

Series - This is Us

Topic - Rooted (John 15:5; Colossians 2:6-7)

Date - 09-Feb-2020

Speaker - Ps Dinah Lee

CORONAVIRUS “COVID-19” PREVENTION MEASURES

During this period, we recommend all cells to practice the following preventive actions to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus:

1. Minimise Contact. Avoid handshakes and hugs during this period.
2. Deny entry for those with respiratory symptoms such as cough, sore throats and runny nose.
3. Individuals that have come into contact with other individuals who are confirmed cases or suspected cases should not attend cell.
4. Practice good hygiene during this the cell time.

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. Take Me Deeper
2. This Is My Desire

PASTORAL ADDRESS ON THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION

[5 min]

Full Video: bit.ly/CoV-SPaddress

Ever since Singapore raised the DORSCON level to Orange, there has been an atmosphere of fear within the country – panic buying of food supplies, rice, instant noodles and toilet papers. What should Christians do in the midst of all this fear?

- 1. Shift our gaze towards Christ.**
 - Shift our focus from earthly things to focus on spiritual realities.
 - Romans 8:35-39 states that nothing, including the CORONAVIRUS, cannot separate us from the love of Christ.
 - Turn our gaze away from social media and dubious Whatsapp messages.
- 2. Pray, build each other up and strengthen one another in the Word of God.**
 - The cell groups plays such an important role in times like these.

- Instead of just looking out for ourselves and our families, we should look out for other families and individuals as well within our cell groups.

3. Pray for those who are afraid and to bring to them the peace of Christ.

- When the society is living in fear, the children of God must stand in the gap to intercede for this city.
- In this period, God has given us the authority and power to intercede for this city.
- We must pray especially for the poor and the sick, and for those who are afraid.

Precautionary Measures Implemented By RLC

1. Temperature screening in church premises
2. Contact tracing at all church events
3. Increased sanitisation of church premises
4. Suspension of communion in worship services
5. Suspension of non-urgent events
6. Suspension of non-essential mission trips
7. Suspension of worship service and activities for the elderly
8. Suspension of hospital visitations
9. Suspend the use of offering bags and replace it with offering boxes. However, RiverLifers are encouraged to move to online giving.
10. Staff segregation

Individual Responsibility

1. Do not come to church or cell if you are sick
2. Self-Quarantine yourself for 14 days if:
 - You have come into contact with someone who just came back from China
 - You have come into contact with someone who came into contact with someone who just came back from China
 - You have come into contact with an individual who is a confirmed or suspected case of the virus.

There is a Coronavirus Response Team (consisting of medical professionals, civil servants and church staff) that is looking into how our church should respond to the various situations arising from Coronavirus situation. Any updates from this team will be communicated through the various cells and services.

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Know and embody the core value of rootedness that determines why we do what we do and how we live and serve.
2. Aim to be deeply rooted in Christ by growing closer and surrendering every part of our lives to Him.

Sermon Summary

1. Being rooted in Christ is an ongoing process in our lives.
2. The more we let God deal with our heart and come under His Lordship, the more fruitful we become.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Note: For the next 5 weeks, we will be embarking on a series entitled "This Is Us". This series will examine the 5 core values of RiverLife Church.

Core values are the lenses and eyes of our hearts. It is why we do what we do. We need to ensure our core values are aligned with our Father's heart. The values that we hold dear will shape how we live our lives. We need to recommit ourselves to whom God has called us to be.

The core values of RiverLife are:

- Rooted
- Family
- Disciple Making
- Servanthood
- Sent

Ps Dinah's sermon expounded on the first core value of RiverLife: "Rooted" – which means "to be firmly anchored and established; unwavering."

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

1. Being rooted in Christ is a continual process

- When we are first planted (saved) our roots are shallow. Paul encourages us to continue be built up in Christ, so that our roots can deepen.
- Roots are the hidden parts of our walk with Christ that others do not see, and the hidden parts of our hearts before God.
- For us to experience the abundant life that God promises us, we need to be firmly rooted in Christ. That means confronting the hidden parts of our life.
- Being rooted is an *intentional* lifelong process. We are to "remain in Him" as our source of life and nourishment – to find our life in Him, to say what He says, to feel what He feels, and to do what He does (Galatians 2:20).
- Being rooted allows God to work daily in our lives:
 - through meditation on and obedience to the Word (John 15:10)
 - through confession and repentance (1 John 1:6)

2. Being rooted in Christ is to grow under His Lordship

- Believing in Christ is to *belong to* Him, and to grow under His Lordship. This means yielding to Christ and letting Him have His way in every area of our lives, and having an unwavering trust in Christ during the storms of life.
- Shallow-rooted followers live a compartmentalised life. They pick and choose parts of their lives to surrender to Christ. But to be deep-rooted is to be fully submitted

to God's will.

- How we respond to the current Coronavirus situation reveals our root system. With shallow roots we are susceptible to doubt God at the strike of obstacles, difficulties, and problems. When we are deeply rooted, we respond differently. Strong roots enable us to trust Him in joyful submission in the face of trials and challenges.

