

Series - Revamp

Date/s - 24 September 2017

The Call To Commune: Right Posture, Right Place, Right

Topic - Relationship

Speaker/s - Pastor Joachim Tan

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 “Forever”, “Here I Bow” or “God I Look To You”

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Understand that the right posture, place and relationship are key to communing with God.
2. Commit to take practical steps to commune with God.

Word [45 min]

Pastor Joachim shared findings from the Barna Research Study that the average Christian spends one minute a day in prayer and the average Christian leader, 5 minutes a day. There is a need to spend more time in the presence of God! In Psalm 103:7, we see that God “made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.” In Deuteronomy 34:10, we see that our Lord God knew Moses face to face. This is an inspiration for us!

In the early part of 1 Samuel, we see that Israel’s spiritual state was going downhill and they were lacking in good political and spiritual leaders. The Israelites compromised and adopted many religious practices of the Canaanites. The Ark of the Lord’s Covenant, which was a symbol of both God’s divine guidance of His people (e.g. helping them cross the Jordan River and victory in Jericho – see Exodus 25:22, Exodus 30:26, Joshua 7:6), and His power and presence among His people, was brought in to help them win against their enemies. However, this did not happen in 1 Samuel 4:1-11. Instead, Israel suffered a crushing defeat, losing 30,000 men and having the Ark captured.

Pastor Joachim contrasted this defeat in chapter 4 with the subsequent victory in chapter 7 (see 1 Samuel 7:3-5; 10-13) which took place twenty years later. In chapter 7, Samuel led Israel to return to the Lord. They have re-committed to serve Him wholeheartedly, then God gave them victory. The sons of Eli were unaware of the will and desire of God by having no regard for the Lord and treating the Lord’s offering in contempt (see 1 Samuel 2:12; 17). Pastor Joachim shared the quote from Bill Johnson “One of the side effects of losing intimacy with God is that at some point we stop doing ministry out of imagination and we begin doing it out of memory” to bring home the point of this danger that Israel was in. In contrast, in 1 Samuel 2:18, we see that “Samuel was ministering to the Lord.” Samuel told the people to get rid of all idols, led them to confess their sins, offered appropriate sacrifices to God and erected a memorial stone after their victory. Samuel understood the heart of God!

Samuel had the Right Posture – he was ministering to God. He was after the Right Relationship – he desired God. He was in the Right Place – he was found in God’s presence (see 1 Samuel 2:21b; 3:3). The effects of being in the Right Place are: (a) Samuel grew in stature and in favour with the Lord and with people – 1 Samuel 2:26; (b) God honoured him – 1 Samuel 2:30; (c) he knew what was in the heart and mind of God – 1 Samuel 2:35; and (d) Samuel could hear God’s voice at a time when most people could not – 1 Samuel 3:1-4.

Pastor Joachim then called on RiverLifers to commune with God.

1. Spend time with God in prayer. We will get to know the ways of God when we spend time with Him in His presence and in prayer. We should get into the habit of being still before God!
2. Attend weekly Wednesday night prayer meetings to be refreshed, renewed and revamped.
3. Take the 40-Day Fast. Fasting gives us a RESET; teaches and trains us to focus on Jesus; increases our spiritual hunger for God; and sharpens our spiritual ears and fine-tunes our ability to discern and hear the voice of God. Fasting tips are available in the Revamp series booklet. Digital copy available at www.riverlife.org.sg.

Discussion Questions

1. **In 1 Samuel 4:1-11, we see that Israel, led by the sons of Eli were crushed despite having the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant. What might be the reasons for this defeat? Are they still prevailing today?** [10 min]
2. **Read 1 Samuel 3:1-21. Samuel was able to hear God. How did he grow in the presence of the Lord and was established as a minister for God (v20)? Consider if intimacy with God affects your service in the ministry?** [10 min]
3. **Read Psalm 103:7 and Deuteronomy 34:10. Pastor Joachim shared that Moses had a close relationship with God. Since becoming a Christian, when is a time when your relationship with God is the closest? Share with the Cell about this personal experience and why you were / are close to God.** [10 min]
4. **Pastor Joachim shared on practical tips to enrich our spiritual lives and to draw closer to God. In response, what are the specific steps you are praying for to commune regularly with God?** [10 min]

Works [10 min]

Let’s pray:

1. We will set time to be with Papa God daily. May we experience, Psalm 103:7, “God made known His ways to Moses” to be true as it happened to Moses.

Announcements

1. **EA Leaders' Retreat, 10-12 Nov 2017, KSL Resort**
Online Registration @ <https://riverlife.churchretreat.com.sg>
Closing date for registration and payment is 15 Oct (Sunday)