

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - New Year Message
Topic - Seeing the Invisible (2 Cor 5:6-7)

Date - 05 Jan 2020
Speaker - Elder Andrew Goh

WELCOME [15 min]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Good Good Father
2. The More I Seek You
3. Nothing Else
4. Only Jesus
5. Here I Bow

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Keep their eyes on the unseen – God – and choose His ways over the ways of the world.
2. Focus on building their lives centred around Jesus and His Kingdom.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. For the Christian, there are two realities – the worldly (temporal) and the spiritual (eternal and permanent).
2. The eyes of faith see the invisible, which is also the permanent and true.
3. Can we see what God intends for us to see in 2020?

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

In 2 Corinthians 5:6-7, Apostle Paul reminds us that followers of Christ must not build their lives around things that have no eternal significance.

What we see now are of this world, which are temporal and have no eternal value. Rather than pursuing the same things the world pursues, Christians should focus on the unseen realities such as our relationship with Christ, our final destination of eternal life, and the stewardship of the gifts God has given to us for the furtherance of His Kingdom. Lives built around material things and worldly lifestyles that have no eternal significance are wasted.

How do we see the invisible? Walk by faith, not by sight.

Elder Andrew urged us to see what God wants us to see. We must find out what God wants us to do with our lives in 2020. Sometimes, we overlook God's providence and guiding presence in our lives when we are so focused on our "wants". We must not fail to notice these daily showers of blessings in our lives.

The greatness of God is revealed in His creations; in nature and in us. His greatness is also in things that we do not see – His daily providence and guiding hand.

Elder Andrew shared three examples from the Bible on the invisible:

1. Hebrews 11:23-27
By faith, Moses rejected the "treasures of Egypt" and left to save God's people. He was not afraid to anger the Pharaoh for he was looking towards an eternal reward.
2. 2 Kings 6:15-17
Elisha has faith and therefore can see what his servant cannot. Pray for God to increase our faith and open our eyes so that we may see the mountain "full of horses and chariots of fire".
3. Luke 12:16-21
Do not waste your life on things which are not significant. It is futile to store up treasures for yourself on earth because it will not be yours after death.

Conclusion

Keep your eyes and heart on the things unseen as this is where eternal significance is. Find God in the ordinary and choose His ways over the world.

Discussion Questions

1. **Share one incident that turned out not as you wanted but as God intended. Can you see the reason behind God's intention?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is an ice-breaking question. Encourage members to share a moment in their lives in which they cannot understand why things happened the way it did, but as time passed, they gained clarity into God's intentions. We may not always understand God's ways in a particular season. But as time goes on, God reveals to us the bigger picture of what He was doing in our lives for our good. Therefore, it is important for us. To walk by faith, and not by sight - when we don't understand what God is doing.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

The lesson to draw from this question is to always trust in the goodness of God, whether we understood His intentions in a particular season of our lives or not.

2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-7 again. How do you practically exercise faith in dire situations? [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

Two points to note from 2 Corinthians 5:6-7:

1. "We are always of good courage" and that is because "we walk by faith, not by sight". Be courageous.
2. We are currently "at home in the body" and "away from the Lord". So whatever situation we find ourselves in, recognise that it is temporal.

Possible Dire Situations

- Parenting but with little positive results
- Being ostracized for doing the ethically right thing at work
- Choosing to tithe in spite of financial circumstances
- Choosing to not conform to the patterns of the world at the expense of a promotion

Read this article "What Does it Mean to Walk by Faith?":

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/what-does-it-mean-to-walk-by-faith.html>

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

Appearances are deceptive. The situation may look dire, but how we respond to it reflects the faith we have. We should place our trust, not in what we see, but in God and His promises. Take courage, pray and wait upon the Lord. Keep doing the right thing and walking the straight path.

It will be a good idea to commit 2 Corinthians 5:6-7 to memory to serve as encouragement and reminder in difficult moments to keep our eyes on God and not on the predicament in front.

3. Elder Andrew urges us to build our lives around what is truly important. Name one thing you would like to give up in 2020 and replace it with something that helps you focus on that which is invisible. [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

Leaders, encourage your members to consider (seriously) one thing or activity that they can let go of this year and replace it with something that brings them closer to God (making the invisible a priority). See Colossians 3:2.

Some suggestions would be giving up sleeping in during the weekends for extended quiet time with God; giving up watching certain television shows to do a Bible study; or replacing secular music with worship songs; ceasing a certain lifestyle that doesn't honor God. The idea is to build up our relationship with God and centre our lives around Him. We also want the worldly things to have a lesser hold on us.

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting to Cell & Closing the Discussion)

We are not to be consumed by our worldly possessions and pursuits, but store up treasures in heaven instead. Sacrificing something of the world for God, whom we have an eternal relationship with, is worth it. Therefore, let us continue to spur one another on in our journey of faith as we focus on that which is invisible and not temporal.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. RiverLifers to set our affections on God and the things above and to build our lives around it.
 2. RiverLifers to walk by faith and so open our eyes to see the unseen.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

In view of the Lunar New Year, there is only one service at 9am on Sun, 26 Jan.

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.