

# Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

**Series** - Facing Our Present Troubles  
**Topic** - A Prophetic Perspective of COVID-19  
Pandemic

**Date** - 08-Mar-2020  
**Speaker** - Pastor Lionel 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. Jesus Messiah
  2. God I Look To You
  3. Way Maker
- 

## WORD [45 min]

### **Spiritual Objectives**

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

1. Spend more time to get grounded in God's Word during this time of preparedness. We need to abide in Christ and reject a sinful lifestyle.
2. Strengthen our cells and our homes, arise and love our neighbours. We must shine like light before others so that people will know Christ.

### **Sermon Summary**

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. God is pressing the pause button in our lives so that we can return our focus to what is important and realign our earthly desires to His eternal plans.
2. Prepare ourselves for the End Times through self-feeding (reading God's Word and being rooted in Christ), building up our cells and intentionally discipling through small groups.
3. This is the time to shine for Jesus and make Jesus known. We should also intercede as priests for our world.

### **Sermon Recap (Full Summary)**

Pastor Lionel shared that we, as Christians, should have a different perspective of the COVID-19 pandemic from the world. We should not buy into the fear and panic, but

---

instead respond biblically and use this opportunity to grow our faith and keep our eyes on God.

### 1) We need a prophetic perspective

- a. What is God saying to us in this COVID-19 pandemic?
  - It is an opportunity for the church to pause, to be quiet and to intentionally spend time with God (Psalm 46:10). Know that God is above everything else; He is in control and nothing can overwhelm or overtake Him, so we should focus on Him despite the dire circumstances.
  - This is also the time to evaluate our relationship with God. Are we still following Him, listening to Him, obeying Him? Or have we lost our direction and need to find our way back to God?
  - This is also the chance to spend time with our loved ones, our family, our friends and our cell group.
  - When we are caught up living our lives, working and earning money, we may have lost sight of eternal things. Take this opportunity, this pause, that was presented to us to return to what is truly important.
- b. What lessons are we to learn?
  - The COVID-19 is a dry run, a rehearsal, to the coming End Times. It gives us a glimpse into our human nature where we are prone to fear and panic.
  - Matthew 24:4-14 gives us a clear picture of the End Times, which shares some similarities to the COVID-19 pandemic:
    - The rise of false messiahs and prophets (v5,11)
    - Social turbulence, wars, famines, pestilence, and earthquakes (v6-7)
    - Great persecution of believers (v9)
    - Rampant backsliding and apostasy (v10,12)
    - Powerful preaching of the Gospel (v14)
    - A faithful remnant left standing for Christ (v13)

### 2) Our personal conviction of God's call – 3 actions to take

- a. Wake up! (Romans 13:11-14)
  - We are so caught up with our lives that we get spiritually lethargic and fall into slumber. "The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber" (Romans 13:11).
  - How do we wake up from our slumber?
    - Do put on the armour of light
    - Do behave decently
    - Do clothe ourselves with Christ
    - Do put aside deeds of darkness
    - Don't indulge in sins
    - Don't gratify fleshly desires
  - We need to reject a life of sins (Revelation 18:2-5)
  - We need to return to our first love (Revelation 2:2-5)
- b. Get ready!
  - COVID-19 pandemic reminds us that the End Times are near. So be prepared!
  - We need to grow in faith through self-feeding: to be rooted in Christ (John 15:5) and to be grounded on God's Word (2 Tim 3:16-17). We

need to read Scriptures on our own and spend time with God. We are not dependent only on weekly sermons for our spiritual needs. During times of persecution we will fall if we do not strengthen ourselves.

- We need to build up our cells. When church services stop, cells may be the only way to worship God and to fellowship with each other.
- We need to disciple intentionally through small groups (Acts 2:46-47): The church in Acts met in homes and shared their meals and build each other up. During the End Times, cell groups will be the shining light that cuts through the darkness, and that will help the Church to flourish.

c. Go!

