

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - Unprecedented (Part 2 of 2) **Date** - 05 April 2020
Topic - Uncommon: Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16) **Speaker** - SP 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. One Voice
 2. Glorious One
-

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. fully embrace our uncommon identity as salt of the earth and light of the world; and
2. actively find ways to serve the people around us in the current climate of fear and uncertainty.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. Jesus tells us our identity and calls us to be salty and well-lit people in our world; and
2. He places us here to live on a mission, i.e., to reveal Christ by making a difference, to push back darkness and corruption, and brilliantly shine the Gospel.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Every crisis is an open door to reveal God's love. Now more than ever, is our opportunity to reverse the decay and dispel the darkness in these unprecedented times. Two common change agents in the hands of an uncommon and almighty God can transform a fallen world. Jesus and His disciples did exactly that. As salt, our seasoning must be tasted. As light, our radiance must be seen. While people around us are hearing the hysteria of the pandemic news, we are to be sharing the hope of the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Principles Of An Uncommon Life

1. *Our Distinctiveness Makes A Difference (vv 13-15)*

Humanity without Christ is decomposing. Sin corrupts and kills. The world continues to rot and offends a holy God. But Jesus offers one solution – us! Salty and well-lit Christians obstruct the decay and slow the decomposition. A little salt can make a big difference in the taste of food. A little light can change a whole room from dark to bright. The common denominator of salt and light is their distinctiveness. Both carry enormous influence. Both have immediate impact. We are to be salty because the world is bland and corrupt. We are to shine because the world is dark and getting darker. As salt, our calm One in the midst of fear and anxiety will reassure others. As light, the truth we share will lead others out of darkness and despair. We make a difference by being different. What sets us apart from the world is our holiness (John 17:16,18).

2. We Are Called To Make A Difference Together (vv 13-15)

Jesus warned about losing our saltiness and hiding our light. The surest way to lose our influence is by compromise, and thus God's reputation takes a hit. In order not to let anything water down or dilute our impact for the Kingdom, we are to walk in the light and fellowship together (1 John 1:7). We are the flicker of a thousand lights in a city on a hill. The darker the world gets, the brighter we will shine. God has strategically placed us on lamp stands across Singapore and sprinkled us as salt throughout different neighbourhoods for a purpose. This partial lockdown in Singapore is God's sovereign plan for us to make a difference to the lives around us. We are to bring out the God-flavours of this earth and the God-colours of the world to others in this season.

3. Our Ultimate Purpose Is To Reveal Christ (vv 16)

We are given a mission to do good deeds so that God can be found and be glorified. We are to seek Him, to grow in Him, and to serve Him by serving others so that these lost children can find their Father. As light, we make the invisible God visible to those around us. When who we truly are is clearly seen by others, they will seek Him and find Him and glorify Him. They will see God's compassion in the way we serve the needy. They will see His patience in the way we deal with the hungry. They will see His holiness in the way we put sin to death and the way we walk through this world unstained by it. We are God's hands and feet to the hurting world because we are His masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10).

The life Jesus calls us to is an uncommon life. It's Kingdom living. It's a beautiful life we can all aspire to because it brings Him glory. If you're in any way discouraged by your saltlessness or darkness, remember that Jesus has already declared you salt and light. So press on, knowing that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you can obey His charge.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This week is the start of the 'circuit breaker' by our government to prevent local spread of COVID-19. Everyone in Singapore is affected in one way or another. What are your thoughts? Are you able to see any silver lining in the clouds, or a blessing in disguise?

Leaders' Notes

An ice-breaker question. It seems like this is all Singapore is talking about this week. 'Circuit breaker', 'lockdown', 'work from home', 'home-based learning', etc. Christians are not immune to the chatter as well, even though we are 'set apart' from the world. It's okay to talk about it as all of us have our lives disrupted too, including our children. Work and school have shifted to home, and we must all cope with these unprecedented and difficult changes.

