

RCCG INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CENTRE - LIGHTHOUSE LESSON
OUTLINE

A Christ-Centred Church with a Heart of Compassion

Message Date: 31/05/2026 Lighthouse Meeting Date: 2/06/2026	Message Title: "The Christianity We Live at Home: Building Christ-Centred Homes" Minister: Pastor Chuka Nwafor/ Pst Pami
Key Texts: • Revelation 2:1–5 • Ephesians 5:22–33 • John 14:1–3 • Acts 2:42–47 • Isaiah 11:6–9 • Genesis 2:24	Sub Text:
<i>Please read the entire document and Bible texts before you begin to discuss and answer the related questions. This will help you grasp the overall context of the message, however, remember the Bible is not a discussion book but a decision book. God honours and empowers your decisions not your discussions.</i> <u>INTRODUCTION: THE MIRROR WE AVOID</u> The God that is not worshiped in the Home cannot be worshipped in the Temple. There is a version of Christianity that looks very impressive on Sunday and becomes almost invisible by Monday. It knows the right songs, speaks the right language, shows up at the right events and yet, somewhere behind the performance, there is a quiet emptiness. A distance. A relationship that has grown cold. The great danger of our generation is not irreligion, it is religious activity without a true knowledge of Christ nor a genuine intimacy with Christ. And nowhere is that truth more exposed than in the one place we think no one is watching: our homes. This message is a call not to do more, but to return. To return to your first love. To return to the place where Christianity was not a performance but a passion. And then to carry that love back through the front door of your house, because what is not present in your home is not truly present in you.- Hosea 6:1-3 AMP <i>“Come and let us return [in repentance] to the LORD, For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. [2] After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up That we may live before Him. [3] So let us know and become personally acquainted with Him; let us press on to know and understand fully the [greatness of the] LORD [to honor, heed, and deeply cherish Him]. His appearing is prepared and is as certain as the dawn, And He will come to us [in salvation] like the [heavy] rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth.”</i> The question before us is: If Christ evaluated our relationship with Him today, would He find religious activity or true	

intimacy? Would He find service or love? Would He find religion or relationship?

HISTORICAL AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT

The early church was not primarily a building it was a people, and it was a movement that lived primarily in peoples homes.

- In Acts 2:41–47, after 3,000 were saved at Pentecost, the first Christians did not immediately erect cathedrals. They gathered in the temple courts and in their homes breaking bread, praying, sharing resources, and praising God daily. The church was a household reality before it was an institutional one. As a matter of fact most of the early church meetings moved into meeting in homes when the public persecution of Christians led to the church mostly going underground for over 300 years until 313 AD when it was legalised under Emperor Constantine (ie. 300 years of vicious persecution of Christians both by the Jewish authorities and Roman government)
- When Paul wrote to the churches, he often greeted the “church in your house” (Romans 16:5; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2). In Acts 20:20, Paul declared: “I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.”
- Jesus Himself ministered more in homes than in temples. He healed at Peter’s house (Mark 1:29–31), raised Jairus’ daughter in her home (Luke 8:49–56), dined with Zacchaeus (Luke 19:5), and taught in the home of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38–42).

The home was never meant to be separated from the Kingdom of God. God began his relationship with man in the home before the Law created institutionalised religion under Moses to counter the problem of idolatry (which is where everyone does what is right in their own eyes). The home was always intended to be its primary laboratory. Yet somewhere along the way as with all forms of organised religion, Christianity became largely Sunday-shaped and packaged for the congregation, but unpracticed in the kitchen, the bedroom, the living room.- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 AMP

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one [the only God]! [5] You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and mind and with all your soul and with all your strength [your entire being]. [6] These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be [written] on your heart and mind. [7] You shall teach them diligently to your children [impressing God’s precepts on their minds and penetrating their hearts with His truths] and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. [8] And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand (forearm), and they shall be used as bands (frontals, frontlets) on your forehead. [9] You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

This bible study outline calls us back to where it all begins

KEY POINT 1: CHRIST IS YOUR BRIDEGROOM, ARE YOU STILL IN LOVE WITH HIM?

