**Study Series: Truth and Lies**

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**Lesson Title: “Habitat for Divinity” (pp. 42 - 51)**

December 27, 2020 Session 04

**The main point of this lesson is:** God desires to renovate your life by the presence of His Spirit within you.

Focus on this goal: To help adults recognize dilapidated aspects of their lives and partner with the Spirit in His renewal work.

Key Bible Passage: Romans 8:9-11

Before the Session

**Pre-enlist a volunteer** to summarize John 2:13-25. **Point them** to the comments under Day Four for additional insight (pp. 47-48). (Step 5)

During the Session

**Step 1. Introduction / Discussion Starter**

**Call for the group to share** about buildings in your area that have been reclaimed and given new life.

**Encourage them** to also identify buildings in your area that need attention or restoration.

**Ask:**

1. What would motivate someone to restore one of these buildings?
2. How could the personality of the original building be restored even if for a different purpose?

**Remind the group** of the story about the Michigan Central Railroad depot under Day One (pp. 42-43).

**Emphasize** that renewal is needed for the once spectacular building.

**Call attention** to the title for this session and **explain** that the focus will be on recognizing areas in our lives that are dilapidated and our partnership with the Spirit to renew our lives.

**Step 2. Day One – In Need of Renewal**

**Use the comments** from Day Two (pp. 43-44) **to summarize** Romans 6 and 7.

**Call for a volunteer to read** Galatians 3:19-22.

**Lead the group** to share their responses to activity 1 under Day One (p. 44).

**Read** aloud Romans 8:9-11 and **direct** the group to review the comments on the passage under Day One (pp. 44-45).

**Invite volunteers to identify** the sentence in the comments that gives them the most hope.

**Direct the group** to share their response to activity 2 under Day Two (p. 45) with a partner.

Then **declare** to the group that Jesus offers us hope to be restored into God’s habitat.

**Step 3. Day Two – His Residency**

**Call attention** to the author’s analogy that contrasted a zoo with the island of Madagascar (Day Three, p. 45).

**Ask:**

1. What was the point being made by the author?
2. How does humans being creating in the image of God make us the natural place for God to dwell?

**Affirm** the idea that humanity was created to enjoy the presence of God.

**Invite a volunteer to share** his or her response to activity 1 under Day Three (p. 45).

**Step 4. Day Three – God’s Natural Habitat**

**Remind the group** of the buildings restored that were identified as the group time began (Step 1).

**Read** the second paragraph under Day Four (p. 47; “The Old Testament Scriptures reveal ….”).

**Direct the group** to review the comments in Day Four (p. 47) about King David’s desire to build the temple and the history of that temple prior to Jesus’ arrival.

**Secure response** from the group to those comments.

**Lead the group** to propose how sin led to the temple being “abandoned and desolate” (p. 47).

**Call attention** to activity 1 under Day Four (p. 47) and **direct** the group to record their response.

**Assure them** that they will not be asked to share their responses.

**Step 5. Day Four – The Work of Renewal**

**Emphasize** that in John 2:13-25 Jesus condemned what he saw happening at the building in Jerusalem.

**Call on** **the pre-enlisted volunteer** to summarize that passage.

**Ask the group** to explain the significance of the author’s summary of Jesus’ declaration as condemning “the temple as unlivable” (p. 47).

**Emphasize** that Jesus was pointing to Himself when referring to a destruction and three-day restoration.

**Summarize** the comments on the top of page 48.

Be sure to **point** to Ephesians 2:19-22 in your summary.

**Ask:**

1. What kinds of renovations are required in the life of a person for them to be a suitable dwelling place for God?
2. What role does God play in that restoration?
3. What role do we play in that restoration?

**Explain** that the first step in that restoration is faith in Jesus.

**Refer** to the information on the inside front cover and **offer to visit** with anyone interested in knowing more about trusting in Jesus.

**Step 6. Day Five – Our Relationship**

**Remind the group** of their review of Romans 8:9-11 in step 2.

**Emphasize** God’s desire to know us intimately.

**Call attention** to the elevator illustration (pp. 49-50) and activity 1 (p. 50) under Day Five.

**Call attention** to the first sentence on the top of page 51 (“In a very literal and spiritual sense ….”) and **invite volunteers to share** their reaction to the sentence.

**Create two teams**, **assigning** activity 2 (p. 51) under Day Five to one team and question 3 (p. 51) to the other team.

After allowing teams time to work, **call for a representative** from each team to share insights gained from their passage and question(s).

**Step 7. Live Out the Lesson**

**Remind the group** about the Michigan Central Railroad depot in Detroit.

**Point out** that the building is now being renovated and restored with a target date of 2022.

**Call attention** to activities 2 and 3 under Day Four (pp. 48-49).

**Challenge the group** to review this section and reflect on their response to the questions in the days ahead.

**Close in prayer.**