

VISION SUNDAY

Sermon Growth Guide

August 14, 2022

Vision Sunday - A Place to Pray

2 Chronicles 6:12-21

Key Verse: 2 Chronicles 6:21 “Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive.”

Big Idea: The Church is not a building. It is a people who worship in a place where they are gathered and from which they are sent into the world as the people of God.

Foundations

This Vision Sunday we celebrate what God has given us and what He has called us to be and do as we reflect on Solomon’s Prayer for the Temple. This was a significant and celebratory time for the Temple. It meant that God had kept a promise. It symbolized the place where one went to meet God. God, however, was not limited to the Temple but it was considered a place where heaven and earth met...where God’s people—together—could worship the God who was with them. But what does this ancient Temple have to do with us? Well, it causes us to ask: What is the church?

Many of us may remember the song from Avery and Marsh that was popular about 40 years ago: The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people. Pastor Tim makes this very clear in his sermon when he says, “... you are the Temple of God ... there is power in coming together ... in a place to pray and be renewed in our mission.”

Our building is a place where we gather to praise and pray to a great God. Together, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are built up in the faith as we go into the world with the love of Jesus.

Understanding God’s Word

Together read 2 Chronicles 6:12-21.

Solomon is not acting as a priest when he prays. His prayer is the representative prayer of all the people. Go through this text carefully and describe all the things that Solomon prays for. Where do you find those kinds of prayer in our corporate worship?

Applying God’s Word

Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

Solomon’s prayer is all about God’s presence with His people. The Apostle Paul defines this presence for followers of Jesus. In what specific ways does the presence of God’s Spirit dwelling in us shape our life together?

Witnessing God’s Word

If God’s Temple represents the place where God and humans meet, and if God’s people are now that place, what works of the Spirit within us will enable people to meet Jesus where we gather, work and play?