

Series -

Date/s -

19 July 2015

Topic - God's Heart for The Nation

Speaker/s -

Pastor John Koe

**Welcome** [15 min]

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

[www.thesource4ym.com/games/](http://www.thesource4ym.com/games/)

[www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html) < go to LEAD, click on ICEBREAKERS >

**Worship** [15 min]

You may select songs like "Our God Reigns", "The love of God" or "So You Would Come".

**Spiritual Objectives**

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

1. God blesses us so that we are able to bless others.
2. Blessings others include bringing the good news to others.

**Word** [45 min]

Pastor John began by sharing that God created us out of love. He did not make us to suffer pain, misery, illnesses or death. Most of all, He does not want us to be separated from Him. All these grieved Him. 2 Peter 3:9 tells us that the Lord does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. As the consequence of sin is death, God offered His Son to die on the cross in our place. In John 11:51, the high priest Caiaphas unknowingly prophesied that Jesus was to die on the cross for everyone. Death therefore has no dominion over us when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

There are more than 2, 000 verses in the Bible indicating that the plan of Salvation was meant for ALL nations. Genesis 12:3 very clearly referred that God's plan of Salvation is for ALL nations. God told Abraham that "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you (Abraham)." The word NATION here is depicted as "tribes, tongues, families, ethnic groups and all kinds of people".

Acts 17:26 indicated that "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands." In other words, you are placed in a certain country, at an appointed time and around certain group of people to bring them to the saving knowledge of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Genesis 12:1-3 talks about Abraham being blessed to bring blessings to the nations. Sequentially, Genesis 26:4 also talks about Isaac being blessed as well to be a blessing to all nations. In Genesis 28:14, the blessings also fell upon Jacob and he too was prophesied to be a blessing to all nations. As we come under the saving grace of Jesus, we too are blessed so that you and I might become blessing to everybody around us. All our blessings are bestowed upon us as a testimony for the sole purpose of bringing everybody to the saving grace of our Lord and Savior.

Pastor John Koe shared about giving up his career and moving his family to China as a missionary. Life was dangerous and tough. Many well-meaning Christians sympathized with him and some even discouraged him. However, through this experience, their spiritual perspective changed. They saw how God performed miracles. They saw how God provided for them. They began to understand God's love for themselves and the people they reached out to. Ps John shared that even though their life was hard and sometimes dangerous, God had

never let them down but He protected and provided for them. If God calls you, you can be assured that His Grace is always sufficient for you. He shared that ALL of us, in the end, will have to stand before God to give an account of what we have or have not done to bring others to Salvation. All blessings, may it be wealth or health, are given to us for a purpose: that we will draw people to Christ so that His name may be glorified.

Pastor John shared Revelation 7:9 :“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.” This is the goal of God: that in the end, ALL people of different tongues and tribes will be given a chance to come to the Gospel and He wants us to be instruments of His redemptive plan.

### Discussion Questions

- 1 **Share any insight you have on evangelism lately or any interesting point that caught your attention as you listen to Ps John Koe’s sermon on Sunday.** [10 min]

**Leader’s Notes:** *This is an open sharing to lead people into the discussion proper. A recap. Encourage them to settle down and talk.*

- 2 **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were all richly blessed by God. Why did God choose to bless them and along with these blessings, what were the responsibilities bestowed upon them?** [10 min]

**Leader’s Notes:** *A relate question. The emphasis of this question is to get rid of any preconception of the message of prosperity which is that once you become a Christian, there will be blessings after blessings showered upon so that your life will live in materialistic abundance. The sole purpose of God blessings on us is to reach out to others so that they too will come to the saving grace of the Lord Jesus. In this respect, our blessing to them is the message of Salvation. Be it wealth or health, position or status, intellect or wit, God blesses us so that we can reach out and offer everyone their salvation. Our sole responsibility is not to get rich, lead an “abundant” or “comfortable and fruitful” life but to do the will of our Father in Heaven.*

*What is His will? We are to reach out and evangelize so that ALL people will be saved in fulfilment of the vision of John in Revelation 7:9:“ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.” This is the goal of God: That in the end, ALL people of different tongues and tribes will be given a chance to come to the Gospel and He wants us to be instruments of His redemptive plan”.*

- 3 **a. What are the things that hold you back from sharing the Gospel with your office colleagues, close friends or relatives? Read Acts 1:8 and discuss what Jesus meant when He called us to be his “WITNESS”.**

**Leader’s Notes:** *It is crucial you read this note...*

*Reflect if any of the excuses apply: Family objections, a comfortable life, not their gifting, shyness, ashamed to share because of their bad testimonies, might be reprimanded from the office authorities, afraid of being branded a bigot, afraid of any parental chastisement...etc. Share what they think the word “WITNESS” means. However, the actual Greek word for “WITNESS” in Strong’s dictionary is “MARTYR”, meaning that Jesus is asking us if we are willing to “DIE” for our faith. In the dictionary, “MARTYR” is defined as “a person who is killed because of their religious or other beliefs”. What then is mere scolding, chastisement, shame or comfort compared to a loss of life for Jesus’ sake? This is indeed a radical concept but it is also found in God’s Word in the Book of Acts. We were never promised a life of roses and creature*

comfort. However, we are given the privilege of having God's perspective and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit so that we are able to endure things and to have the closest relationship with God. In fact Jesus did not offer to remove our yokes but He replaces ours with His. John 12:25 - Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

**b. Read Luke 14:28 to 33. How do these examples of building a tower or leading an army into battle relate to our resistance to witness for God? How would you respond differently?** [10 min]

**Leader's Notes:** *There is a cost of discipleship involved; read Luke 14:28 – 33. One of the costs of discipleship is to stand up for His name and regardless of any situation, be prepared to preach the Gospel to everyone you meet. Unless we are prepared to risk all, then we must rethink why we want to be disciples of Jesus. Apart from our spiritual worship to God, another reason for our becoming Christians is to bring others to Jesus. This has always been the will of the Father and was precisely why Jesus died for mankind. It is the very foundation and fundament of the Gospel. Share what is one thing you will act to make a difference from today onwards?*

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## Works [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. Members to spend 5 minutes quietly to commit their possessions, careers, self and families to God and understand that evangelism is the primary function of a Christian. This is the will of the Father: that none should perish but all have eternal life. Evangelism is not a request. It is a command. In Acts 1:8, Jesus beseeched us to be His WITNESS.

## Announcements

1. **CELEBRATING  
SINGAPORE'S JUBILEE & RIVERLIFE'S 24TH ANNIVERSARY**  
3.30-5.30pm: Carnival  
5.30-8pm: National Day Parade 'Live' Screening  
Venue: Riverlife Church