

## **Week II: January 9-15, 2021**

### **Watchmen Corporate/Community Call Focuses**

Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, “The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.” Neh 4:19-20

The Global Watch and the emerging watches in the nations, have a mission from Isaiah 62:6 that will cultivate an Isaiah 52:8 reality. Relentless Watchmen will cry out, day and night, until Jerusalem is made a praise in the earth, so that they will see eye to eye when the Lord brings back Zion.

### **RESET FOCUS - COMMUNITY**

#### **Meditation:**

James states, “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much,” James 5:16. However, biblically, and historically, it is corporate prayer that changes history. From the apostles praying together throughout the gospels to the book of Acts, corporate prayer was a vital part of their life. Community was also a significant part of Jesus’ life and ministry, as well as the early Church culture.

Because of the power of corporate prayer in a community of believers, the enemy has worked overtime to dismantle it. In 2017, in the article, “Silent and Solo, How Americans Pray,” Barna Research found, “2% of Americans pray audibly or collectively with a church.” This statistic has been corroborated by other researchers. This is a troubling statistic. Jesus said, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations,” Mt. 21:13, Mk 11:17, Lu 19:46. The phrase is easily glossed over in our conversations and discussions on the topic. However, we are now in a Matthew 18:15-20 reset. In these few verses, Jesus taught dynamics of healthy community life. Often quoted are vs. 19-20, “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” However, the process of getting right with one another in verses 15-17, can easily be bypassed (see scripture references below).

Are we in good standing with our brothers and sisters in Christ? In this time of reset, God is not bypassing the need for relational health and community.

#### **Scriptures:**

- “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one, or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them,” Mt. 18:15-20.

- “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift,” Mt 5:23.
- “Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, with their voices they shall sing together, for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord brings back Zion,” Isaiah 52:8.

**Action items:**

- Ponder the relationships around you from your family, your circle of friends, to work associates. Are there any you need to reach out to, to foster a stronger sense of engagement?
- Take time for a random act of kindness towards a family member or friend. Consider making it a regular habit, once a day, once a week, once a month.

**Corporate Prayer Guide for morning/evening prayer leader:**

- Pray relationships to be strengthened in the Lord through building bridges of trust with one another.
- Pray for the corporate prayer communities to be places of hope to those who are searching for answers

**RESET FOCUS - AGREEMENT (The quality of your community)**

**Meditation:**

Not only is developing community in prayer/worship important, but the quality of your community will greatly impact the effectiveness of your prayers. Pete Grieg and David Blackwell of 24/7 Europe state, “In our experience, the biggest factor in making 24/7 work for a sustained period of time, is not the size of the group, but the strength of the community.” Factor Agreement is everything in corporate prayer. When we touch the heart of God in personal prayer, the impact is transformative. However, the cross is both vertical and horizontal. In fact, looking at the Acts Church, the expression of prayer was largely corporate throughout the book of Acts and the New Testament. The quality of our community will in many ways impact the effectiveness of our prayers. Luke describes the Acts church as being in “One Accord,” repeatedly, Acts 1:14, 2:1, 2:46, 4:24, 5:12, 7:57, 8:6, 12:20, 15:25. The word accord or *homothymadon*, means unanimously with one mind. This level of agreement within the community of the early Church caused an explosive dynamic to erupt on earth, catapulting the gospel into the nations with transformative power. As we face insurmountable challenges today, we are in need of the power of God to work through His Church. Corporate prayer in community with others is a catalytic agent historically and biblically for transformation and revival.

**Jesus said:** “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift,” Mt. 5:22-24.

**Questions for meditation:**

Who do I engage with regularly in corporate prayer? If not, who would I like to engage with? What is the level of agreement in your prayer community?

**Scriptures:**

- “That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me,” John 17:21.
- “ Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ” Mt. 18:19.
- “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment,” 1 Cor 1:10.

**Action Items:**

- What can I do to foster corporate prayer and greater agreement for my community, business, school, government?
- Ultimately, how does agreement impact the health and vitality of your corporate prayer environment(s)?
- In alignment with Jesus’ words of Mt. 23-24, are there people you need to reconcile with to foster greater corporate health and agreement? Is this a reality for you? What can you do about it?

**Corporate Prayer Guide for morning/evening prayer leader:**

- Pray for strength and unity to be the fuel in the corporate prayer community.
- Pray for favor and divine connections to be fostered in corporate prayer communities.

