

Series – Be Wise (13 of 22)

Date/s – 1 September 2019

Topic – Starting Right, Finishing Strong (1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

Speaker/s – Elder Dr Andrew Goh

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 “Overcome”, “How Could I Live”, “How Great You Are” or “Jesus I Come”.

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the cell discussion, cell members will:

1. Reflect on God’s goodness and faithfulness through the generations;
2. Learn from history and choose to live lives that please God; and
3. Depend on God’s grace and mercy.

Word [45 min]

Elder Dr Andrew Goh started his sermon by sharing an example of the people of Aneyoshi who lived along the coastline of Japan. They were warned through an ancient stone tablet not to build beyond a certain point – the people of Aneyoshi heeded the advice and were kept safe when a tsunami struck in 2011.

(Reference: Shawn Thomas)

Through this passage in 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Paul was warning the Israelites to learn from their history, or they would repeat the same mistakes. Paul’s warning also comes with a Promise.

Sample “Anchor” Verses

1. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. (1 Corinthians 10:12) – We cannot place our confidence in our own flesh that we will not fall. We need to draw close to Him, and in so doing, He will draw close to us.
2. Be sure your sin will find you out. (Numbers 32:23) – Elder Andrew shared about King David committing a sin and trying to hide it. However, God knows everything we have done – the good and the bad.
3. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that **causes someone else to stumble**. (Romans 14:21) – Elder Andrew also shared from 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 and Romans 14:21. Our freedom should not become a point of captivity for someone else.

Four Spiritual Advantages enjoyed by the Israelites

1. “were...under the cloud, and all passed through the sea” (v. 1)
2. “were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea” (v. 2)
3. “ate the same spiritual food” (v. 3)
4. “drank of a spiritual rock” (v. 4)

Verdict: “... God was not well-pleased ...” *These spiritual privileges did not guarantee subsequent blessings and continued spiritual victory for the Israelites.*

In verses 6-10, Paul gives four admonitions, given so that Corinthian Christians “should not lust after evil things, as they (the ancient Israelites) also lusted” (v. 6).

Paul counsels them:

- Not to “be idolaters, as some of them were” (v. 7)
- Not to “commit sexual immorality, as some of them committed” (v. 8)
- Not to “test the Lord, as some of them tested” (v. 9)
- Not to “grumble, as some of them also grumbled” (v. 10)

(Ref: Richard Niell Donovan, “Sermon Writer”)

Elder Andrew also shared four truths from verse 13.

Truth 1 - Life comes with testing. No person is exempted. We will face greater opposition when we desire to grow in godliness. (2 Timothy 3:12 and 17)

Truth 2 - Temptations are (actually) good for you. As silver is refined 7 times (Psalm 12:6), so you are being processed towards being “perfected” as your Father is perfect.

Truth 3 – “God is faithful...” He is always there, hearing every prayer. We cannot do it on our own. We rely on God’s dependability.

Truth 4 - “He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability...” God always limits the temptation to what we can handle.

This promise is true because of the adjunct: “He will provide a way of escape...” God always provides a way out of temptation “that you may be able to endure it.” Elder Andrew shared a quote from Corrie Ten Boom – “You may never know that Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have.”

God gives us mercy and grace in time of need – “We are vulnerable to the temptation to sin, but praise God that, through Christ, we can *“draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need”* (Hebrews 4:15)”. (Ref: Isaac Walsh, Dulin’s Grove Church)

Summary

The Christians in Corinth were warned to learn from the history of the ancient Israelites. Though they enjoyed spiritual advantages, they continued to do things that were displeasing in God’s eyes. Paul also gave the Christians in Corinth four admonitions from the examples of the ancient Israelites to learn from. Elder Andrew shared four truths and Paul’s promise to the Christians in Corinth in verse 13.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read the passage (1 Corinthians 10:1-12). What is one lesson you learn from the ancient Israelites? What are some reasons people miss out gleaning from history or the experiences of others? OR Share a time when you did not heed a warning / learn from history. What did you learn from that experience?**
[15 min]

2. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Elder Andrew shared on four truths from this single verse, pointing out that this verse ends with a promise about God's faithfulness. Share your thoughts about this verse with your cell, especially on how God's truth can help you overcome temptations. [15 min]**

3. **God gives us His mercy and grace in times of need. Share an area that you would like to receive prayer for. [15 min]**

Works [10 min]

Let's pray:

Every RiverLifer will depend on God's grace and mercy, learn from history and choose to live lives that pleases God.

Announcements

1. Water Baptism Class Sat, 28 Sep | 9am-3pm | Faith Chapel

Register for this class at the Information Counter by Sun, 22 Sep. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at 6511 4139 or email her at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg. Our next baptism service will be on Sun, 17 Nov

Church Vision:

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission:

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.