

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series	-	Date	- 12-01-2020
Topic	- What We're All About (2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Romans 10:15)	Speaker	- Pastor Ben KC Lee

WELCOME [15 min]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Spirit Touch Your Church
 2. Making A Difference
-

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Understand why RiverLife exists; and
2. Why we as a church must continue what Jesus started - to seek and save the lost.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. Our vision statement is our restatement of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.
2. Our mission statement is our purpose of existence in light of our vision – to disciple followers of Christ so that they can be sent out to seek and save the lost as Jesus did.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Pastor Ben opened his sermon by highlighting several significant world events in the past ten years, which have materially challenged and changed the way we've lived. It is evident that due to globalisation and technological advances, we're now able to make great headways in reaching the lost and previously unreached people groups, and in the translation of the Bible. As we stand on the cusp of this new decade, it is important to take stock and assess where we are in God's timeline, so that we can have a clear plan about what we need to do as a church.

Pastor Ben then shared from 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, and introduced the concepts of Vision Statement (what we hope to achieve) and Mission Statement (how we will accomplish the vision).

On the topic of Vision Statements, Pastor Ben expounded on the different kinds of vision statements one might adopt and their defining features:

- a. *"Selfie" Vision*
 - This vision is centered around "me"
 - It is defined by individualism, and self-indulgence, without care or regard to anyone else.
 - It is chiefly concerned about living your best life, now.
- b. *"Advertisement" Vision*
 - This vision takes reference from the media, and influences around us.
 - It preys on our inadequacies and exploits our vulnerabilities, to tell what we should desire.
 - It keeps us focused on keeping up with the Joneses, and conforming to the standards of the world. As a result, we reject God's vision for our lives.
- c. *"Jesus" Vision*
 - "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people..." – *Ephesians 1:18*
 - This vision does not live for comfort or convenience.
 - The Jesus Vision cannot function together with any other vision. You can either have one or another.

Pastor Ben then shared RiverLife's vision statement - "a radiant disciple making Church catalyzing kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

- RiverLife's vision is its restatement of the Great Commandment and Great Commission (Matthew 22:37-40).
- The purpose of the church is transformation.
- This is a divine vision for RLC, and a global worldwide vision.
- As members of RLC, we need to work towards achieving this vision.

Pastor Ben next went on to teach about mission, which essentially puts feet to our vision statement. He explains how there can be two kinds of erroneous mission statements before describing a Biblically sound mission statement:

- a. *"Self-Actualisation" Mission*
 - This mission reflects the unbiblical belief that "God helps those who help themselves".
 - While culture encourages us to fulfill our maximum potential and find our calling and identity in work, we as Christian knows that there is more to life than that.
 - While we work hard at our jobs as working unto the Lord, our work should be focused on glorifying God. Our calling is not just expressed in work, but also in sharing the gospel and reaching out to our colleagues.
- b. *"Silent" Mission*
 - This mission comes from the fallacy that we can point others to God simply through our lifestyles, without explicitly sharing the gospel.
 - We need to proclaim the gospel – (Roman 10:14-15).
- c. *"Jesus" Mission*

- This mission is all about making ourselves and others to be more like Christ (which includes embracing His mission)
- It is impossible without daily fellowship with Christ.
- RLC Mission Statement: We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.

Pastor Ben wrapped up his sermon with a call to respond, to ask God to give us a vision to see, and faith to act. As we behold Christ in greater measure, may we reveal Christ in greater ways, in this new decade.

Discussion Questions

1. **The 2018 Singapore National Values Assessment survey revealed that Singaporeans associated the following attitudes and values with those around them: kiasu, kiasi, complaining, competitive, materialistic, blame, and self-centred. Do you share the same views? In your own interactions, would you say there is a difference between the lifestyles of Christians and non-Christians?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

The purpose of this question is to give members some time to reflect on how the Enemy has been successful in deceiving humankind about truth, reality, and the purpose of life itself, to bait us to live for ourselves and our own gain and comfort. Closer to home, the survey findings show that unfortunately, the prevalent Singaporean mindset is still very much "every man for himself", with others viewed as competition in a self-perceived zero-sum game. We also see how materialism still has a hold on so many of us (Christian or not), enslaving us to creature of comforts. Our human nature propels us to behold the things visible, while remaining oblivious to things of eternal value.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving To The Next Question)

This discussion reminds us that it is all too easy to live for ourselves, and for the opinions of others. Culture will always get in the way of living for God, and sin will skew our perception of what is right. It is important to remember that while we perceive with our eyes, we must see with our hearts - that is why Paul prayed in Ephesians 1:18 that the eyes of our hearts would be enlightened, to perceive correctly. All the more, we need to know God's word for this issue.

2. **Read through Matthew 22:37-40, 2 Corinthians 5:20 and 1 John 2:6. These passages reflect the goals and characteristics of the life of Christ. Therefore, what goals and characteristics should define our lifestyles? Looking back at 2019, would you say that your life (especially your church life) reflected these goals and characteristics? In a nutshell, is your life Christlike?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is a reflect/relate question. By going back to this oft-preached Bible passages, we remember once again the simple but profound mission which Christ bore testimony to, which is to build our lives around restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. God has given all believers the ministry of reconciliation; that is, He uses us to tell the world that they can be reconciled to God through Christ. This is an incredible responsibility.

Another takeaway here is that the Church carries out this mission through the ministry of all its members. We are a family of mission. Our church life cannot just be a place where people come to attend services as an isolated mass of individuals. We need to be actively engaged in community, with the Holy Spirit guiding us to a deeper obedience to His truth and teachings.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving To The Next Question)

The discussion highlights the dissonance between what we as Christians profess to live for, and what we actually spend our resources and time on. Today, there is a clear and present danger of believers living a life of self-fulfillment and self-actualization, in the name of fulfilling the Great Commission. This practical atheism is a dangerous trend. We must commit to staying true to the Great Commission, and be intentional about making disciples.

- 3. Looking ahead, how can you challenge yourself to adopt a Jesus vision and mission in 2020? What are some things you should let go of and what are some things you should change?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is a response question. In a nutshell, this question is asking – “how can we be more Christ centered and less ‘Me’ centered. This question offers an opportunity for members to commit to letting go of bad habits, wrong worldviews (this point can tie in with our lifestyle struggles shared in Question 2) or even a lifestyle that demonstrates bad stewardship. This can also be explored both on an individual level and at the cell level - cells can brainstorm ways in which they can be more orientated towards evangelism and discipleship in 2020. Members can break up into smaller gender groups to pray for one another, and keep each other accountable to practice steps.

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting To Cell & Closing The Discussion)

This discussion facilitates personal and corporate changes, and focuses on practical steps. We don't have to bring everything with us into the new year. A New Year is a perfect chance to let go of things that don't serve a Jesus vision and mission, and allow us a fresh start. As Ps. Ben has laid out the vision and mission for RiverLife, let us embrace them with our hearts so that our lives are centered around fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. For Ourselves

- a. That our lifestyles will be more Christ-Centered and less Me-Centered.
- b. That we will not be afraid to let go of anything that demonstrates bad stewardship.

2. For Our Cell

- a. That we will grow deeper in our discipleship journey
- b. That we will not shy away from creating platforms to reach out to unbelievers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. In view of the Lunar New Year, there is only one service at 9am on Sun, 26 Jan
2. **Water Baptism Class**
Sat, 8 Feb | 9am-3pm | Faith Chapel
Register for this class at the Information Counter by Sun, 2 Feb. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at 6511 4139 or email her at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg. Our next baptism service is on Sun, 29 Mar

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.