- Do good and make Christ known (Matthew 5:15-16). This is an opportune time to go out and shine so that Jesus is made known. Help and contribute to the situation in any way possible (i.e. in Wuhan, Christian volunteers send doctors to work as public transportation has stopped, some donate and deliver medical supplies, some gave away masks together with gospel tracts, etc.)
- Intercede as priests for our world (1 Timothy 2:1-2, Numbers 16:46-50, 2 Chronicles 7:12-14). We are called to be priests and we can intercede for the nations on their behalf to stop the plague. Very few of us exercise our roles as priests but it is our responsibility as priests to intercede for the world. Will we rise up and pray daily and intercede for the nations?

### 3) Conclusion

Don't waste the opportunities that God has brought about during this COVID-19 storm. Let's wake up, get ready and go into our world and shine for Christ!

---

### Discussion Questions

#### 1. In the End Times church services may have to stop. How do we build up our cell group to prepare for the eventuality? (Recap) [15 min]

##### Leader's Notes:

*We can learn from the believers in Acts 2:42-47:*

*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

*You can implement some of these pointers to your cell group meetings:*

- The believers devoted themselves to God's Word, to fellowship, to breaking of bread, and to prayer*
- They were together and had everything in common*
- They sacrificed what they had to give to anyone in need*

- d. *They continued to meet every day*
- e. *They broke bread in their homes and ate together (fellowshipped) with glad and sincere hearts*
- f. *They praised God and enjoyed God's blessings upon them*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

In the End Times when we may no longer be allowed to attend church or worship openly, cell groups will be one of the avenues to grow spiritually and to fellowship together. Cell members need to band together and get through difficult times together. There is strength and comfort in numbers. Do life together!

**2. Consider how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected your personal life. What lessons does God want you to learn in this period? (Relate, Reflect) [15 min]**

**Leader's Notes:**

*This is an exercise for members to share how the pandemic has affected them personally but also for members to adopt a learning perspective in this difficult situation.*

*In our pursuit of the things of the earth, we may have gotten spiritually lethargic and went into slumber. The pandemic forces us to wake up and use this time to focus on what is important: God and eternal things. This is the time to refocus on God, to draw near to Him, and to reconnect with His Word. If there is sin in our lives, this is the moment to repent. It is also the time to be still to listen to God.*

*Leaders to pray for all members.*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

In this difficult period, we should persistently focus on God and not on the situation. Take advantage of this opportunity presented to us to reevaluate our lives and how we have been living as Christians. We should also continue to encourage and pray for each other.

**3. What practical actions can we take in our community to shine for Jesus? (Response) [15 min]**

**Leader's Notes:**

*In this pandemic, there has been instances of caring neighbours placing hand sanitisers in the lifts for communal use. We have seen frontline healthcare workers working tirelessly and police officers helping with contact tracing. How can we step up and serve our community and help those in need?*

*Some examples of what we can do:*

- *Intercede as priests and pray daily for the pandemic to stop.*
- *Exercise personal responsibility by keeping clean and staying at home if unwell.*
- *Share extra food or household items with neighbours you know who are quarantined or has a Stay-Home Notice.*
- *Allay the fear from our friends, family and colleagues. Don't speak fear but uplift them with faith-filled encouragements. Ask for permission to pray for them if the moment is right.*

Refer to this website for more ideas: <https://www.giving.sg/sgunited>

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

Make use of the pandemic to step out and show the community the glory of Christ. We are called to be the salt and light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). This is also the time to exercise our roles as priests (1 Peter 2:9) and intercede for the nations by praying daily for God to stop the pandemic and “to make all things work for good to those who love Him” (Romans 8:28).

---

## WORKS [10 min]

Let’s pray:

1. To intercede on behalf of the nations to stop the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To step out into the community and shine for God.
3. To keep our eyes on God and not on the situation before us, for our faith to strengthen so that we do not give in to fear and panic.

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Missions Weekends (15 & 22 Mar)

**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.