



Title: VESSELS—Are You a Vessel of Honor?

Date: January 8, 2023

WORSHIP:
Option 1: In person gathering — assign someone to lead in worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.
Option 2: Online gathering , at a public place, at the park, school campus or café — Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the question: What are you thankful to God about this past week?

Main Text: 2 Timothy 2:19-21
Key Verses: vv.20-21
"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter (iniquities), he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."

Leader's Notes:
 1. Start and end on time.
 2. Facilitate discussions.
 3. Give all attendees opportunities to share. Encourage participation.
 4. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group will be kept within the group.
 5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there's someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

WELCOME: Greet everyone. Introduce yourself. Acknowledge guests/first-time visitors. Ask the group to take turns introducing themselves.
Intro: If you are a kind of vessel in a palace of a great King, what kind of container/vessel do you think you are made of? Are you a metal vase, a gold or silver wine glass, a wooden cup, a Chinaware plate, a porcelain pitcher, a plant clay pot, an ash tray, an animal food bowl, a plastic trash can or a diaper pail? Some of the ones I mentioned are for honorable and special uses, others, are for ordinary, common use.
Ice Breaker/ Joke: T
Having locked her keys inside her car, the woman prayed to God for assistance. Just then a man walking by saw the situation and got her car door opened in nothing flat. "Thank you God for sending me this nice man to help," she exclaimed. The man replied, "I'm not nice. I just got out of jail for auto theft." "Thank you, God!" the woman shouted to the sky, "You even sent me a professional!" (Point: In a way, the man was a vessel...lol)

WORD: 1Timothy 2:19-21 was written by Paul to his disciple Timothy. In order to differentiate those who are truly followers of Jesus Christ, Paul told Timothy, they must be vessels of honour, pure and clean vessels, ready for God's good use. How can we be vessels of honour who are ready for God's good use?
1. We should acknowledge that we belong to God. – Do you know that we were owned by God twice?
 Not only did God create us, but He also redeemed us by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We were bought by His blood. And God says, "Christian, son, daughter, "you're Mine. You are twice mine. You're mine because I created you, and you're mine because He redeemed you through the death of Jesus on the cross."
Two reasons we were owned by God twice:
a. He created us - "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for You have created all things, and for Your pleasure, they are and were created." Revelations 4:11 KJV
b. He bought us by the blood of Jesus Christ - "For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake." 1 Peter 1:18-20 NLT (Read: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NLT)
Q: In what ways do we respond to God for creating us and for redeeming us?

2. We should dedicate our lives to Him to become clean vessels He can use for good works - v.21, "Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."
 God has a good purpose for us as we serve Him as our Master. We are not to serve ourselves but serve Him who owns us. But He doesn't force us to do so, He waits on us to decide to dedicate ourselves to Him and cleanse ourselves from wickedness or sins, so we can be fit and ready for His good purpose.
"Those who cleanse themselves from the latter (wickedness) will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work." v.21(NIV)
 Sin (disobedience or rebellion to God's commands) is what separates us from God and keeps God from doing good to those around us:
"It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore. Your hands are the hands of murderers, and your fingers are filthy with sin. Your lips are full of lies, and your mouth spews corruption. No one cares about being fair and honest. The people's lawsuits are based on lies. They conceive evil deeds and then give birth to sin." Isaiah 59:2-4 NLT
 Isaiah the prophet complained against God's people that their body parts, their talents, and their lives were intended by God for good use, for the good of those around them, but instead, were used to harm others because of their evil and sinful hearts and evil ways! If today we realize that we have done wrong things to God and we need to confess and repent of these things before Him.
Application: So, in order for our life to start having purpose and meaning, we should respond to God's call to dedicate our lives to Him who created us and bought us with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. A major part of this dedication is to confess to Him the wickedness that exists in our lives and turn away from it. Only after this dedication and turning away from wickedness will God be given permission to turn us into honourable vessels.
Q: Is there an area in your life that you need to make right before the Lord today?
Conclusion:
 Dedicated clean vessels to the Lord will be known to be instruments of good works that will make a difference in other people's lives. God has a big plan to use our church in tremendous ways to be a catalyst for the transformation of our communities, our cities, and our nation. Be ready to be amazed by God in 2023! We start the new year to pray and fast before the Lord so we can be His vessels for good, and the good of others.

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer
 Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well.