

## **C.H.U.R.C.H Adult Guide**

### **C is for Community in Awe**

What is awe? Have we experienced it? Do we know how to recognize it and share it?

Awe- a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder.

**Day 1** Do we Recognize and Proclaim the Radical Blessings from the Father?

**Acts 2:34** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

I wonder if a miracle happened right before us... if we'd be impressed and say... "That's AWE-SOME."

**Psalms 33:8** ESV

**Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!**

**Proverbs 1:7** ESV

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

Over time we have allowed our fast-paced and high-access society to over-stimulate us and thus it has desensitized us to recognizing, seeing, acknowledging, and even celebrating moments and stories of awe. We forget what God has brought us through and we fail to share these stories and edify the body of Christ.

How can we slow down and sit in the awe-someness of God?

Describe one time where the Lord showed himself awesome in your life. How can you share this testimony with a brother or sister in Christ to edify and increase the faith of the body?

## **Day 2** The Crushing Weight of Sin and Why Jesus Came

Why did Jesus come? To reconcile us back to God, through the forgiveness of sins, that our relationship with the Father would be restored. Therefore giving us the ability to enter into God's presence anytime we call upon His name.

### **Hebrews 12:28-29 ESV**

**Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.**

When is the last time you just stopped and felt the crushing fiery weight of your sin?

- Have we stopped long enough to put our eyes on the Cross?
- Do we hate our sin enough to see it for what it is and tremble in His holiness?
- Do we see the power of salvation that we should be in awe of all that God has done through the sacrifice of His Son?
- Do we see how faithful the Father is that we would trust Him in every season and circumstance?

Or

Are we like spoiled children?

- Do we panic when we don't have what we need? Once we are appeased do we quickly forget and move onto the next thing?
- Have we lost our awe of the majesty of God?

## **Day 3** Getting Our Awe Back

1. We need to be prepared to worship.

### Exodus 19:7-20 ESV

7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. 9 And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever."

When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord, 10 the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments

11 and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

The Lord asked the people to prepare themselves before He came down.

### **Isaiah 1:14-17 MSG**

**I'm sick of your religion, religion, religion, while you go right on sinning. When you put on your next prayer-performance, I'll be looking the other way. No matter how long or loud or often you pray, I'll not be listening. And do you know why? Because you've been tearing people to pieces, and your hands are bloody. Go home and wash up. Clean up your act. Sweep your lives clean of evildoings so I don't have to look at them any longer. Say no to wrong. Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless.**

We need to take entering the presence of God as serious prepare ourselves for that encounter. That means:

- Clearing offenses with people that you have unforgiveness towards.
- Confessing your sin
- This doesn't mean that you have to come as something you're not, it means you need to be prepared, having spent time with God, repenting and chasing after Jesus BEFORE entering His presence.

2. We need to recognize the privilege it is to enter the presence of God.

- **Just because Jesus made a way, doesn't mean it's now common place and ordinary.**
- **Only holy things can enter the presence of God, and you're counted holy if you've put your faith in Jesus.**
- **Though you're holy, you don't just walk in there with haughty pride, idolatry, and a flippant attitude.**

**God's presence is serious business. Worshipping God is serious business.**

- **If we lift up our hands to Jesus, but live like Hell, we are a contradiction that is not worshipping in Spirit and in Truth, but rather participating in a lie.**
- **1 Timothy 2:8 calls on us to lift up holy hands.**
  - **Hands that have been made holy by Jesus' blood that has been applied by repentance.**

- ○ **Lifting up holy hands is not lifting up hands that were perfect this week...**
  - **You can't make yourself holy**
  - **It's hands being lifted up which is an extension of a soft heart.**
  - **A soft heart towards God bringing Him all that we are presented without pretense or falsification.**

● **Preparing ourselves for worship is an honorable, Godly thing, and something He requires.**

○ **How offensive it is for us to walk in the presence of a Holy God flippant as if it's just another day at church. [550**

● **By definition holy doesn't mean ordinary, it means separated from the world.**

**Our obedience to Jesus, the Word, and how we are living our lives MATTERS when it comes to worship!**