

# Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

**Series** - 1 Peter

**Date** - 4-Oct-2020

**Topic** - A Cross-shaped Life in the Workplace (1 Peter 2:18-25)

**Speaker** - Ps Dinah Lee

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## WELCOME [15 min]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

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## WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Reward
2. Oceans

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## WORD [45 min]

### Spiritual Objectives

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

1. reflect on Jesus as our Model of submission
2. commit to living a Cross-shaped life in the workplace

### Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. What is the Cross-shaped life? Submit to your supervisors (unless our submission goes against what is right and pleasing to God). (v18)
2. Why have a Cross-shaped life? The purpose of our submission in spite of unjust treatment grants us favour with our Father and enables us to represent Christ. (v19-21)
3. Who forms my Cross-shaped life? Jesus is our Model of submission. (v22-25)

### Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Peter was writing to the Christians at that time, exhorting them to live a counter-cultural life – a new identity in Christ as people with a living hope.

The passage this week touches on submission to our bosses. Slavery was very common in the Roman world during Peter's time. There were both educated and common slaves. Some did menial jobs and some did vital jobs (e.g. craftsmen, accountants, teachers). Some were even more educated than their masters.

Ps Dinah preached on living a Cross-shaped life in the workplace.

### **1. What is the Cross-shaped life? Submit to your supervisors. (v18)**

- Other verses for reference: Colossians 3:22-23, Acts 5:29

- The scope of our submission – we are to submit to our bosses unless it undermines our obedience to the Lord, e.g. when we are asked to be an accomplice to sin (shady deals, compromising situations, etc.)

## 2. Why have a Cross-shaped life? Should I submit despite unjust treatment? (v19-21)

- The purpose of choosing submission despite unjust treatment
  - a) finds favour with our Father and
  - b) represents our Saviour.
- When we face unjust treatment, we need to be careful that these situations do not drive us to bitter anger, self-pity or ungodly beliefs that God has forgotten us. We need to work through these emotions and submit them to God. It takes a yielded Christian to submit and to let God fight our battles. (Romans 12:19-21)
- Ps Dinah exhorted RiverLifers to love our enemies and to do good to them (Luke 6:33-35, Ephesians 6:5-8). She also gave a caveat that our rewards as quoted in the verses may not result in a promotion or a pay raise, and exhorted us to let God do what He knows best.
- We imitate Christ and represent Him to others when we respond in meekness, gentleness and submission in times we experience unfairness at our workplace (1 Peter 2:21). She also reminded us how sinners were brought back into the Kingdom of God through Jesus' undeserved suffering and death on the Cross.

## 3. Who forms my Cross-shaped life? Look at the example of Christ. (v22-25)

- Christ is the Model of our submission. In Him, we are dead to sin and alive to righteousness. We have the capacity to submit despite unjust treatment because this is a way to demonstrate the power and freedom we have in Christ.
- We are able to endure unjust treatment because we have returned to our Shepherd. Jesus enables us to stop sinning and start living right. We can expect God to accomplish His purpose through our endurance of unjust treatment.

We are most like Christ when we follow in His steps through submission. This is one way to live a counter-cultural life with a Cross-shaped attitude in our workplaces.

### Discussion Questions

#### 1. What does a Cross-shaped life look like - what are the Biblical values and beliefs you bring to your workplace? [10 min]

##### **Leader's Notes:**

*This is a recap and relate question. The question aims to get members to reflect on the values and beliefs they bring – how does this make them different from those around them? Were there times when they were ostracised or persecuted by others because they were different? Were there times people respected them more, or sought their advice? Did their lives display Who Christ is, to others?*

*For cells with members who are not working:*

- *Members can share about other contexts e.g. project work, internships, volunteering opportunities where they meet with other pre-believers, or in their own families.*

##### Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Rodney "Gipsy" Smith wrote, "There are five Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and the Christian—but most people never read the first four." Our lives are a reflection of Jesus.

**2. Were there times you faced unjust treatment? How does submission to your workplace authorities in spite of unjust treatment look like?** [15 min]

**Leader's Notes:**

*A relate and reflect question. What helped them to assess if they were facing unjust treatment? How did they decide to respond? How did they manage to continually respond in a way that pleased God and kept them going? Did they think of leaving? If yes, what were the attitudes they wanted to keep in the midst of leaving?*

*You can also challenge your members to ponder – “How can I improve in my submission to the authorities in the workplace?” It is not limited to carrying out instructions. Some other areas to consider:*

- *Is the posture of our hearts God-honouring when we submit?*
- *Do we represent the authorities in our workplaces well?*
- *Do we pray for the authorities in our workplaces?*
- *Do we do all that we can to help our bosses excel in their roles?*

*Note: There may be abusive relationships in some work situations that may cause one to be emotionally distressed or to be in ill-health. If so, it is important for members to talk to their leaders and pastors for them to receive godly counsel on what to do.*

**Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)**

It is important to seek wise and godly counsel, to seek God's will and prayerfully live a life that reflects Christ when we face unjust treatment in the workplace. It is also important to remember that we have a God who understands our distress and hears our prayers. He is a God who is sovereign and watches over us.

**3. Jesus modelled submission to God in His suffering and He will give us the power and freedom to imitate Him. As you reflect on your current situation, is there anything you would want to continue or do differently in living a Cross-shaped life?** [15 min]

**Leader's Notes:**

*A response question. Leaders can take this time to invite members to reflect upon the example of Christ as they share. Are there attitudes that need to change? Are there biblical values we may have compromised and need to repent from? Do we need to ask God for renewed strength to continue serving him, for wisdom in communicating our concerns and speaking the truth in love? Are there areas we need to forgive ourselves and others, and how we have viewed ourselves and others?*

*Some other articles leaders can refer to:*

- *6 ways God works in you - at work*  
[\(<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/six-ways-god-works-in-you-at-work>\)](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/six-ways-god-works-in-you-at-work)
- *Glorifying God in the workplace (1 Timothy 6:1-2)*  
[\(<https://bible.org/seriespage/16-glorifying-god-workplace-1-timothy-61-2>\)](https://bible.org/seriespage/16-glorifying-god-workplace-1-timothy-61-2)
- *3 things you can do today to reflect Christ in your workplace*  
[\(<https://www.crosswalk.com/family/career/3-things-you-can-do-today-to-reflect-christ-in-your-workplace.html>\)](https://www.crosswalk.com/family/career/3-things-you-can-do-today-to-reflect-christ-in-your-workplace.html)

### Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting to Cell & Closing the Discussion)

It is easy to lose sight of Christ in our everyday lives. May we continue to keep our eyes on how Jesus led by example, and to keep each other accountable and encourage one another to submit to the authorities above us as we serve Him in our workplaces.

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## **WORKS** [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. That RiverLifers will be good workers in the marketplace – people who live a Cross-shaped life in their workplaces
    - RiverLifers will practise submission in their workplace.
    - RiverLifers will always turn to Christ as the ultimate example of submission when they find it difficult to submit.
  2. Pray for Covid-19 Phase 2:
    - Continue to pray for the cases in our country to remain low.
    - Pray for the economy's recovery; and those who are unemployed will find a job soon.
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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **1. Joining The Family**

Sat, 7 Nov | 10.30am-12pm | Online via Zoom

Sign up online at [rlc.sg/jointhefam](https://rlc.sg/jointhefam) by Sun, 1 Nov. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg) Tune in at this link: [rlc.sg/rpr-watch](https://rlc.sg/rpr-watch)

Note: This course is a pre-requisite for Associate Membership. Getting water baptised in RiverLife does not confer church membership though water baptism is a requirement for membership

#### **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.