’s presence tangibly and powerfully filled the temple when it was dedicated to Him and the people earnestly celebrated and sought God. The same is true when we dedicate ourselves to God – He fills us with His love and power, but in order to be filled, we have to empty ourselves first and come to Him as empty vessels, ready and willing to be used by Him.*

*Read and reflect on the following Scriptures:*

- **John 3:30:**

“He must increase, but I *must* decrease.”

- **2 Timothy 2 vs 20-22:**

“In a large house there are dishes and bowls of all kinds: some are made of silver and gold, others of wood and clay; some are for special occasions, others for ordinary use. Those who

make themselves clean from all those evil things, will be used for special purposes, because they are dedicated and useful to their Master, ready to be used for every good deed. Avoid the passions of youth, and strive for righteousness, faith, love, and peace, together with those who with a pure heart, call out to the Lord for help.”

6. How do you think we can practically go about “emptying” ourselves or “decreasing” so that we can be filled with God and He can “increase” in us? (See Galatians 2 vs 20).
7. 2 Chronicles also reveals that the dedication of the temple was accompanied by a huge number of animal sacrifices. Why do you think it is significant that dedication goes hand in hand with sacrifice? (See Romans 12 vs 1).

*Read 2 Chronicles 6 vs 8:*

*But the Lord said to David my father, ‘Since it was in your heart to build a house for My Name and renown, you did well that it was in your heart.’ ”*

*God honoured David and Solomon’s desire to build something for His glory. Compare this to the building of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:3-9) or the statue of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3) which were built to honour people and not God. God honoured the building and dedication of the temple of Solomon with a great revelation of His presence and amazing promises, but the other projects ended in disaster.*

8. If you had to honestly evaluate your life, what would you say is in your heart to build right now? Are you building a life and legacy for your glory or for God’s?
9. How can we make sure that we are building lives for God’s glory and not our own (while still understanding that God wants us to be successful, thriving, blessed people)?
10. What would you say is the one thing in your life that is the greatest testimony to God’s goodness or the aspect of your life that gives God the most glory right now?

## **ii. Celebration**

1. Do you think it is significant that God *commanded* the Israelites to have certain feasts and celebrations in their calendar? (See Leviticus 23). Why do you think He did so?
2. What is one thing God is doing right now / has done recently that you can celebrate?

3. What do you think prevents us from celebrating God and what He has done for us?
4. How do you think we can honour and celebrate God honestly, without pretension, even when we find ourselves in difficult or dark places?
5. What is the biggest celebration-killer or hindrance to joy in your life at the moment? How can you deal with this?

Read and reflect on the following Scriptures:

- **1 Chronicles 16 vs 10:**

“Celebrate and worship his holy name with all your heart.”

- **1 Chronicles 16 vs 31:**

“Tell the heavens and the earth to be glad and celebrate! And announce to the nations, “The LORD is King!”

- **Psalm 9 vs 2:**

“God Most High, I will rejoice; I will celebrate and sing because of you.”

- **Psalm 28 vs 7:**

“You are my strong shield, and I trust you completely. You have helped me, and I will celebrate and thank you in song.”

- **Psalm 30 vs 5:**

“For His anger *is only* a moment; in His favor *is* life. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy *comes* in the morning.”

- **Philippians 4 vs 4:**

“Rejoice in *the* Lord always. Again I say, Rejoice!”

### **iii. Call to action**

1. What will we do with what we have discovered in this session?
2. How will we hold each other accountable to this?