

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - Vision Week 2020 Part 2
Topic - The Church: Gathered and Scattered
(2 Corinthians 5:18-21 and John 20:21)

Date - 19-01-2020
Speaker - Pastor Ben KC Lee

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. God Is Here
2. Come Lord Jesus
3. Highest Praise

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Recognise that both the Sunday worship and the cell group are critical to discipleship.
2. Step up to serve in the various ministries especially the Filipino ministry, Youth congregation, Dialect congregation and Seniors ministries.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. RiverLife exists in two modes: We gather for worship and we scatter for mission.
3. We are to embrace the RiverLife 2020 Goal: "Every cell member a sent one."

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Pastor Ben reiterated the Scripture from last week's message (2 Corinthians 5:18-21) and reminded RiverLifers *who we are*: We are the called out ones; a body of believers; and a unique local expression of the larger body of Christ. Our core mandate is to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). Therefore, our church should not be measured by its seating capacity, but by its sending capacity.

He then explained *how we do that* based on Acts 2:42-47, where the early church gathered in the temple courts, as well as scattered house-to-house. The divine design of the church therefore is to - Gather for worship, and scatter for mission.

1. Gather for worship

This is where biblical instructions and impartations are given to build up the church. Examples are worship gatherings, prayer nights, church conference, equipping courses, retreats, etc. We need to see that even before God made the world, He has chosen us, and has reconciled us through Calvary, and He has always wanted to be with His people (Ephesians 1:3-5). We also need to recognise that we gather for and around Jesus Christ, and our being together is all about Him.

In light of this exaltation, Pastor Ben cautioned us against two spiritual dysfunctions:

- a. Going wherever we want, which results in little depth in our shared spiritual journey.
- b. Allowing other work to take over discipleship, which results in the lack of shepherding, nurturing and equipping of saints. We must focus on the essentials (eg. Raising disciples through cells, strengthening of community ties, teaching and equipping members, etc), and not the non-essentials (eg. Running worship concerts, participating in initiatives of other churches without evaluation, etc)

2. Scatter for mission

The basis for a church scattered is that we worship a missionary God (John 1:14) and that we are the sent ones (John 20:21). The natural outcome of a disciple-making church is seeing its members scatter for mission – locally or overseas. This is what it means to be a “sent one”.

Pastor Ben outlined the corporate goal for RiverLife in 2020: “Every cell member a sent one.”

He then challenged RiverLifers to consider stepping up to serve in the church through the various ministries, especially in these four ministries: Filipino, Youth, Dialect and Seniors Ministries. The link to sign up is <http://bit.ly/shepherdingRLC>



In conclusion, we need to know that worship without service is empty, and mission without worship is joyless. If we do not gather to worship or do not live in mission, we are not being who we truly are.

Discussion Questions

- 1. What is your personal takeaway regarding the RiverLife 2020 Goal: “Every cell member a sent one”?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is a recap question. When it comes to making any resolution at the start of the year, everyone has an opinion. The more positive ones will say, "This is my turn to make a difference," or "I am finally going to do it this year!" The more pessimistic ones will say, "I will give it a try but Lord, you know my spirit is willing but my flesh is weak," or "What's the point? I'm going to break it in two weeks." And those are just goals we set for ourselves. What about the goal that our church leadership has set for us for 2020: "Every cell member a sent one"? What goes through a cell member's mind when he or she hears this from the pulpit? How does one respond? This is a great question to start the ball rolling and seek a cross section of views and perspectives from members.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving To The Next Question)

As everyone is at different levels of faith, we will expect a multitude of varying responses. There is no right or wrong answer. The important thing is not how we start the year but how we live through the year. If RiverLife is our home church, then we should make the church's 2020 goal our personalised goal as well. This question is meant to kickstart a discussion that will point to the next question where we will encapsulate how RiverLife goes about in "doing church".

- 2. Read Acts 2:46-47. Do you find yourself emphasising Sunday morning over cell group or cell group over Sunday morning? If so, why do you find yourself emphasising one over the other?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is a reflect question. Some of us believe that the Sunday gathering is more important than the cell meeting. They see "going to church" as their primary evidence of being Christians. They may attend a cell group once a while but they are not committed for the long haul. Others see Sundays as an opportunity to check out exciting guest speakers in other churches. Meanwhile, there are Christians who go to cell groups not to disciple or to be disciplined but for selfish or self-centred reasons. There may be other more nuanced answers in between those scenarios but this is not an either/or question. It is both/and – gathering to worship and learn, AND then scattering to love and reach out to our neighbours and serve others.

For a more in-depth study on this subject, these books are recommended:

- 1. *Scattered & Gathered : Equipping Disciples for the Frontline* by Neil Hudson**
- 2. *AND: The Gathered and Scattered Church* by Hugh Halter and Matt Smay**

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving To The Next Question)

We need to reiterate the Biblical design for the church as both a gathered church as well as a scattered church. Read Acts 2:42-47. RiverLife exists in two modes and they are equally important: We gather for worship and we scatter for mission. To focus on one without the other results in spiritual dysfunction. Both the gathering and the scattering is crucial for a believer. This point leads to the next question on how we as a group and as individual members are to live out these two modes of church in tangible and faithful ways.

- 3. Pastor Ben is calling for individuals to serve in the various ministries in the church especially in the **Filipino, Youth, Dialect and Seniors** ministries. Are you currently living**

as a sent one? Are you serving in any capacity in the body of Christ? Do you see yourself drawn to any of the ministries Pastor Ben mentioned? [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

This is a response question to take decisive steps to make our lives count as a "Sent One" in the new decade ahead. The following are specific actions that we can consider in 2020:

- a. *Get plugged in and start serving your spiritual community;*
- b. *Give to support the church (gathered and scattered); and*
- c. *Go on mission with God (locally/RCS or overseas).*

As lifespan increases, population grows and technology advances, the society we live in now will undergo rapid and unprecedented changes. We anticipate great needs for outreach and ministry to these four demographics – domestic workers, youth, dialect-speaking folks, and the fast-growing silver-haired generation. We, the gathered and scattered church, must be ready for the challenges.

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting To Cell & Closing The Discussion)

We must never forget why we exist as a church, i.e., to behold Christ and to reveal Him to others. Every cell member must be a sent one. We are in this together for the long haul, not for ourselves but for God and for others. The church must not only rely on the sacrifices of the few while the others take a backseat. All of us must rise up to become the Sent Ones. When we do this collectively, we can reach further and climb higher than we thought possible. The tasks ahead will not be easy but we have a great God who is faithful and powerful and He promises to be with us until the end!

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

For Ourselves: That we will take the RiverLife 2020 Goal seriously and grow towards being a sent one, not just for this year but always.

For Our Cell: That we will encourage one another to behold Jesus in all His glory, beauty and power, and to reveal Him to the world by our words and deeds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

2. **Water Baptism Class**

Sat, 8 Feb | 9am-3pm | Faith Chapel

Register for this class at the Information Counter by Sun, 2 Feb. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at 6511 4139 or email her at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg. Our next baptism service is on Sun, 29 Mar

3. Alpha Course

Sun, 23 Feb to 29 Mar | 2pm-4pm

The full Alpha course comprises 8 sessions. This introductory run will only have 4 sessions. Participants will be able to join in the remaining 4 sessions in May.

Register online at bit.ly/ricalpha by Sun, 9 Feb. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at 65114139, email her at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg or visit our Guest Welcome Lounge on Sundays.

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.