

Series -

Date/s - 30 August 2015

Topic - Sharing God's grief

Speaker/s - Pastor Lionel Goh

**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 >

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**Worship** [15 min]

You may select songs like "Desert Song", "Give Thanks" or "Stronger".

**Spiritual Objectives**

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

1. Understand what grieves God deeply.
2. Share God's grief and choose to obey His call.

**Word** [45 min]

Following the Missions weekend, Pastor Lionel shared on the Church sharing God's grief. There are often sermons about God's greatness and victory in Christ, seldom do we hear about grief and pain. Paul shared in Philippians 3:10 (ESV) that he desired to know God "and the power of His resurrection, and that he may also share His sufferings, becoming like him in His death". As we identify with God's grief for this world, the grief enables us to persevere, to stay on and to do His kingdom's work.

Pastor Lionel mentioned three types of grief:

Grief 1: The wickedness of man

- a. God grieved over the wickedness of man (Genesis 6:5-6)
- b. The Holy Spirit grieved over Israel's ingratitude and rebellion (Isaiah 63:8-10)

Grief 2: The pain that sin brings

- a. Jesus wept over the pains that sin brings to humanity (John 11:33-36)
- b. Jesus paid a high price to remove these pains (Romans 4:25-5:2)
- c. He wants His people to tell others about what He had done (Mark 16:15-16)

Grief 3: The hardness of the leaders' hearts

- a. Jesus grieved when His leaders reneged on their responsibility to shepherd His people (Mark 3:1-6, Matthew 9:35-36)
- b. The reasons for their hardness of heart (Matt 23:5-7, 14)
- c. What about us today? Do we fail in our responsibility to share His Good News to others?

He also shared about the different ways of sharing God's grief:

1. Pray
  - a) For God to give us the burden for the lost
  - b) For the people God has put in our hearts

- c) For opportunity to reach out to them
2. Show love to people
3. Do acts of kindness
4. Take time out for meals with others
5. Share your testimony
6. Invite them to your cell outing
7. Invite them for Christmas Outreach

The idol that has possibly stumbled us today is the pursuit of money, success and a good life. Is there an idol that is holding us back from what Christ has called us to do? We are called to share the gospel (Matthew 9:37-38, Mark 16:15)! Let us pray; let us go and preach the good news!

### Discussion Questions

1. **What word or image came to your mind when Pastor Lionel shared about “sharing God’s grief”?** [10 min]

**Leader’s Notes:** *This is a recap and relate question to lead people into the discussion proper. It aims to find out what is their understanding of the phrase. Members can share an image or word. Note that “sharing God’s grief” is becoming aware and sharing the pain that is in God’s heart.*

2. **In John 11:35 Jesus wept. Share a time where you were going through a time of grief. What was helpful for you then?** [15 min]

**Leader’s Notes:** *This is a relate question. Members may share what was most helpful to them was how people heard their difficulties and were there (present) for them. Similarly, God always empathise with those who are grieving. We do not grieve alone. Let us be reminded that though we are aware of what grieves God’s heart, we can spend the time committing it to Him and seek Him on how we could partner with Him in His desire for the lost.*

3. **The Pharisees were caught up about whether it was right or wrong to do things on the Sabbath. Reflect what might have led to the Pharisees’ hardness of hearts.** [10 min]

**Leader’s Notes:** *This is a reflect question. Jesus grieved when his leaders failed to shepherd His people (Mark 3:1-6; Matthew 9:35-36). Look at Matthew 23:5-7, v14 to find out what were the reasons for their hardness of heart. What about us today? This aims to let members reflect on what can cause man’s heart to harden and in turn, help us to reflect upon ourselves. Let’s pray that God will reveal to us and help us with our hearts.*

4. **What did God’s grief over mankind provoke him to do? Read Mark 16:15, what does God want of us?** [10 min]

**Leader’s Notes:** *This is a response question. The grief of God provoked Him and He paid a high price to redeem man. What are we doing to fulfil what Christ has called us to do? Ps Lionel refers us to look at Paul’s deep desire from Philippians 3:10. Like Paul, what is your take on suffering and if such pain will translate into action immediately, eventually (or not at all) so as to fulfil your responsibility? Members can break into small groups and pray for a friend / family member that they would like to reach out to.*

**Works** [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. Every Riverlifer will understand what grieves God deeply, share God's grief and choose to obey His call.

**Announcements****1. FAITH AT HOME**

FAMILY LIFE SEMINAR WITH REV MARK HOLMAN

Sat, 19 Sep | 10am-6pm | Grace Chapel

Last day for registration at the Information Counter: Sun, 13 Sep. For more information, please contact Christine Tan at 6511 4145, or email her at [christinetan@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:christinetan@riverlife.org.sg)

**2. Dialect Ministry's 15th Anniversary & Mid-Autumn Celebration**

Sat, 19 Sep | 10am (Breakfast) | 11am (Service) | Fellowship Atrium &amp; Victory Chapel

Guest speaker: Rev Oh Beng Kee

Do invite your pre-believing dialect-speaking family and friends for the service! Invitation flyers are available at the Information Counter.

**3. THE ALPHA COURSE**

Sat, 26 Sep -14 Nov | 1.45pm-4.30pm except session 7 (7 Nov), full day | Victory Chapel

**Register online at <http://bit.ly/rlcalpha>** or at the Alpha Course Counter

Last day for registration: 20 Sep 2015. For enquiries, please contact Moses Sho at 65114141 or email him at [mosessho@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:mosessho@riverlife.org.sg).

**4. JOINING THE FAMILY**

Sat, 3 Oct | 2-5pm | Faith Chapel

This course aims to help participants understand God's heart for the Church and His call for us to be identified with a local body of believers. Besides believing in our triune God, we are created for community. This course prepares you to become part of the RiverLife family so that together, we can share and be partakers of our mission, vision and faith goals. We will also share with you the application process for Associate Membership.

**BAPTISM COURSE**

Sat, 3 Oct | 9.30am-3.30pm | Room 214 and 215

Water baptism is the outward symbol of the commitment a believer makes to receive Christ as his Lord and Saviour and a public declaration of a believer's union and his new identity in Christ. Join the class to learn more about the significance and importance of baptism. Our baptism service is on Sun, 15 Nov.

Register at the Information Counter by Sun, 27 Sep. For enquiries, please contact Clara Tan at 65114160 or email her at [claratan@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:claratan@riverlife.org.sg).