

Series - Revamp

Date/s - 22 October 2017

Topic - The Call to Know God through His Word

Speaker/s - Pastor Ernie Song

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 "O Praise The Name", "Glorious One", "God I Look To You", "Reward", "Here I Bow" or "Worth It All"

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Know the importance of making God's Word the cornerstone of their faith
2. Commit to claim promises in God's Word as they journey through seasons.

Word [45 min]

Pastor Ernie exhorted the congregation to embrace change and the work God desires to do in our life. He shared a quote - "If you continue to do what you have always been doing, you will be where you've always been."

Pastor Ernie preached from Joshua 1:1-9. God promised the Israelites their own land, however 5 generations went by without the fulfillment of this promise, until Moses' time. The hearts of the Jews in Moses' generation were set on Egypt instead of the Promised Land when the journey was difficult. The Joshua generation was different; they went ahead to claim the Promised Land though they did not see the miracles of God leading their forefathers out of Egypt, nor the miracles in the desert. The inheritance of Israel is the Promised Land.

Characteristics of the Promised Land

- In the Promised Land, there will be deserts and wilderness.
- In the Promised Land, there will be strongholds of the Enemy.
- The occupation of the Promised Land involves warfare and conquering cities (vs 3). The Israelites had to step into the Promised Land to claim what God had promised.

Our Promised Land represents the place where our reality matches the Word of God. The Word is Key to inherit our Promised Land.

1. The Word gives us an accurate picture of who God is (Daniel 11:32).
God is who He says He is. God can do what He says He can do. Pastor Ernie also exhorted us to have a theology of God that is based on the Word, and not merely on our own experiences. He shared about the importance of having both the Rhema and Logos Word of God in our lives (John 17:17, Deuteronomy 9:3). Pastor Ernie also shared that it is possible that the Joshua generation did not see any of the miracles performed in the desert, and that the Word of God was all they held on to when entering the Promised Land. Joshua had big shoes to fill taking over the role of Moses, and the men in the Joshua generation

were possibly never involved in war. The Law of God revealed the grace of God, and revealed who God is to His people. Joshua stood on the promises of God as he read about the faithfulness of God from Abraham to Moses.

2. The Word gives us a correct picture of who we are in Christ.

Pastor Ernie shared about how the Israelites needed to remember who they were in Christ. The Enemy will put up a fight with us when we move into our Promised Land. It will be a fierce battle! The first area the Enemy would attack us is our identity. There will be areas in our lives and times when we feel inadequate, times where our identity in Christ is attacked. We lose our inheritance when we lose our identity. It is important to remember who we are in Christ despite what we or others may think.

3. The Word enables us to be Armed and Ready for Battle.

Though the Israelites were promised the land, they had to enter the land to possess it. We need to be proactive in taking up the victory God has given to us. We are in a spiritual battle and it is necessary for us to put on the full armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, is the only offensive weapon we have! In the same way, we need to know and declare the Word of God in our lives – spoken word carry a power, authority and effectiveness that exceed words we think (Prov 18:21). It is important that we declare God's Word over our lives, families and situations – according to God's will and not ours (Rom 10:10, Heb 4:12, 1 Cor 4:20).

Pastor Ernie concluded with the verses about the Fall of Jericho (Joshua 5:10 – 15). God's Word is Holy and he exhorted the congregation not to rush through the reading of God's Word. He also challenged the Church to model a life of faithfulness in how we journey with God in the good times and bad (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), leaving a rich legacy of faith for the next generation and beyond.

Discussion Questions

1. **Pastor Ernie shared three pointers about the importance of God's Word. Choose one and share about how it resonated with you.** [10 min]

Leader's Notes: A recap question. Pastor Ernie shared three pointers 1. The Word gives us an accurate picture of Who God is 2. The Word gives us a correct picture of who we are in Christ 3. The Word enables us to be Armed and Ready for Battle. Members to share on how any of the pointers resonated with them. Members who have chosen the same pointer can add on to each other's sharing. Leaders can also ask members to share on how they learnt about that particular pointer.

2. **God is who He says He is. How have the reading of God's Word and your experiences with living out the Word influenced your faith / theology of God?** [10 min]

Leader's Notes: A relate question. Leaders to highlight that our experiences can encourage or discourage us, and it is important that our view of God is primarily based on sound doctrine, instead of emotions, past experiences or human reasoning. Pastor Ernie shared on the pitfalls that many Christians unwittingly lapsed into by relying on past life experiences, especially unhappy ones, shape their view on the character of God. Perhaps, through the lack of knowledge or lack of faith, they do not claim the promises contained in the Word of God for their lives.

Leaders can also recap from Pastor Ernie's sharing about the difference in the Jews in the Moses and Joshua generation – they probably did not see the miracles of God in Egypt (the ten plagues, the separation of the Red Sea, they were not battle ready) but they entered the Promised Land (Numbers 32:11-13 speaks about Israel's wandering in the desert for forty years). -> What does this tell us about the

importance of our responses to situation?

3. **“When we lose our identity, we lose our inheritance.”** Share a time where you felt your identity was shaken – What were the lessons you learnt? How did you grow through it? What will you want to do differently in future? [10 min]

Leader’s Notes: A reflect question. Leaders can facilitate by asking members to share what are common things we often base our identity on (e.g. abilities, wealth, external beauty, praises of men, etc), the reasons we do so, before asking members to share. Members can also read the verses on Jesus’ temptation in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11) –What were the temptations about? How did Jesus overcome the devil’s temptation?

4. **What is one of God’s promises you are holding / want to hold on to during this season?** [10 min]

Leader’s Notes: A response question. Members to share about the season they are in and which Bible verse they want to hold on to. Leaders may encourage members to check the context of the verse to have a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Bible verse as they apply it in their lives. Ask members to share on how they are inspired by the responses, the biblical characters made in their situations, and how they themselves want to live it out in their situation. Round up by getting members to read the bible verses on the armour of God (Eph 6:10-18) and praying for each other.

Works [10 min]

Let’s pray:

1. We will always hold fast to the Word of God, believing in Him who says who He is. In addition, confessing daily our position in Christ & proactively taking up the victory God has given to us.

Announcements

1. M2M Symposium

Men, His Choice, His Spirituality & His Family

25 Nov 2017, RiverLife Worship Centre

Register by 11 Nov at <https://tinyurl.com/yboo8g9j>

All are welcome (dinner will be provided)

2. Baptism Service

5 Nov 2017 | 2.30pm to 5pm | Victory Chapel.