

Series -

Date/s - 12 August 2018

Topic - Partnering God, Blessing The Nations

Speaker/s - Pastor William Lee

Welcome [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

www.thesource4ym.com/games/

www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html < go to LEAD, click on ICEBREAKERS >

Worship [15 min]

You may select songs like "This Is Amazing Grace", "Glorious One", "All Hail King Jesus", "O Praise The Name", "Be Enthroned" or "Tremble".

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the cell discussion, members will commit to be instruments of God's blessings wherever God has placed us or will call us to.

Word [45 min]

Pastor William Lee challenges us to "Go! This man is My chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel." (Acts 9:15). Although this call in Scripture was specifically for Paul, it is no less a call for all Christians for all times.

Likewise in 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Paul himself urges us to pray and intercede for all people, including "kings and all those in authority" because God "wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." God wants to bless the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the instrument He chooses for this purpose is none other than the disciple of Christ. Every one of us is that instrument of God's blessings.

Just as He did with Abraham, God is calling us out to partner with Him to bless the nations (Acts 17:26). Whichever city He calls us to, He wants us to be a blessing to its people (Jeremiah 29:7). And when we obey Him, all nations on earth will be blessed through us (Genesis 22:18).

Like Israel in the midst of Middle Eastern nations, Singapore sits in the sea of unreached nations in Southeast Asia. 300 million people are in Indonesia and Malaysia where 270 million are pre-believers. But unlike Israel, we want to be a house of prayer, not a house of tourism (Matthew 21:13). The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the workers are few. Let us ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field (Luke 10:2). *We* are the workers!

As with the unnamed saints in Hebrews 11:36-38, God is calling us to encounter Him and participate in His work, and even suffer for His glory. One such man today is Mohamed Abdul whom God is using mightily to bless his people. Another is Dr Andrew Ng, with his wife Belinda, who gave up everything to carry the Gospel to the furthest end of Africa.

What then are the Kingdom values of such God's instruments?

1. We are to be **praying instead of pillorying** our leaders. (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
2. We are to **serve God out of devotion instead of duty**. (Luke 7:38, Luke 21:3)
3. We are to **take up the Cross instead of only talking about the Cross**. (Luke 9:23)
4. We are to be **laying down our life instead of living it up**. (Philippians 1:21)

Before we can be of any use to God as instruments of His blessing, we need to be “broken” like the alabaster jar of expensive perfume used to anoint Jesus in Matthew 26:7-10. Examples of “broken” instruments greatly used by God in the Bible include King David (Psalm 51), Isaiah (Isaiah 6:7-13), Peter (Luke 22:54-62 and John 21:15-17) and Paul (Acts 9:1-9). Like the perfume in the alabaster jar, we have **the treasure** in earthen vessels – the all-surpassing love of Christ in us (2 Corinthians 4:7).

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

May our prayer be, “Break my heart for what breaks Yours. Everything I am for Your kingdom’s cause. As I walk from earth into eternity.”

Discussion Questions

1. **As Singapore celebrated our 53rd birthday as an independent nation, what are the things that you can give thanks to God for as you look back over the years?** [10 min]

2. **Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7. In this scripture, Paul urges Timothy (and by extension, all of us) to pray and intercede for those in authority, i.e. our government (or church leaders), so that we may live in peace and godliness. Have you been guilty of pillorying our leaders instead of praying for them? Are you one of those who is quick to criticise and spread ridicule about our leaders on social media, instead of going on our knees in petition for them? How should our response be as Christians to governing authorities whom we disagree with?** [10 min]

- 3. Read Luke 9:23 together. "And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" What comes to your mind when you read this familiar verse? Is your first reaction like, "It's too hard. I don't want to think about it." Or, "It's too hard. I don't know if I can do what He says but I will obey because He commands it." Or even, "Can I follow without denying myself and taking up my cross daily?"**

What does Jesus mean by 'deny yourself' and 'take up your cross daily'? Relate this to your personal situation and share. [10 min]

- 4. What specific steps will you take in the coming days to be an instrument of God's blessings: i. to my family, ii. to my neighbours and colleagues, iii. to the community, and iv. to the nations? [15 min]**

Works [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. RiverLifers will deny themselves, follow Jesus passionately and love others tangibly.

Announcements

1. Alpha Course

Sundays, 2 Sep – 25 Nov | 2pm – 4pm | Faith Chapel

Register online at <http://bit.ly/rlcalpha>

For enquiries, please contact Moses Sho at 65114146, email him at mosessho@riverlife.org.sg or visit our Guest Welcome Lounge on Sundays.

2. Marriage Preparation Course

Sundays, 30 Sep, 7, 14, 21 & 28 Oct | 1.45pm-5pm and Sat, 10 Nov | 9am-5pm

\$260 Per Couple | Classrooms 214/215 | RiverLife Church

There will be a celebratory dinner from 6-9pm on Sun, 28 Oct.

Register at the Information Counter by Sun, 16 Sep. For enquiries, please contact Christine Tan at christinetan@riverlife.org.sg or 65114141.

3. Equipping for Parents by RiverLife's Family Life Ministry

Child Dedication

Class Dates:

- Sat, 22 Sep | 2-4pm | Grace Chapel or
- Sun, 30 Sep | 2-4pm | Grace Chapel

Please register for one session only. Both parents are required to attend the class.

Register at the Information Counter by Sun, 16 Sep.

For more information, please contact Christine Tan at 65114141, or email her at christinetan@riverlife.org.sg.