3. Being rooted in Christ is to bear much fruit

- Bearing fruit denotes spiritual growth. Bearing fruit does not mean being involved in many spiritual activities (although they help facilitate spiritual growth). Bearing fruit is an internal working to become more and more like Christ (Philippians 1:6).
- If we are firmly and deeply rooted in Christ, we will exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We will also reflect Christ – His holiness, His compassion, His love, and His obedience to His Father's will.
- If we are not growing, transformation will not happen, and we will not mature spiritually. Our roots will remain shallow and our faith will 'topple' easily.
- The evidence of our fruit is enduring and life-giving – for a lifetime impact, a generational impact and an eternal impact.

Application: Cultivate your heart in Christ

- *Examine what God is doing in your heart.* Some of us refuse to see what God is doing in our lives and consequently we grumble and resist.
- *Grow fruit, not success.* The difference is in the motivation of our heart. Worldly success may make you look good and invite admiration, but growing fruit is building our lives on eternal things.
- *Embrace being hidden.* When we embrace being hidden, we are comfortable not getting the credits, or getting passed over, or being unrecognised for our deeds. This will weed out self-achievement and keep our focus on God alone.

Pay attention to how the enemy deceives God's children by causing us:

- to doubt God's trustworthiness
- to trust something else besides God

If our roots are shallow and not firmly established, it is easy to be taken in by the enemy. Therefore, remain rooted in Christ and build your lives in Him (Ephesians 3:17-19).

Discussion Questions

1. **Examine your life in the midst of the headlines and disruptions around us, and share with the group what God may be speaking to you right now?**

Leader's Notes:

In light of the coronavirus news swirling around us and the continuous disruptions we face, let us pause and ask what the Lord is saying in our midst. Most of the time we are blind to God's work in our lives, even in times of challenges. Sometimes we even resist His work in us and would rather let things remain status quo. Recognising that God is working in our lives brings us closer to Him and helps us deepen our roots in Him. We should be thankful for such a privilege that only His sons and daughters enjoy.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Recognising God's work in our lives is a sign of spiritual growth. When we allow God to work or deal with something in our lives that is not pleasing to Him, we are letting Him pull out the bad roots and sink in the good roots. Being rooted (Colossians 2:6,7) and abiding in Christ (John 15:5) are both His desire for and His command to us.

- 2. Read Colossians 2:6-7. What does it mean to be rooted? And how have you kept yourself rooted in your relationship with God so far?**

Leader's Notes:

"Rooted" is the first of RiverLife's values and the key component that will establish and sustain the others, i.e., Family, Disciple Making, Servanthood, and Sent. Therefore, it is crucial that we get this right at the outset. If we are not first rooted, then we will not be producing the type of fruit that God desires.

For a few good pointers to kickstart the discussion: <http://deeperstill.net/2017/03/16/4-things-to-be-deeply-rooted-in/>

For further study on this important value, these books are recommended:

- 1. Deep-Rooted in Christ: The Way of Transformation by Joshua Choonmin Kang (InterVarsity Press)*
- 2. Rooted in Good Soil: Cultivating and Sustaining Authentic Discipleship by Tri Robinson (Baker Books)*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

To be rooted in Christ also means being willing to dig deeper into the parts of us that we hide from God and from others. It means we must be honest with God and not be afraid to deal with the secret sins that work against our faith and hinder our growth. Remember, we have a merciful and good Father who longs to work with us and for us.

- 3. Are there untouchable areas in your life that Christ isn't Lord? Search your heart and share one area in your life which you have not yet surrendered to God. And then share what you intend to do about it.**

Leader's Notes:

This question might be best done in smaller subgroups of 2-3 individuals. This question forces members to confront an area in their lives that they are holding back and not submitting to the Lord. Reasons for it could be fear, insecurity, unbelief, or a want of control. The next step would be to get them to commit to surrender that area to the Lord.

Two inspiring articles on surrendering to God to spur them on:

- 1. Total Surrender by Billy Graham: <https://decisionmagazine.com/total-surrender/>*
- 2. Total Surrender by Oswald Chambers: <https://utmost.org/total-surrender/>*

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

When we joyfully come under His Lordship and intentionally seek to deepen our roots in Christ, we will bear much fruit. Worldly success will be meaningless in our eyes as we focus on eternal things. We will also not seek recognition or credit and will forgo self-

achievement, and instead give all glory and honour to God and Him alone.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. For RiverLifers to allow God to work in our lives as we joyfully submit to His will.
 2. For RiverLifers to focus on growing roots and the fruit(s) that God has called us to bear.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Water Baptism Class**

Sat, 29 Feb | 9am-3pm | Faith Chapel

Register online at www.riverlife.org.sg/eforms by Sun, 23 Feb. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at 6511 4139 or email her at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg

2. **Joining The Family**

Sat, 14 Mar | 10am-1pm | Faith Chapel

Sign up online at www.riverlife.org.sg/eforms by Sun, 8 Mar. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at 6511 4139 or email her at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg

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.