The Scriptures reveal a profound truth: our relationship with Christ is not merely that of a servant to a master, but of a bride to her Bridegroom. From Genesis 2:24, where a man leaves his father and mother

to be united with his wife, to Revelation 19:7, where the marriage supper of the Lamb is announced, God paints a beautiful picture of covenant love between Christ and His Church. Jesus left the glory of heaven, came to a fallen world, and gave His life as the ultimate Bride Price to redeem us. Through His sacrifice, we have been joined to Him in a spiritual union so intimate that Scripture declares, “He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him” (1 Corinthians 6:17). Christ is not only our Saviour and King; He is our Bridegroom who longs for - intimacy, affection, fellowship, and wholehearted devotion. His question to every believer remains deeply personal: “Do I still have your heart?”

In a healthy marriage, love is demonstrated through time, communication, commitment, and delight in one another's presence. Likewise, our relationship with Christ cannot thrive on occasional attention or religious routine alone. Many believers remain active in church activities while neglecting genuine intimacy with the Lord. Yet God desires more than our service—He desires our love. When affection for Christ is alive, prayer becomes a delight rather than a duty, worship becomes a response of the heart rather than a ritual, and obedience becomes an expression of love rather than obligation. Therefore, each believer must honestly examine their heart: Am I pursuing Christ with the same passion and intentionality that I would invest in a cherished relationship? Have the pressures of life weakened my devotion to Him? The call of the Spirit today is to return to our first love, rekindle our passion for Christ, and cultivate a relationship marked not merely by activity, but by deep affection, intimacy, and unwavering devotion to our heavenly Bridegroom.

Scripture: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)

Digging Deep/Life Application: Ask yourself: If Christ treated you the way you treat Him in your relationship, would you call it a healthy marriage?

KEY POINT 2: THE DANGER OF LOSING YOUR FIRST LOVE

One of the clearest signs of spiritual drift is when God's voice no longer stirs the heart. Just as a struggling marriage is often marked by partners who no longer truly hear one another, a believer who is losing their first love may find that prayer becomes mechanical, worship becomes routine, and the Word of God no longer brings conviction, excitement, or transformation. Yet God's invitation remains open: **“Then you will seek Me, inquire for, and require Me [as a vital necessity] and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart”** (Jeremiah 29:13 AMPC). The remedy for a cold heart is not more activity but repentance and then a renewed pursuit of God's presence.

Every believer should honestly ask: Am I as hungry for Christ today as when I first believed? Has disappointment, distraction, busyness, or unconfessed sin weakened my devotion? This truth is especially important in our homes, because children often learn more from the spiritual passion they observe than from the sermons they hear. A home where parents genuinely love Jesus creates an atmosphere that draws the next generation toward God, while a home marked only by religious habit can unintentionally teach them that Christianity is merely a ritual rather than a living relationship with Christ. **Please study Spiritual Decline in Bible Answers by Derek Prime - Chapter 63**

Scripture: “But I have this one charge to make against you: that you have left (abandoned) the love that you had at first [you have deserted Me, your first love]. Remember then from what heights you have fallen. Repent (change the inner man to meet God's will) and do the works you did previously [when first

you knew the Lord]... ” (Revelation 2:4–5 AMPC)

Digging Deep/Life Application: Deep Reflection Questions

- What were you like when you first gave your life to Christ? How does that compare to today?
- Is there something specific — a hurt, a disappointment, a distraction, a sin — that caused you to begin drifting?
- Are you engaged with God’s Word, or has it become familiar noise?

KEYPOINT 3: ACTIVITY WITHOUT AFFECTION IS SPIRITUAL DECEPTION

One of the most sobering realities embedded in the teaching of Jesus is that it is entirely possible to be *busy for God while being a stranger to God*. In Matthew 7:21–23,

Scripture: “Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name? And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly disregarding My commands.” **Matthew 7:21–23 (AMPC)**

Digging Deep/Life Application:

- I.If God removed every visible result from your Christian service today, would you still pursue Him with the same fervour, or has the fruit quietly become the reason?
- II.Are there areas of your Christianity that you perform for an audience of people rather than in the sight of God alone?
- III.Can you honestly say that God *knows* you, not merely that you know about Him?

