

Series -

Date/s -

14 Jan 2018

Topic - Vision Sunday: Prepare The Way

Speaker/s -

SP Lionel 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 “You'll Come”, “Show Me Your Face” or “Worth It All”.

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Be intensely delighted by God's vision for 2018 and beyond
2. Commit to create space for God to come and renew our hearts

Word [45 min]

SP Lionel Goh began his Vision Sunday message by looking back briefly at Jeremiah 29:11 from last week's New Year message by Pastor Benny Ho. Pastor Lionel reminded us that God indeed has a plan for us – both as individuals and as a church. We are to look to Jesus as our coxswain for direction and guidance.

He then launched into Isaiah 40:1-11 to give us a picture of where God is leading us in 2018 and beyond, and how we are to “prepare the way of the Lord.” (v3). Focusing on verses 3-5, he showed us how these commands of God have important spiritual implications for us today: We need to heal our heart attitudes!

The prophetic text in Isaiah 40:3-5 was not just applicable to the Jews living in exile in Babylon 120 years after Isaiah's ministry. It also came to pass when John the Baptist announced the coming of our Lord Jesus in the first century. Today, this call of God is just as relevant for the Body of Christ in our nation. Prominent church leaders in Singapore have exhorted the Church to prepare for God's new season in 2018 and in the next few years. We are to prepare our hearts with God before we can answer our Antioch Call, as prophesied by Billy Graham 40 years ago in Singapore. A generation has since passed. Now it is time to embrace the call to reach the majority of our population yet unsaved.

For RiverLife, 2018 is a Year of Preparation and Prayer. Pastor Lionel shared the need for this vision, i.e.,

1. To create space for God to come and renew our hearts for Him
2. To be empowered by Him to reach out to the lost and needy in our communities. See Luke 4:18-19.
3. To have His passion and power for missionary works in the world.

What then can we do in 2018 to ensure that this vision come to pass?

In our personal life, we can:

- i. Resolve to get rid of our sins and worldly distractions so that we may seek the Lord.

See Colossians 3:1-2, 5.

- ii. Make time to be in God's presence and delight in Him
- iii. Hear God in His Word
- iv. Pray for ourselves and for others
- v. Live out a Spirit-filled life of obedience and love at home, in school and at the workplace.

In our cells and in church, we can:

- vi. Encourage our fellow brothers and sisters to align their hearts to God, and care for them
- vii. Strengthen our personal relationships in the cell and in church.

We will embark on this call with the church's help. Pastor Lionel shared some spiritual initiatives that we have in place to guide us along:

- a. Expository preaching of the Gospel of Mark for 27 weeks
- b. Daily devotional resources
- c. Learning together during cell meetings
- d. Zonal camps and retreats to encounter God and foster stronger relationships
- e. Weekends of learning and equipping courses
- f. Church and national prayer initiatives

So let us say "YES!" to God's new season of preparation and prayer!

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Jeremiah 29:11. Last Sunday, Pastor Benny Ho challenged us to look "back to the future." As a review, share with the cell further thoughts you may have since last week on the plans, resolutions or decisions you have personally made in light of that message.** [5 min]

2. **Read Isaiah 40:1-11. From this passage, Pastor Lionel revealed how each verse has a spiritual implication for us today, both as a church and as an individual. As you chew over the passage, particularly verses 3-5, which verse or verses speak to you and which do not? Why?** [15 min]

3. **In 1978, well-known evangelist Billy Graham made the prophetic declaration that Singapore would be an Antioch of Asia. What do you know about this prophecy? Has the Singapore Church heeded this prophetic call in the last 40 years? Share your thoughts and insights.** [10 min]

4. **Pastor Lionel exhorted us to embrace God's new vision for 2018 by engaging in three things: create space for Him to renew our hearts; be empowered by Him to reach out to the lost and needy; and have His passion for missionary works in the world. He listed seven ways we can do this personally, in the cell and in church. Pore over the list (above) and share the areas you are already doing well in, the areas you find challenging, and the areas you will commit to immediately.** [15 min]

Works [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. That God will empower us to embrace 2018 as a Year of Preparation and Prayer; to renew our love and delight in Jesus; and to live a life marked by complete dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Announcements

1. Evangelism Explosion (EE)
Sat, 27 Jan | 2.30pm | Grace Chapel
Register at the Information Counter by Sun, 21 Jan.
Next run of EE training will commence in March 2018
2. Unlocking the Gospel of Mark Course
Sun, 28 Jan | 2.30pm – 5pm | Grace Chapel
Register online at <https://goo.gl/EqA4zV>
Register by Sun, 21 Jan
3. Water Baptism Class
Sat, 3 Feb | 9.30am - 3.30pm | Faith Chapel
Register at the Information Counter by Sun, 28 Jan.
Baptism Service will be on 11 Mar.

Church Vision Statement:

“A vibrant family where sons and daughters mature and reveal the Father’s glory from generation to generation.”