**RESET FOCUS - COMMUNITIES OF TRUST AND RECONCILIATION****Meditation:**

Part of the reset is moving into deeper dimensions of intentionality within communities. When remodeling a building, it is important to consider the foundations. If the foundations are cracked, the building will not stand. Cracks or fissures between relationships weaken the quality of a community, and impacts the ability to work. Forgiveness between entities begins the process. However, trust builds over time and must be restored if forgiveness is to work its full benefits. Foundations built on trust release the “gold of heaven” and bear much fruitfulness. Forgiveness is an important part of our character development and will ultimately determine the level of authority in which we walk. In God’s eyes, it carries greater weight in our walk than our position or title. Forgiveness is a given must in any Christians life. However, trust is earned. The doorway to trust between broken relationships is the word, “I am sorry.” Without it, we can forgive, but it will be hard to develop trust. Trust is a powerful commodity within a community and is built relationship by relationship. In fact, that is how the Kingdom is built. Without trust, we may be toying with hay, wood, and stubble.

**Scriptures:**

- “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation,” II Corinthians 5:18-19.
- “Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire,” 1 Co 3:12-15.

- “Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 2 Cor 12:14-21

**Action Items:**

- Are there cracks and fissures in my relationship with others in my community? What step can I take to strengthen the foundation of those relationships?
- Be intentional in your thoughts and deeds, thinking about it is not enough! Be the first to take the step to fill in and strengthen any gaps.
- Repent for areas where you have held on to mistrust and forgive those who have helped you to believe this false foundation.

**Corporate Prayer Guide for morning/evening prayer leader:**

- Spend time facilitating steps of forgiveness and releasing those false foundations and beliefs that have been structures of lies.
- Worship the Lord and thank Him for His faithfulness to forgive us and cover us in His blood. Thank Him for resetting our feet on a firm foundation, Jesus Christ.

**RESET FOCUS - TRANSFORMATION**

**Meditation:**

The Noah Webster 1828 Dictionary defines transform as “To change the form of; to change the shape or appearance; to metamorphose; as a caterpillar transformed into a butterfly.” Another definition of transform in the same dictionary entry is “In theology, to change the natural disposition and temper of man from a state of enmity to God and his law, into the image of God, or into a disposition and temper conformed to the will of God.” Transformation is the act of being transformed. Romans 12:2 says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Transformation starts first in the heart. It is an inward work that is seen in a life that is fully surrendered to the will and ways of God. We are in a constant state of change. Our lives, circumstances and the world are always changing. The only constant in our life is the Lord, He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He stands outside of time and beckons us to set our heart and affections on eternity. As we set our affections on Him transformation begins. It begins in one life. As that life touches another, change happens again. Transformation touches individuals first then expands out to touch families, a city, a region, a state, a nation, and to the nations. Let it begin within each of us that we could truly receive the nations as our inheritance.

**Scriptures:**

- “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God,” Romans 12:2.

- “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory,” Colossians 2:2-4.
- “For I am the LORD, I do not change,” Malachi 3:6.
- “But we all, with unveiled faces, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord,” 2 Corinthians 3:18.
- “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me,” Galatians 2:20.
- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever,” Hebrews 13:8.
- “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession,” Psalm 2:8.

#### **Action Items:**

- Ask the Lord, are there areas in my life that need transformation, change? What is a place I have not fully surrendered to the Lord?
- In the process of change do I have someone that I am accountable to?
- How can I be a steward of change to my community?

#### **Corporate Prayer Guide for morning/evening prayer leader:**

- Give thanks to God, spend time thanking Him for His faithfulness to us and His love for us that is greater than anything we could ever think or imagine.
- Pray for the corporate body of Christ to be bold and empowered through the Holy Spirit to do greater things.

### **RESET FOCUS - EVANGELISM/OUTREACH**

#### **Meditation:**

The great commission Jesus left with us, His disciples, was to first, recognize that all authority is His, on heaven and earth. Second He says, Go...make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Thirdly, Jesus says, “teaching them to observe all I have commanded you and last but by far not least, Jesus says, “lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 24:18-20). How do we evangelize nations? Acts 1:8 gives us an answer, “.....you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” We are His disciples and as our lives are transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit, we become a witness of who He is. It is the Love of God that we carry into our spheres of influence that brings influence and transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit to change nations one life at a time. We are the containers of God’s glory. We are called to be agents of change wherever our feet touch. For the joy set before Him, Jesus willingly went to the cross. The joy of the Lord strengthens us as we set our focus on reaching lives one at a time to unveil the mystery of the gospel of the kingdom.

#### **Scriptures:**

- “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything

I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age,” Matthew 28:18-20

- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth,” Acts 1:8.
- “But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? 17 Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God,” 2 Corinthians 2:14-17.
- “I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses,” Joshua 1:3.
- “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith— 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen,” Romans 16:25.
- “For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants [a]on account of Jesus. 6 For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in [b]earthen containers, so that the extraordinary greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves,” 2 Corinthians 4:5-7.
- “...for the joy of the Lord is your strength,” Nehemiah 8:10.
- “Looking unto Jesus, the [a]author and [b]finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God,” Hebrews 12:2.