KEYPOINT 4: THE HOME IS THE TRUE MEASURING STICK OF YOUR CHRISTIANITY

The true measure of our Christianity is not first revealed in the church sanctuary but within the walls of our homes. God’s design for spiritual formation has always begun in the household. In Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (AMPC), He commands, “And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be first in your own minds and hearts; then you shall whet and sharpen them so as to make them penetrate, and teach and impress them diligently upon the minds and hearts of your children...” Faith was never intended to be confined to weekly gatherings; it was meant to permeate daily life through conversations, attitudes, decisions, and relationships. Joshua understood this responsibility when he boldly declared, “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15, AMPC). The home is where our devotion to Christ becomes visible, where our children and loved ones witness whether the Word of God

is truly governing our hearts. As 2 Corinthians 3:2 (AMPC) reminds us, “You are our letter (epistle), written in our hearts, known and read by everybody.” Long before people hear our testimony, they observe our conduct.

Therefore, every believer must recognize that the most authentic expression of faith is found in everyday family life. It is easy to appear spiritual in public, but the true condition of our walk with God is revealed in how we speak, forgive, serve, and love at home. Jesus warned against “making the Word of God of no effect through your tradition” (Mark 7:13, AMPC), and one of the greatest traditions of our time is assuming that church attendance can replace discipleship in the home. Let our homes become altars of worship, places where prayer is sincere, Scripture is honoured, forgiveness is practised, and Christ is exalted. When repentance, grace, and godly love are consistently demonstrated in our households, we leave a lasting legacy that shapes future generations.

The question each believer must prayerfully consider is this: If someone observed my home life for a week, would they clearly see the reality of Christ living in me/ in our home? May our homes become living testimonies of God's transforming power and faithful witnesses of the Kingdom of God. *See Daniel 6:10-11,13 AMP*

Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he went into his house (now in his roof chamber his windows were open toward Jerusalem); he continued to get down on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. [11] Then, by agreement, these men came [together] and found Daniel praying and making requests before his God. [13] Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, does not pay any attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you have signed, but keeps praying [to his God] three times a day.”

Scripture: “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18, AMPC)

Digging Deep/Life Application: *The greatest marriage counsellor your children will ever have is not a pastor or a therapist, IT IS YOU. For 18 to 25 years, before they ever sit across from a counsellor, they are watching how you fight, how you forgive, how you love, how you speak, how you pray. That script is being written deep in the tablets of their hearts. If your tongue is a razor blade at home, it cannot become a healing balm in church. If there is no forgiveness at home, your children will not know how to forgive in their own marriages. What is the Christianity your children are being exposed to at home? Would it make them desire God, or grow indifferent to Him?*

KEY 5: THE CHRIST-CENTRED HOME, WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN PRACTICE

Biblical community does not begin in the church sanctuary; it begins in the home. The New Testament's many “one another” commands were given to shape the daily relationships of believers, first within their households and then throughout the Body of Christ. Scripture instructs us, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32, AMPC). We are also commanded to “Bear (endure, carry) one another's burdens and troublesome moral faults, and in this way fulfill and observe perfectly the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2, AMPC). These virtues are tested most consistently at home, where real character is revealed. Jesus declared, “By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35, AMPC). A healthy church is built upon healthy homes where forgiveness,

encouragement, confession, prayer, and sacrificial love are practised daily. When the knowledge of the Lord fills a household, the peace envisioned in Isaiah's kingdom becomes a living reality, enabling people with different personalities and perspectives to dwell together in grace and unity.

A Christ-centred home is not defined by perfection but by the active lordship of Jesus Christ in everyday life. The early believers “steadfastly persevered, devoting themselves constantly to the instruction and fellowship of the apostles, to the breaking of bread [including the Lord's Supper] and prayers” and continued “day after day, attending the temple [meeting] together and breaking bread in their private homes” (Acts 2:42, 46, AMPC). Their faith was not confined to public gatherings but flourished in their homes through worship, fellowship, and prayer. Scripture reminds us, “Except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Psalm 127:1, AMPC). Therefore, every Christian family should intentionally cultivate rhythms of grace, praying together, discussing God's Word, modelling repentance, and seeking the Lord's wisdom in daily decisions. As husbands love their wives “as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her” and families train their children in God's ways (Ephesians 5:25; Proverbs 22:6, AMPC), the home becomes a powerful testimony of the Gospel. When Christ is truly honoured in the household, the light of His presence will naturally extend into the church, the community, and future generations.