It's okay to speak from your heart and share your thoughts and emotions. Be encouraged that the cell is a safe place to be honest. At the same time, be assured that we love one another anyway in spite of differences we may have.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving To The Next Question)

Thank God we all have a common denominator in our midst Who loves and accepts us regardless what happens – Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. And it is He we look to for wisdom in times like this. What has He called us to be and to do is of paramount importance in our journey as His disciples in this chaotic and broken world.

2. The purpose of salt in Biblical times was to prevent food from deteriorating. Today we use refrigeration. Are you more like salt – using your uncommon identity to rub on the decaying culture around you? Or are you like refrigeration – keeping your cool in your own box and staying safe in your little corner?

Leaders' Notes

A question for self-reflection. There is a lot of introspection and survival instincts going around, even among Christians. Instead of moving out of such self-centred thinking, some of us hunker down for self-preservation in this climate of fear. This is like salt losing its flavour and becoming useless. We are either salty or we are not. If Jesus calls us salt of the earth, we are not meant to stay in a salt container. If we do, we lose our purpose and our calling. This question is not meant to condemn us but to convict us to action. Crisis like this COVID-19 pandemic either brings out the best in us, or the worst in us. God expects nothing less than our best in the midst of calamity to serve the world in need.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving To The Next Question)

Like salt, we are uncommon people meant to go out there make good the common. If we just stay within the four walls of the church or the cell, we are “no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by man.” (Matthew 5:13). In other words, we become just like the world. But if we are distinct from the world as Jesus says we are, how then do we lean in and follow Christ in the midst of a fearful and anxious world? How do we serve vulnerable people and help those in need?

3. The Great Commandment calls us to love our neighbour. But who is our 'neighbour'? How might this look like for your cell group in this current climate? What are the immediate and practical things you can do in the 'circuit breaker' month ahead to express God's love to a 'neighbour'?

Leaders' Notes

A response question. Our role as believers is not only to maintain personal holiness, as important as it is, but also to touch the lives of our 'neighbours,' i.e., family, relatives, colleagues, bosses, friends, schoolmates, cleaners, cashiers, waiters, taxi drivers, etc. – in other words – everyone! Good deeds must accompany holy lives. Right beliefs must produce right behaviour. Faith without works is dead, admonishes James in chapter 2:26. We have a mandate to influence society and inspire culture with our biblical values. A simple way to reach out to a 'neighbour' today is to have a natural conversation about how he or she is doing in light of the government's 'circuit breaker' measures. Just be yourself and let your saltiness rub off and your light sparkle naturally. God will do the rest. But you must take the first step. 'Stay home' doesn't mean 'do nothing.' We can pick up the phone to call someone who needs an encouraging word. We can text an e-card of God's Word to a friend. And when

we do leave the house to get essentials, do remember that the person serving you is made in God's image and deserves your special treatment.

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

Our distinctiveness will make a difference, both individually and together, in such a time as this. But we will not make an iota of difference if we keep to ourselves. Remember, our ultimate purpose is to reveal Christ through our lives and give glory to Him.

Five ideas from Pastor Ben on how to make a difference in this season:

1. Think of a person a day to reach out to
2. Minister to the elderly
3. Help needy families*
4. Carry out acts of kindness
5. Bless foreign workers

**Be part of RiverLife Community Services' (RCS) new project to help needy families in this difficult time. You can contribute to RCS via the QR code as shown.*



WORKS [10 min]

Let's continue to pray for the COVID-19 situation:

1. For the sick and infected, and specifically for people whom you know personally who are infected or quarantined: God to heal and help, sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection among clusters.
2. For our vulnerable populations: God to protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease.
3. For the young and the strong: God to give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease.
4. For frontline health care workers: God to keep them safe and healthy. Keep their families safe and healthy.
5. For pastors and church leaders faced with the challenges of social distancing: God to help them to creatively imagine how to pastor their congregations.
6. For our cell to be active in community life during this season so that we can spur one another on in our faith and good deeds wherever we are. May the Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the Gospel, and that the name of Jesus might be glorified!

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.