#### **Action Items:**

- Am I influencing others in my sphere with the kingdom of God?
- What is a step I can take to further the gospel of the kingdom?
- What is a way I can participate in discipling the nations?

#### **Corporate Prayer Guide for morning/evening prayer leader:**

- Pray for the influence of the Holy Spirit to hit every person and empower them to demonstrate the gospel of the kingdom wherever they are.
- Ask God to give the corporate prayer community greater clarity and revelation to declare His voice to the ends of the earth.
- Pray for dots to be connected through the corporate praying church

#### **RESET FOCUS: CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Paul writes as a mature believer to young Timothy, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers,

without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power.” 2 Tim 3:1-5. This one verse describes catalysts for conflict both within and outside the body of Christ. Such conflict has been a constant through the ages because of our fallen nature. How can we then build a healthy community in the midst of our rather “Testy” natures.

One good example is David. He was a man after God’s own heart, yet he was not afraid of conflict. In fact, his life was filled with conflict. He ran towards the lion, the bear and Goliath. He was also not afraid to admit his own challenges and failures. His own “Heart condemned him after he had numbered the people,” 2 Samuel 24:10. He was quick to repent of his sin with Bathsheba, 2 Samuel 12:13. David admitted readily, “So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Today we are facing many challenges, we too need to be quick to settle accounts with people we have conflict with, being quick to forgive, and ready to forgive, Col 3:13. Matthew speaks of the power of agreement “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them,” Mt. 18:20. But the prior verses relay protocol in resolving conflict amongst the brethren.

#### **Scriptures:**

- “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift,” Mt 5:23-24.
- “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector,” Mt. 18:15-17.
- “Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord,” Romans 12:17-18.
- “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death,” James 1:12-15.
- “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world,” John 16:33.
- “There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers,” James 1:12.
- “There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers,” Pro 6:16-19.
- “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who

hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven,” Mt. 5:43-45.

**Action Items:**

- What giants do you have in your life? Identify those with whom you may have a conflict with and seek the Lord in how to approach them to resolve it. God will give wisdom to those who ask for it.
- Be honest with yourself, ask God if there is some criticism you are holding against someone, or even yourself.
- Take time to review the quality of your relationships with family, friends. Ask God to bring to mind any who you may need to reconcile. Can you really trust God in the difficult relationships in your life?
- Take time to consecrate yourself using 2 Tim 3:1-5, and Pro 6:16-19; James 1:12 and consider how it may be impacting others.

**Corporate Prayer Guide:**

- Pray through 2 Tim 3:1-5 and call for the release of captive hearts and restoration of what has been lost, Is 42:21-22.
- Pray for the ministry of recognition to arise in the body of Christ that will promote the Kingdom through identification of ministry gifts and callings, Mt. 16:16-19.
- Pray for strength and courage to be released to the corporate praying community in order to resolve conflict.
- Ask the Lord to enlarge the capacity of our hearts to carry more of Him, more of His love and compassion to those who do not know the truth as we do. Jesus, You are the way, the truth and the Life.
- Ask the Lord to bring creative solutions to hard issues that seem to be at an impasse so that breakthrough can come in lives and relationships.

**RESET FOCUS: WITHOUT OFFENSE**

Offense is the glue that holds demonic forces in our lives in place. Its impact on our spiritual and emotional health will influence our community. Offense is a place where our human nature takes over God’s divine nature to keep us from attaining the full riches of His inheritance in the saints. Jesus said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men,” Mt 16:23. Holding onto offense will undermine God’s will for our lives and keep us from growing into and understanding Jesus’ ways. In fact, Hebrews warns, “Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled,” Heb 12:15. Often, hurts will mark the place where God, in His divine nature, wants to place the cross. By allowing the cross to work forgiveness in our lives, we move into divine resurrection power. The cross is painful. It will require a full trust that God is working His divine purpose through our trials. In fact, it is through the trials that we receive the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit. Authority in heaven is not about our position, it is about our stance before a holy God. How we handle opposition and the offense is a great determiner of where we end up.

**Scriptures:**

- “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him,” James 1:12.



- “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God,” Phil 1:9-11.
- “Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near,” Heb 10:25.
- “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live,” John 14:18-19.
- “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death,” Rev 10-11, Zech 3.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Make an effort to compliment someone daily either in conversation or sending an extra text.
- Forgiveness is a process. Many have had to endure such a process as God tests our hearts and grows our character and faith. Ask God to reveal anyone that you hold an offense towards, are threatened by, or has hurt you to release you from (Zech 3, Rom 12:17-21).

