



April 28, 2020

Dear RiverLife family,

Just one year ago we started our sermon series *Be Wise* based on I Corinthians. Things have changed so much since then. The menace of COVID-19 took the world by storm. This pandemic has disrupted our lives in so many ways.

We used to be constantly out and about. Now we are mostly at home with family members working and studying within a small space. We used to gather every other day - in our cell group, with a ministry team and at worship service. Today, our church only gathers virtually.

Our staff and leadership are also adjusting and learning how to shepherd and go about church life in this unprecedented time. As we prayerfully feel our way in this season, we are very thankful for the patience and maturity of both leaders and members in the way that you have moved with us.

Over the last 2 weeks, we have launched some new online-based elements to support church life and spiritual growth. Most of you would know about them by now. Here, I thought I would share all the elements (old and new) in a week and how to engage with them. The form of church life can change, and we must learn to adapt but the essence of what we do and why we do, must not.

The 5 elements supporting our weekly online-based church life are:

### ***RiverLife Weekly***

Every Tuesday evening, either myself or someone I invite, will write an address to cheer us in our spiritual growth and/or our journey as a church family on Facebook and Instagram. For as long as we are physically un-gathered, this will be like a personal voice message between shepherd and congregation - our pastoral exhortation to RiverLifers. This week's issue zooms in on our current sermon series *Building the Future* based on Nehemiah.

### ***Pause and Pray***

Our generation lives in a fast-paced and hard-driving world. We race from one piece of work, activity or experience to another; barely pausing to savour God's presence and His hand in our lives in the now and giving Him space to prepare our hearts for what might be ahead. That is why we have lined-up the following – to keep the weekly call to RiverLifers to pause and to pray.

Tuesdays (8-9pm) – Devotional Set on Instagram Live (Youth)

Wednesdays (8-9pm) – Zoom Prayer Meeting (Chinese)

Thursdays (8-9pm) – *RiverLife Selah* on Facebook Live (Adults)

### ***Cell Groups***

Life as a Christ follower is challenging. God knows. That is why when Jesus came to earth, He recruited not just one disciple, but a dozen and he walked with them, them with him and them with one another – through all sorts of circumstances, joys and pains.

That is the heart of our cell groups. Jesus wants to walk with us as He walked with His disciples and calls us to walk with Him and with one another. We are so heartened that several of our cell groups now gather online twice weekly. Some gather on the weekend to join online services through share screen and later in the week to discuss and apply the sermon. Others gather to discuss and apply the sermon and they also gather separately in triplets to read the Bible and pray together.

Across our church, we are finding that people are hungry for connection and more are able and willing to join because there is no travel involved. For those who are not yet in a cell community and wish to join, write to [cells@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:cells@riverlife.org.sg) and we will help to connect you with a cell group.

### ***Worship Services***

God redeems us that we might be His people and worship Him as the only true and living God. This is our highest call and why we gather every weekend – whether in-person or online in this season. In view of the Circuit Breaker restrictions, we now pre-record our services – Dialect, Mandarin, Children, Youth and Adults. Our motivation for gathering remains the same – to worship God, encounter His Word and respond to Him as a church family.

### ***Bible Reading Plan***

Jesus set an example for us by regularly withdrawing and spending time with the Father while He was on earth. That is the motivation behind our Bible Reading Plan – to encourage us to ‘come away’ and commune with God in His Word.

I pray that each RiverLifer will delight the Father and grow in our love for Him as we set aside time each day to encounter Scripture and allow God’s Spirit to move us in obeying His Word in our lives.

More than ever, you and I need to centre our hearts on Christ and make way for Him to grow our soul. Let us RiverLifers, rebuild our intimacy with Christ and grow deeper in Him.

Your Senior Pastor  
Ben KC Lee