Connect Study Notes: Ps. Leo – ***THE PURPOSE OF REVIVAL***

**Revelation 7:9-10 –** *I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. 10 And they were shouting with a great roar,* *“Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!”*

God’s purpose is for His kingdom to be filled with people from every tribe and every nation. That is you and me! But that also means that there are many others that need to be reached all over the world. However, we cannot possible do it all alone. That’s why the Lord has given each and every one of us a special assignment. We all have an important role to play.

At ICC, our assignment, as a church, is to reach people in the north, south, east, and west for 5 future campuses.

That can only happen if we are ready to be **STRETCHED**.

## Stretch out your hand and grab your new identity:

* **Exodus 4:1-4 - ….** *So he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand. …(Read Verses)*
* Moses had to **accept** and **embrace** his calling to set the people of Israel out Egypt. You must understand and accept your new identity in Christ.
* To fulfil his purpose, God is asking you today, “what’s in **your** hand?” He has given us something special – talents, gifts and a calling. No talent is insignificant, bring it to Him, He will anoint it and make it powerful!

***Practical:* find 1 Bible verse that tells you about your identity in Christ. Make it a daily habit to pray and declare that verse over yourself, asking God to help you have a new revelation of your identity to see yourself as He sees you. E.g. 1 Peter 2:9 (Read Verse)**

**TIP: write it on a post-it note, or set it as your phone background to encourage and remind you.**

## Stretch out your hand (your anointing) over the waters:

* **Exodus 8:5 –** *…. Take your staff and stretch out your hand over…..” (Read Verse)*
* Once you understand your assignment and embrace your God-given identity and authority, you must **use that anointing against the enemy**.
* **John 10:10** – Understand WHO your real enemy is *(Read Verse)*
* What is going to set people free from bondage is the power of God, *not* our strength or the power of our words or works!

**QUESTION: What is one gift/talent you are aware of? How do you use it? Do you serve in a ministry in church? Discuss how you can further develop one of your identified gifts/talents. *Eg.* *Teaching – serve in Kids ministry as an Influencer 🡪 raise up to be a team leader.***

## Stretch your hand in sacrifice:

* **Exodus 7:15-16 –** *“Let my people go, so they can worship me in the wilderness.”*
* **The desert (wilderness) is a place of encounter with God.** For us as Christians, our ‘*desert*’ comes in different shapes, such as: illness, financial hardship, family issues, etc.
* **Genesis 22:10** The purpose of the desert is to meet GOD and bring a sacrifice of Worship. **Worship is not just singing songs, worship is sacrifice.** The ultimate act of worship was on a mountain where Jesus was sacrificed. Abraham climbed a mountain, willing to sacrifice his one and only son to God.
* **Psalm 50: 14-15 –** *(Read verse)* Why ***thankfulness***? Because praising God in the middle of the storm and declaring that He's good when everything points the other way seems illogical, even impossible. When we do, **God always provides** no matter what the situation or circumstance!

**QUESTION: Are you in a desert at the moment? What can you do to worship God? Is there anything you need to sacrifice to God? What are you thankful to God for?**

## Stretch out your hand for others (what we do affects others):

* The bad report of 10 spies made a whole nation *miss* the Promised Land. Our choices affect others. So if we choose to ignore God’s calling, others will be affected. We won’t be able to be as effective as we are meant to be. There are people that might never come to Christ unless you reach out to them.
* But the Promised Land requires hard work… it was not a resort. It was not a holiday destination, but rather a place full of blessings that they had to conquer.
* We have a choice to make – to think of others, not ourselves; to forgive and be kind and tender-hearted to one another (**Ephesians 4:32**).

**Practical: find someone to be accountable to so they can encourage you and check on your journey. Sometimes we find ‘stretching’ scary and we can feel anxious or fearful, so having someone there to support us and cheer us on is just what we need to dive in!**