#### **Corporate prayer:**

- Pray for a standard of reconciliation to be raised up in the body of Christ.
- Pray for atmospheres of kindness to develop in communities to foster repentance and reconciliation.

### **RESET FOCUS: THE GENERATIONAL CALL**

God is a generational God with a generational vision. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! God intended family to be the paradigm through which sons and daughters would be raised up as ones who look like and act like the King and who consequently create a culture on earth that looks like heaven – God’s Kingdom (Alicia White – ‘Presence-Driven Family Ministry’). Family is the first place we should learn to be worshippers, warriors and watchmen. In many ways, over the years, the Body of Christ has (perhaps unintentionally) shifted the main responsibility for spiritually teaching and training our children, away from parents and the home, to ministry leaders and the church. Whilst church plays a vital role in spiritual growth, the family should be the backbone. Where the natural family cannot provide such an environment for growth, spiritual fathers and mothers need to step up to model faith in the family.

As Watchmen, we cannot only work with our own generation we need to connect with those who go before us and those who follow behind, in order to be rightly representing the Lord’s heart for family. Children and young people need to see that they too can learn to be watchmen and that they have a part to play in the Lord’s Kingdom plans. Any revival or breakthrough must permeate more than one or two age groups if it is to become an identity passed down and born anew from generation to generation.

#### **Scriptures:**

- “And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.” Mal 4:6.
- “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female; He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth” Genesis 1:27-28.
- “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” Deuteronomy 6:6-9.
- “Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.” Nehemiah 4:13.

### **Action Steps:**

- Create a family altar - This simply means creating space and a rhythm of worship and prayer in your home. This can be with natural or spiritual family and should form a normal part of your life together. Invite others in to experience your faith life as a family.
- Be discipled and disciple others – consider who is speaking into your life and who’s life you can speak into. Ask the Lord to show you 2 or 3 sons or daughters you can invest in (you do not need to a parent in the natural to do this).
- Create a family vision – consider who the Lord has called your natural or spiritual family to be. What is your identity / DNA, your vision or calling as a family? Write out a vision together. Encourage other families to do the same.

### **Corporate prayer:**

- Pray for the Body of Christ to catch God’s heart for family and the generations.
- Pray for family worship and prayer altars to be built in the home of every believer and that these will be places of healing and encounter for unbelievers.

## **RESET FOCUS: CHILDREN ARE ARROWS IN THE HANDS OF THE WARRIOR**

**Meditation:** “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth” Psalm 127: 4.

God ordained from the beginning of time that children would become weapons of war; arrows in the hands of an army of parents and leaders who would know how to use them in this great Kingdom battle. The story of Elisha and the King in 2 Kings 13:15-17 is a great illustration:

‘Elisha said, “Get a bow and some arrows,” and he did so. 16 “Take the bow in your hands,” he said to the king of Israel. When he had taken it, Elisha put his hands on the king’s hands. “Open the east window,” he said, and he opened it. “Shoot!” Elisha said, and he shot.’

Elisha was like the mentor, instructor & leader of the King - teaching him how to hold his bow, where to point it and how to release the arrows. It was the job of the King to go to war and

release the arrows. It was Elisha's job simply to train, instruct and encourage him by placing his hand on the King's hand in an act of mentoring. Leaders are called to be like Elisha and parents are like the King. God gave parents to be the primary spiritual leaders for children – He placed these 'arrows' in their quiver to be released from their hand. Leaders are there to guide, train and encourage parents in their role, in order to help ensure those arrows are rightly sharpened, aimed and released.

(Inspiration from Alicia White – 'Presence-Driven Family Ministry').

It is important that we learn as leaders and families how we can work together to see the enemy's plans frustrated and the Lord's Kingdom advancing. Children are not simply being trained for a future day, but are part of the present plan, as weapons in the hands of parents supported by Godly leaders.

#### **Scriptures:**

- "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame, when he speaks with his enemies in the gate," Psalm 127:3-5.
- "Elisha said, "Get a bow and some arrows," and he did so. 16 "Take the bow in your hands," he said to the king of Israel. When he had taken it, Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. "Open the east window," he said, and he opened it. "Shoot!" Elisha said, and he shot. "The Lord's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!" Elisha declared. "You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek," 2 Kings 13:15-17.

#### **Action Steps:**

- Ask the Lord to show you a family that you can pray for and support in raising up children who are sharpened and ready to be shot out for God's Kingdom purposes.
- Consider how you can sharpen, aim and release the natural or spiritual children the Lord has given to you. Build in time and practical ways to encourage and train them each week.

#### **Corporate Prayer:**

- Pray for the Body of Christ to explore fresh ways to equip parents in raising up 'sharpened arrows'.
- Pray for a paradigm shift in our understanding that all ministry is family ministry and the battle plan includes children as sharpened arrows in our quiver.