Scripture: *"Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another; that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."* **James 5:16 (AMPC)**

Digging Deep/Life Application:

Build rhythms of grace into your home life:

- *Daily prayer together — even if brief, make it sincere.*
- *Weekly reflection — discuss what God spoke through His Word that week.*
- *Model repentance — let your children see you apologise, forgive, and seek God.*
- *Make Jesus and his Word a household name — not as a religious utterance, but as a living presence: “Let's ask the Lord about this.” “What does God's Word say about this situation?”*

KEY 6: REKINDLING THE FLAME, RETURNING TO YOUR FIRST LOVE

One of the greatest invitations in Scripture is God's call for His people to return to Him when their hearts have grown distant. The Lord lovingly declares, “Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts” (Malachi 3:7, AMPC). Throughout the Book of Hosea, we witness the relentless pursuit of a faithful God toward an unfaithful people. Though Israel wandered, God's heart remained full of mercy and restoration. In Hosea 2:7 (AMPC), the wandering soul finally acknowledges, “Then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband, for then was it better with me than now.” This is the cry of every believer who recognizes that no substitute can satisfy the heart apart from Christ. When spiritual passion cools and devotion becomes routine, God's response is not rejection but invitation. He still draws near, still speaks tenderly, and still longs for intimate fellowship with His children. As Zephaniah 3:17 (AMPC) beautifully reminds us, “The Lord your God is in the midst of you, a Mighty One, a Savior

[Who saves]! He will rejoice over you with joy; He will rest [in silent satisfaction] and in His love He will be silent and make no mention [of past sins, or even recall them]; He will exult over you with singing.”

Returning to our first love begins with honest self-examination and deliberate surrender. The Lord Jesus extends His gracious invitation: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest” (Matthew 11:28, AMPC). The pathway back is neither complicated nor unattainable, it is found in renewed repentance, renewed hunger for God's Word, and renewed intimacy in prayer. We must prayerfully examine our hearts, asking whether our relationship with Christ is thriving or merely surviving, whether our service flows from love or obligation, and whether our homes reflect the reality of His presence. Scripture exhorts us, “Let a man examine himself” (1 Corinthians 11:28, AMPC). As we make room for the Holy Spirit to search us, heal us, and draw us closer, we discover that God has not moved away from us; He is waiting for our return. The believer who takes even one sincere step toward Christ will find a loving Savior ready to restore joy, rekindle passion, and renew the wonder of first love once again.

Scripture: “Let a man thoroughly examine himself, and only when he has done so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” 1 Corinthians 11:28 (AMPC)

CONCLUDING REMARKS: PROMISES OF GOD FROM THE OUTLINE

COME HOME:

The call of God today is not merely to greater religious activity but to deeper authenticity. The Lord desires a people who are real before Him real in their worship, real in their homes, and real in the hidden places of the heart. Through Christ, we have been invited into a covenant relationship more glorious than we can fully comprehend. He is the Bridegroom who pursued us with sacrificial love, redeemed us by His precious blood, and continues to call us into intimate fellowship with Himself. Yet this relationship cannot be sustained by outward appearances alone. God seeks hearts that genuinely love Him. The evidence of that love is not found primarily in public gatherings, but in the daily realities of life how we speak to our families, how we respond to conflict, how we forgive, how we pray, and how faithfully we obey His Word when no one else is watching. As believers, we must remember that the Christianity we live at home is the Christianity we truly possess. The Lord is calling His Church back to first love, back to sincere devotion, and back to a faith that is lived as passionately in private as it is professed in public.

