

Series - Missional Living

Date/s - 7 Aug 2016

Topic - The Church in Nation Building

Speaker/s - Dr Freddy Boey

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 “The Lion and the Lamb” or “Beautiful Saviour”. You can also consider a popular national song.

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Reflect and give thanks for God’s blessings in relation to our National Day; and
2. Be intentional in our plans and actions for discipleship, ministry and church unity.

Word [45 min]

At the occasion of Singapore’s National Day, Dr Freddy Boey asked the congregation to consider the successes of the nation of Singapore and for us to count our blessings as Singaporeans. He gave the glory to God for these and cited Genesis 12:2, Genesis 22:18 and Jeremiah 4:2, indicating God’s hand in making these come to pass. He then pointed out that Singapore is exceptional, in that though it is small, it has managed to achieve and stand out amongst the nations.

Attributing the success of the nation of Singapore in key areas to planning, Dr Freddy Boey then pointed out that the Church of Jesus Christ must also be prepared to be intentional, do of its best and get involved with the community it is in. The parallels he drew were as follows:

- a. Education – in the church context, this will be Discipleship. Just like we take education seriously. The church should take discipleship seriously and endeavor to not just talk about discipleship but to actively live it out. The church needs to move discipleship from one level to another, graduating our people to higher levels. Similar to “every child matters” for education, every disciple matters in the church, though like education where the government aspires to make different routes valid and equally important, we should encourage the same for discipleship.

Just as technology is revolutionizing education by moving the focus from teacher-centric to interactive –experimental learning with a somewhat “fiddling” and engaging approach; Similarly, the church can explore looking at varied and better ways of discipleship of our people. The “Gutenberg Bible”, which was the first mass-produced book in Europe following the invention of the printing press there, changed the world by making the Bible accessible to the common man. Modern technology can also help Christianity, and should not be viewed as evil. With the aids, Christians can learn more, faster and then go on to learn more.

- b. Healthcare – Singapore was cited as one of the top 5 nations in achieving good health outcomes for its people. This is primarily due to a focus on the “patient” outside the hospital, i.e., prevention. Similarly, in the church, ministry should be more than ministering to each other exclusively and within the church. The church must reach out to do effective work for God outside of the church. The church must minister to serve the surrounding communities and the world. In ministry, we must encourage church members to move away from a self-centred, consumerist mindset towards one that focuses on serving others.
- c. Defence and security – the parallel in the church is the defence of the Gospel. Dr Freddy Boey spoke about the clear and present danger of terrorism and how it has the potential, when an incident happens, to generate fear, anger and negative emotions, tearing at the heart of the nation’s social fabric. The approach taken in Singapore is to be intentional about integrating different and diverse communities, and to promote unity. In the church, the greatest strength is our diversity. The body of Christ is together because of our same belief in Jesus Christ, even though we may come from different and diverse backgrounds and we may have different habits and cultural preferences. Dr Freddy Boey warned against unity or harmony by elimination, i.e., excluding people who are different in order to have harmony. The challenge is for the church to know how to live in Christ in unity even in the midst of diversity so that we too can withstand the tests that acts of “terrorism” brought about by the Devil.

Dr Freddy Boey concluded that the church should apply the lessons of Singapore’s nation-building to the church and focus on winning people for Christ, which is the heart of God.

Discussion Questions

1. **This National Day, consider the successes of the nation of Singapore and the blessings that we enjoy. Share with your group what you most appreciate of these blessings.** [10 min]

Leader’s Notes: *This is an ice-breaker question. While there may be some areas of dissatisfaction with a need for improvement, it is important to consider the positives and give thanks for them. Leaders can help the group focus on these good points and give thanks to God for the blessings.*

2. **Dr Freddy Boey shared that to excel in key areas of our church work, we must be like the nation of Singapore and dedicate our expenditure and resources on these areas, and to intentionally plan for the outcomes we want to achieve. Relate and reflect on how the church can better plan for the three key areas highlighted: (a) discipleship, (b) ministry, and (c) church unity.** [20 min]

Leader’s Notes: *A relate and reflect question. Leaders can re-cap the importance of these areas for God’s Kingdom – discipleship (see Ephesians 5:1-2), ministry (see 2 Corinthians 1:4) and church unity (see 1 Corinthians 1:10, Ephesians 4:11-13 and Romans 12:16).*

For discipleship, Leaders can perhaps focus on two points: need to progress from one level to the next; and the use of modern technology to facilitate and promote Christian growth. For the first point, Christians should take discipleship seriously and dedicate time and resources to grow deeper in their knowledge of the Word of God and how the Word can help them lead Godly lives. For the latter, Christians should be open to the use of new technologies that can provide added platforms for learning (e.g. electronic Bible Study aids) and the sharing of this learning.

For ministry, the focus is to go beyond the confines of the church and the familiar, and to address the real needs in the community and beyond, even to the nations.

Dr Freddy Boey shared on the race riots in the 1960s and how rumours can quickly bring about fear and confusion. See James 3:7-9 on the need to tame the tongue and to build one another up in the body of Christ. Leaders can point to 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 which talks about the one body of Christ with many members, each having value while being different and diverse. The church is to give honour to every member of the Body of Christ.

3. **As an individual member in the Body of Christ or as a Cell Group, discuss practical ways you can do more or better in the key areas of discipleship, ministry and church unity so as to win people for Christ?** [10 min]

Leader's Notes: *This is a response question. Leaders can seek members to consider the answers to question 2 on a more personal level or in the Cell Group context so that they can apply them in practical ways. One key emphasis in this discussion would be to win people for Christ, this being aligned with God's will for His kingdom. Leaders can then round up with dedicating these responses to God and asking God through prayer to be our Senior Partner to do His work.*

There is a 'Bridging 1-2-3' workshop coming up on 1 Oct Saturday 2.30pm. It is fast track equipping where you will learn practical tips on how to craft your testimony, and the essential handles for you to connect with someone and eventually leading him/her into a relationship with Christ. You will have ideas on what can be meaningful at each stage of pray, care, share, invite and nurture. Come as a cell group so that you can learn together, encourage each other and be your cell member's cheerleader. Registration will open in September.

Works [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. As a church, we will be intentional in our plans and actions for discipleship, ministry and church unity.

Announcements

1. LIVING THE GOSPEL

19 Aug – 24 Sep | Worship Centre (3 Fri night & 1 Sat)

Registration closes on Sun, 14 Aug (e-Life sign up through cell leader)

For more information, please contact Christine Tan at 65114141, or email her at

christinetan@riverlife.org.sg

2. JOINING THE FAMILY

Sat, 27 Aug | 2–5pm | Faith Chapel

Sign up at the Information Counter by Sun, 21 Aug

For more information, please contact Clara Tan at 65114160, or email her at claratan@riverlife.org.sg.