

# Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

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**Series** - Mother's Day Message                      **Date** - 10-May-2020  
**Topic** - Spiritual Parenting (Acts 16:1-5)            **Speaker** - Ps Wang Tiak Kweng

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## WELCOME [15 min]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

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## WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Lord, I Offer My Life
  2. Reward
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## BIBLE READING PLAN [10 min]

Take some time to talk about the Bible Reading Plan. The time of sharing can include the following:

- a) How's everyone's progress so far?
- b) What are some things that God has spoken to you through the various readings?

### Wrap Up Sharing

In this season of PAUSE, we want to mature in the knowledge of God. To mature in our relationship with God would mean knowing Him and His ways better. To know Him better is to know His Word better. Therefore, let's get deeper in the Word during this PAUSE season and let us emerge from this season deeper and stronger in His Word.

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## WORD [45 min]

### Spiritual Objectives

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

1. embrace the idea of discipleship to disciple or be disciplined
2. embrace God's vision for the world

### Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. We are to make disciples of all nations. This begins by doing discipleship (spiritual parenting) within the church.
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2. We learn from Paul's discipling of Timothy: imitation (a life-transferring process of doing life and ministry together with Timothy), instruction (teaching of Biblical concepts, principles, values and perspectives to Timothy), and impartation (stirring up the passion for God's vision in Timothy to continue the work even after Paul has passed).
3. All these Paul modelled after Jesus's example. The important thing is that discipleship came naturally to Jesus and Paul; there is no formal structured programmes to 'motivate' them to do it. It was an entirely personal initiative done out of love and passion for doing God's work.

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

Christ's final command to us is to make disciples of all nations. This is achieved not primarily through church programmes and classroom lessons but through authentic and life-giving relationships. In the passage, Paul brought Timothy along for his second missionary journey, but they ended up on a life journey together. Paul was a spiritual parent to Timothy (Philippians 2:20-22).

#### **1. Imitation (through seeing)**

- A large part of spiritual parenting is to get your disciple to become like you in your lifestyle. He/she must be able to observe you up close. Paul's basic strategy was simply spending extended time doing life and ministry together.
- Paul believed that truth is caught more than taught. Spiritual parenting is a life-transferring process. Jesus did the same with His disciples as well. Almost every one of Jesus's disciples imitated Him to their deaths for the sake of the gospel.
- Paul encouraged Timothy to continue imitating him even after his death; to teach, do and live similarly (1 Corinthians 11:1). Spiritual parenting requires us to consciously and conscientiously imitate Christ.
- In practical terms, we take the initiative to make ourselves available and transparent to our charges – to do life and ministry together. We must also imitate Christ so that we can be credible mentors.

#### **2. Instruction (through hearing)**

- Spiritual parenting includes the intentional and careful passing on of Biblical concepts, principles, values and perspectives (2 Timothy 2:2) and helping our "spiritual children" live by them.
- Teaching is never a simple transference of knowledge. It also involves encouraging and edifying your "spiritual children" (2 Timothy 1:6). Going the extra mile to help them navigate and overcome roadblocks in their spiritual journey so that the process of instruction can carry on.

#### **3. Impartation (through feeling)**

- Setting our disciples on fire by imparting to them a vision of what God wants to do in the world. The vision of preaching the gospel is paramount to Paul, and he fulfilled it by laying down his rights and preferences to advance the vision (2 Timothy 1:8). This is something Timothy learnt from the beginning (Acts 16:3-4).
- As Timothy continued following Paul and learning from him more and more, he too grasped that vision. Besides teaching, spiritual parents must stir up the passion for Christ in their charges, for them to willingly surrender their lives for the gospel of Christ.

## Application

Instead of waiting for the church to start a spiritual parenting/discipleship programme, take the initiative to seek out your disciple. It could be someone in your cell group or a young member of the church. Start a mentoring relationship. Make yourself available to them, invest in their lives, and help them to catch a vision of God's work in the world. Do unto others what others has done for you.

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## Discussion Questions

1. **Think of one person who is like a spiritual parent to you, or someone who first led you to Christ or has played a huge part in your spiritual life. Share your experience with that individual – what did you learn from that person or how did he/she impact your life? (Recap)** [10 min]

### **Leader's Notes:**

*This question relates to the first principle of the sermon: imitation. Think about the time spent with this person. What are some of the habits, thinking, values, or perspective did you pick up from this person that you still do today? How has this person impacted your spiritual life and inspired your walk with God? Share with the group and learn from each other.*

### **Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)**

We have all seen the impact of spiritual parenting in our lives. What was learnt during this sharing session can be used to form part of the teaching in your own mentorship journey to your charges.

2. **What is God's vision for this world? How does spiritual parenting help to advance God's vision? (Relate, Reflect)** [15 min]

### **Leader's Notes:**

*The third principle is to impart God's vision and your passion to your "spiritual children". Therefore, it is important to know what God's vision for this world is so that it is clear what the mission is and where your passion should be. Once you have God's vision anchored down, you can begin spiritual parenting. God's vision can be found in Matthew 28:16-20.*

### **The Great Commission**

*<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

**- Matthew 28:16-20**

### **Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)**

It is only when we are clear on God's vision then we can begin doing God's work and spiritual parenting. Pray for us to embrace God's vision in our lives and to make it our mission.

3. **Reflect on your life. What are some of the strengths/gifts that you have which can benefit another believer should you become his/her spiritual parent? Also, what is one area in your life that you would need a spiritual parent to come in and journey with you so that he/she can help clear any roadblocks? (Response)** [15 min]

**Leader's Notes:**

*Ps Wang mentioned that besides the teaching of truths and Biblical concepts, the role of a spiritual parent is also to help their charges clear any roadblocks in their spiritual journey. One thing you would notice is that each of us has different gifts/strengths, and therefore, take the initiative to help build each other up in those areas where we are weak. It takes all of us to build the cell/church.*

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

We are called to make disciples of all nations. Challenge: Approach someone to journey with you as a spiritual parent (if you have not done so), and if you are approached to be a spiritual parent, be available for the sake of others and together, we can build the church strong!

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## **WORKS** [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. For spiritual parents to make themselves available and take the initiative to pray for disciples.
2. For faithful believers willing to be discipled and to seek out mentors on their own.
3. For spiritual hunger, spiritual fervour and spiritual fruit as we go through this season of COVID-19.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**1. Join us at our weekly online prayer gatherings:**

YOUTH | Tuesdays, 8-9pm LIVE on Instagram (@wearemegalife)

CHINESE | Wednesdays, 8-9pm, Zoom

ENGLISH (RiverLife Selah) Thursdays, 8-9pm LIVE on Facebook (@riverlifechurchsg)

**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.