As we reflect upon these truths, let us embrace the lessons the Holy Spirit has impressed upon our hearts: Christ desires intimacy above performance; activity without intimacy is spiritual deception; the home is the truest measure of our faith; and the commands to love, forgive, serve, encourage, and bear one another's burdens must first be practised within our families. The Lord has not abandoned those whose hearts have drifted; rather, He lovingly invites them to return. His call is still the same: “Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts” (Malachi 3:7, AMPC). Therefore, let us leave this study with a renewed commitment to honour Christ not merely with words but with lives that reflect His character every day. Let our homes become places where Jesus is welcomed, His Word is treasured, His presence is sought, and His love is demonstrated. May every family represented among us be able to declare with unwavering conviction, “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15, AMPC). May we go home today with a deeper love for Christ, a greater devotion to our families, and a renewed passion to live out the Gospel before those who know us best.

“He who is able to hear, let him listen to and heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches). To him who overcomes (is victorious), I will grant to eat [of the fruit] of the Tree of Life, which is in the Paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7 (AMPC)

Digging Deep/Life Application:

Pause here. Before reading further, allow these questions to search your heart honestly:

- 1. The Relationship Test: If your relationship with Christ were a marriage, and you were to be assessed by a counsellor, what would their report say? Thriving? Strained? Surviving? Broken?**
- 2. The Home Test: What version of Christianity do your family members experience every day? The packaged Sunday version, or the lived, authentic, Spirit-breathed version?**
- 3. The Affection Test: Is your Christianity driven by affection for Christ, or by activity for church? Can you tell the difference in yourself?**
- 4. The Familiarity Test: Has the Word of God become so familiar that it no longer moves you? When last did a scripture bring you to tears, or fill you with awe, or radically change a decision you were making?**
- 5. The Children Test: What do your children truly believe about Christianity, based not on what you have told them, but on what they have seen at home?**
- 6. The Intimacy Test: How well do you actually know Christ, not facts about Him, but the living experience of His presence, His character, His voice?**
- 7. The First Love Test: Are you the same person spiritually when you first believed? Are you more passionate for Christ today? If not, what changed, and are you at peace with that change?**

Do not rush past this section. The Holy Spirit is a Gentleman, He will not force His way. But if you create space, He will meet you here.

(6) PRAYERS: PRAYER POINTS OF GOD FROM THE MESSAGE

1. Prayer for the Rekindling of First Love

Father, We confess that our love for You has grown lukewarm. We have substituted activity for affection, habit for hunger, and routine for relationship. We ask You today, stir up what has gone cold. Reignite the fire that burned when we first found You. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Let our heart be undone before You once more. In Jesus' name. Amen.

2. Prayer for the Home to Become a Place of God's Presence

Lord Jesus, We invite You into every room of our home, not just the room we call “prayer,” but the kitchen, the bedroom, the conversations around the table, the tensions and the triumphs. Be Lord of my home. Let Your peace rule there. Let Your Word dwell richly there. Let our families know You not from what they hear in church, but from what they see in us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

3. Prayer for Marriages to Reflect Christ and the Church

Father, let our marriage be a living parable of Christ’s love for the Church. Where we have been selfish, give us Christlike sacrifice. Where we have been harsh, give us tenderness. Where we have been distant, draw us back into genuine intimacy with You first, and through You, with our spouse. Let our home be a sanctuary, not a battleground. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

4. Prayer for Children to Encounter the True and Living God at Home

Lord God, We repent for every way in which my Christianity at home has been a shadow of what we profess on Sunday. Let our children see the real Jesus not a religious costume, but a living relationship. May the soil of our home be fertile ground for the seed of Your Word. May our children rise up one day and declare, not because we dragged them, but because they have been exposed to the true and living God. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

5. Prayer Against Spiritual Coldness and Religious Deception

Holy Spirit, search us and know us. Try our heart and see if there is any dead or deceptive way in us. I do not want to arrive at the end of my life with a resume of religious activity and find that You say, “I never knew you.” We want to be known by You. Reveal every place where we have substituted form for substance, and performance for genuine love. Lead us back to the altar of true surrender In Jesus’ mighty name. Amen.

Closing Prayer: May the Lord bless this Word to every heart, every home, and every generation it touches. To Him alone be all glory. Amen.