



*This guide is provided to help facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truths to our lives individually and corporately. As such we encourage you to spend at least half your time pondering and discussing questions that are application focused. While the guide has been bulked up, we still need to prepare by praying through the passage, reviewing the guide on our own, and thinking about how our group might answer questions.*

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## Overview of Series

Telos: A 5-Year Vision, is a 6 week series where look into God's word to see how the gospel changes individual lives, churches and cities. Our vision (emphasised every week) is "For Asia to be renewed by people, churches and cities transformed by the gospel".

This guide serves as a supplement to the sermon series, so that we imprint RHC's vision into the hearts of everyone who is part of this church, and we all see our role in God's vision. To use this series well, make sure you focus on the application questions in the second half of the guide. In the "Apply Practically" section at the end, a Prayer Card from this week is used to help your CG consider how God is calling them to be part of his plan for his people.

## The City of God and The Temple

The Bible speaks of the city of God, or the Kingdom of God as where God's presence fully dwells. It is not so much a geographical location as it is where God rules and reigns. In Genesis, creation was designed to reflect the goodness and glory of God. After the fall, sin corrupted the nature of creation and the original design of God. Man was also designed to be in communion and fellowship with God in the garden of Eden but fallen man was unable to be in the presence of a Holy God. Since then, the temple (or the tabernacle before King Solomon) became a type of mediator between God's presence and fallen man.

## Christ as the True Temple of God

Since the fall, mankind developed a sense of being in exile and attempted to satisfy that longing with all ways and means. In the OT when God redeemed Israel as His own kingdom people, He gave the temple to signify that His presence dwells with them. For God, the Israelites were meant to be His personal people and to reflect His glory. The priesthood would go into the temple to represent and intercede for the nation of Israel before God. When Christ came and said His body was the temple of God, He was pointing to Himself as the way to restore broken fellowship between God and man. Through Him, sinful man can be reconciled to God and God's Holy Spirit can dwell in them. In Revelation, we see the full consummation of God's redemptive plan as God Himself will dwell among His redeemed people in His city.

## Goal of this Study

For us to know our place in God's big plan of renewing the whole creation to be part of his temple, and for us to live out that reality in our city as a church.

### Opening Question:

What comes to your mind when someone mentions the word 'temple'?

*Read Gen 1:26-31.*

1. Why do you think God describes the people he has created as "very good"?
2. In what sense was the Garden of Eden a temple? (consider Gen 1:28-30, 3:8, 2:9-10)
- 3a. What has gone wrong in God's design for us? (Gen 3, esp. v. 23-24)
- 3b. What are the consequences we experience of mankind's sin?

### Application

4. How do our plans for our own lives conflict with God's plans for us?

*Read Exodus 25:1-9.*

- 5a. How does God work through history to restore what was lost?
- 5b. What is the purpose of the tabernacle? (v.8-9)
- 5c. What does the tabernacle point forward to? (You could consider John 1:14 if necessary.)

*Read Revelation 21:1-5, 22-27.*

6. What is God's ultimate plan for human beings? Where is history going?
7. Why is there no temple in the New Jerusalem? (v. 22)

*Read 1 Pet 2:4-12.*

8. What is God's purpose for us as a church today?
9. What is God's purpose for Christians who are suffering, struggling with sin, or too busy? (How do they fit into his plan?)

### **Application**

10. We each have a unique calling within God's master-plan. How do you think God wants to use you in his story? Think about your personal relationships, your work, and within your church.

11. How does seeing yourself in the big picture of God's plan challenge what you are living for today?

12. What do you think is the role of Community Groups in the light of God's big plan for mankind? (What should be the purpose of CGs in this plan?)

### **Apply Practically**

Use Prayer Card "Day 7" (Saturday's prayer card).

Consider Rev 22:1-3

**Contemplate:** Time and history are progressing towards the Afterlife. All things will culminate in God's glorious Eternal City. Christians should live with this end always in mind.

**Do:** What is God asking you to do to on earth to impact Eternity? (Write it down for yourself)

### **Pray Together**

- Pray for Jesus' Kingdom to come on earth.
- Ask God how he wants to use you as part of his plan, and for the faith to follow God in this way.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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