



# connect to reflect

## INTRODUCTION

the remnant's focus  
calling others to reflect Jesus prepares for his coming **04**



### the challenge to believe

In the Old Testament, the remnant's identity was shaped by the call to rebuild the temple. What do you think about the idea that your identity is shaped by the mission to call others to restore the heart as a place of communion with God, that his character is revealed? What are some of the challenges of this for you?



### deepening dependence

Spend some time to pray about your role in preparing for the return of Jesus by calling others to reflect the image of Christ.



### steps to re-connecting our hearts to God

1. Ask the Holy Spirit what he wants you to learn from this lesson. What do you sense the Holy Spirit teaching you?
2. This week, what practical steps do you need to take to apply what the Holy Spirit is teaching you?
3. What evidence will you see that indicates that you are successfully applying what the Holy Spirit is teaching you?



### passing it on

- INTERCESSION** Who can you pray for, that they may grasp the centrality of calling others to reflect Jesus?
- WORDS** Who can you talk to about what you have learned?
- CHARACTER** How will the mission to call others to reflect Jesus be visible in your own life?



### open to God's words

There are some great journeys described in the Bible that have spiritual lessons for us today. The journey from Egypt to Canaan illustrates our journey from sin to life in Christ. Less commonly explored is Israel's journey to exile, first to Assyria and then to Babylon. This journey was due to God's judgement on Israel's rebellion against him. Finally, there is Israel's journey back from Babylon to Jerusalem—back from a life of compromise and judgement to a life aspiring to faithfulness. This last journey back from Babylon to Jerusalem was undertaken by just a remnant. Most of their relatives stayed where it was comfortable in Babylon. Only a few faithful people under Zerubbabel's leadership went back to rebuild the temple.

Unfortunately, in under a year this remnant quickly became discouraged at the opposition around them and stopped the rebuilding programme. They found themselves more devoted to rebuilding their own houses than a place to worship God. So the prophet Haggai stood up with a word of rebuke and encouragement from God. Fifteen years after they stopped work on the temple, the people restarted their work.

Around the same time as Haggai was urging the people back to rebuilding the temple, the prophet Zechariah was also sharing some encouraging visions from God with the people. Part of his message was directed to the relatives and friends who had remained in Babylon. He called,

*Come! Come! Flee from the land of the north," declares the LORD, "for I have scattered you to the four winds of heaven," declares the LORD. "Come, O Zion! Escape, you who live in the Daughter of Babylon!" (Zechariah 2:6-7).*

Zechariah is calling the rest of God's people back to Jerusalem to join the first remnant in rebuilding the temple.

In the New Testament, Paul refers to us as God's temple, for it also is the place where God is resident.

*Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you... (1 Corinthians 6:19).*

At the very end of time, another remnant who are preparing for the return of Jesus are also calling to God's people living in Babylon to leave,

*"After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendour. With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!...Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people..." (Revelation 18:1-2, 4a).*



**when the remnant call others to rebuild the spiritual temple, the glory of the image of God is revealed**

Underlying the work of the remnant in the last days, is the call to their spiritual relatives still in Babylon to leave. Like the first remnant, it is a calling not just to leave Babylon because Babylon is a bad place, but for the specific purpose of rebuilding the spiritual temple—the heart. The remnant's call is for others to join them in the task of re-building the heart in human lives,, for when this is done communion with God is restored. Then, the de-formed image of Jesus will be re-formed, and the glory of God revealed across the world.

