

1. God desires to dwell with his people.

Describe the different “dwelling places” you have lived in. Who lived there with you? Did you ever live with someone you felt didn’t want you there? How awkward was that?

Does God seem far away from you? Why or why not? Can you identify a time in your life when God seems more near?

God required King Solomon to go to great expense and effort to prepare a place where God and man could meet. How much effort and expense do you expend to meet with God? Could your lack of investment be the reason God seems so far away?

2. God’s wants to inspire my awe by his holiness.

Describe the most elaborate building you have been in. Describe your sense of awe.

Take time to survey the elaborate and ornate items God prescribed for the temple. How did the temple elements communicate that God is holy?

God is both imminent (near, accessible) and transcendent (other, beyond comprehension). What errors will we incur if we emphasize one of these attributes at the expense of the other? Which error are you most prone to?

3. God wants to hear our collective prayers for forgiveness.

Solomon’s dedication prayer includes 14 references to prayer and 5 references to forgiveness.

Do you have a regular rhythm of meeting with God to confess sin and receive forgiveness? When and where does that happen? Why is it essential to experiencing the presence of God?

How does fresh cleansing of sin inspire future obedience?

4. God desires my undivided worship.

God knows our hearts are prone to worship anything, at anytime, anywhere. How does the regular weekly rhythm of going a Christ exalting worship service combat idolatry?

Is weekly worship at Harvest a settled conviction or do you view it as an optional activity?

Describe what you do to prepare your heart for worship.

Are you always in your seat, ready to offer your worship to Christ from the first moment of the worship service? If not, why not?

What does your tardiness or readiness communicate to the Lord and others about the priority of worship?

Do you find your heart and mind wandering during worship? Why or why not?

What idols was your heart prone to worship this week?

5. God desires our unified worship.

The temple was the gathering place for God's people. As they worshipped vertically, they were connected horizontally. Do you feel connected to the community of God's people as you come to worship at Harvest?

How does hearing the same message, singing the same songs, serving in the same mission, funding the same cause, praying for the same things, and worshipping the same God in the same place at the same time create unity? Should it surprise you that you feel disconnected if you don't do these things?

How are you encouraged to live for Christ knowing you are not alone?

6. God is pointing me to a better dwelling place yet to come.

Read Hebrews 9:11-12. How does the temple point us to Christ?

Read John 1:14. How have you seen the glory of God in your relationship with Jesus?

Read 2Corinthians 6:16. How would you live differently this week if you thought of your body as the temple of the living God?

Read Revelation 21:22. Why will there be no need for a temple in the age to come?

Additional Scripture

- Matthew 27:51
- John 4:20-24
- 1Corinthians 3:16-17
- 1Corinthians 6:19-20
- 2Corinthians 1:20
- Ephesians 2:22