

Series - Be Wise (Called)

Date/s - 28 April 2019

Scripture - 1 Corinthians 1:1-17, 3:1-9

Speaker - Pastor Ben KC Lee

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 "Here For You", "Here As In Heaven", "Build My Life" or "Worthy Of It All".

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Understand the different aspects of being called as a believer; and
2. Be encouraged to grow in oneness as a Church.

Word [45 min]

Pastor Ben shared that RiverLife church will be embarking on the first sermon of a new pulpit series based on the book of 1 Corinthians, entitled "Be Wise". This series will seek to address common issues present in churches today- such as factions, the enemies of one-ness and unity, and how to turn our minds and hearts to a higher way of life, which is to serve our Heavenly Father instead of ourselves.

Preaching from 1 Corinthians 1:1-17, 3:1-9, Pastor Ben kicked off his sermon by sharing that we live in a culture that celebrates and worships choice. While choice holds on to the illusion that we are the captain of our destinies, calling is central, and relevant to a believer's life. "To call" is a verb. God, is calling you and I, to a certain course of action.

Pastor Ben expounded further on three aspects of our calling:

1. We are called to be holy (1:1-9):
 - The church is called to be "holy"- this is who we are called to be. Also, the church is called to be "sanctified"- this is what we are called to do. Last, the church is called to be "together"- this is how we are called to do what we've been called to do.
 - We are to be confident in God's gracious gifts to us. Christ will be faithful and He will guarantee us to the end.
2. We are called to be One (1:10-17):
 - We are to choose unity, reject division, and surrender our rights, imitating Jesus's attitude (Philippians 2:5-11).
 - We are to avoid misplaced loyalty (11-12). Pastor Ben shared that we are to be on our guard against becoming a personality cult, which may consist of four groups of believers: loyalists, traditionalists, stylists, purists. We must also avoid the cult of personal pride.

- We are to apply Unity (13-17), by re-directing our gaze from our favourite leaders, and ourselves, and back unto Jesus. People's attention must be shifted away from the messenger, and back unto the message. For only the cross of Christ will heal fragmentation.
- 3. We are called to be mature (3:1-9):
 - We are to be governed by spiritual thinking (1-4). The mark of spiritual babyhood is jealousy, and strife. Spiritual maturity is measured by what we put into practice. We need to remind ourselves that we are servants (Luke 17:7-10).
 - We must partner together (5-9). Only God transforms lives. We should not create conflict, where none exists. We must consider it a great privilege, of being a fellow worker with God.

Pastor Ben concluded his sermon by exalting us to focus on the call to being one. Let us remember that holiness is the pre-requisite to oneness, and maturity is a sign of such oneness.

Discussion Questions

1. **Some believers say that they only answer to God and to no one else. Who do you belong to?** [10 min]

2. **What does "oneness" mean to you? How does this oneness work itself out in RiverLife?** [10 min]

3. **What are some ways we insist on having our way, in the context of doing church and small groups? How does insisting on our way impact our witness?** [10 min]

4. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 8:7. What are some practical steps we can take, both individually and corporately, to get over ourselves so that we can grow up?** [10 min]

Works [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. Every RiverLifer will comprehend fully the different aspects of being called as a believer & take practical steps to mature in Christ.

Announcements

1. Alpha Course

Sun, 5 May – 28 Jul 19 | 2pm – 4pm (12 sessions)

Register now at bit.ly/rlcalpha. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at 65114139, email her at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg or visit our Guest Welcome Lounge on Sundays.

2 Water Baptism Class

Sat, 1 Jun | 9am-3pm | Faith Chapel (Our next baptism service will be on Sun, 7 Jul)

Register for this class at the Information Counter by Sun, 26 May. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at 6511 4139 or email her at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

3 Celebration of Hope

Fri-Sun, 17-19 May | National Stadium (Admission by tickets only)

There will be rallies in English, Mandarin, Tamil and Filipino. For more information and to obtain tickets, visit celebrationofhope.sg.

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.