



# WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

10 JAN 2021 | FRUITFULNESS IN TIMES OF FAMINE | GENESIS 26:1-14

Speaker: Elder Lee Ee Yang



## WELCOME

[15 MINS]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



## WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Here I Bow
2. Build My Life



## WORD

[45 MINS]

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Have a greater trust in God's nature and character despite uncertainties and difficulties
2. Examine our lives' alignment to God's order of things; and
3. Commit to keep investing our lives generously in God's Word fulfilling His purpose for us in our relationships.

### SERMON SUMMARY

As we start 2021, uncertainties brought about by COVID-19 continue to plaque the outlook for the future. How should we respond? Fruitfulness and blessings are the inheritance of every believer through the work of Christ. However, fear stands in the way of us fully experiencing fruitfulness and blessings. Elder Ee Yang outlines three

common fears that hold us back – the fear of lack, the fear of man and the fear of failure. Correspondingly, the ways we overcome these fears are to trust in God’s Word, follow God’s order of things and to keep sowing.

## SERMON RECAP

COVID-19 has brought about a global economic crisis that has spilled over to 2021. Similarly, [Genesis 26:1-14](#) speaks of a famine in the land and also, of God’s blessings in such times, even when we fall short of God’s standards by what we do. Fruitfulness and blessings are the inheritance of every believer through the work of Christ – see [John 15:16](#). Our worth is based on who we are, not what we do.

However, fear stands in the way of us fully experiencing God’s fruitfulness and blessings. Elder Ee Yang elaborated on 3 common fears:

**a. Fear Of Lack (vv 1-6) vs. Trust In God’s Word**

When there is a fear of lack, we tend to yield to our natural reflexes and responses. There is often a tension between God’s Word and our immediate situation. Would we be lifted up by God’s Word or choose to forfeit promises to fit our past experiences or our limited understanding? At such times, we need to choose faith over fear. God does not desire for His children to be in lack and scarcity, but in abundance and fruitfulness. Trust in God and His Word!

**b. Fear Of Men (vv 7-11) vs. Follow God’s Order Of Things**

The fear of men will cause us to compromise on God’s order of things and His priorities for our lives. We must examine our lives to see if we are aligned with His will. God’s order starts off with us placing Christ at the centre, followed by our marriages, our families, our vocations, and ministries. The world’s order is often upside down, pressuring us to place our work at the top. Thus, we risk making our work our primary identity – the trap of finding our worth in what we do or what standing or connections we have. For instance, if we are too busy to pray or worship God, we are too busy! Elder Ee Yang exhorted us to put God first and spend time with Him.

**c. Fear Of Failure (vv 12-14) vs. Keep Sowing!**

Sometimes we do not sow because of the fear of failure. We may be tempted to play it safe in a famine and stop sowing. Sowing involves giving and investing of our time, resources, and focus – see [2 Corinthians 9:6-8](#). To fully experience God’s fruitfulness, we must continue to sow and not be discouraged. Elder Ee Yang shared on 5 practical ways to sow:

- Invest in God’s Word
- Invest in our personal growth
- Invest financially in God’s Kingdom
- Invest in relationships
- Invest in pre-believers

Elder Ee Yang concluded by encouraging us to turn the natural fears that we have into the *fear* of the Lord. Let God’s love govern any natural fears that we have – see [1 John 4:18](#).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read [Genesis 26:1-14](#). In times of famine, we may be inclined to put our trust in things, other than God. When life gets stormy, what kind of things make you comfortable and secure? Elder Ee Yang also shared on 3 fears that prevent us from experiencing God’s fruitfulness, namely the fear of lack, fear of man and fear of failure. Relate on the fear that is the most challenging for you in the past year. [15 Mins]

### Leader’s Notes

This question reflects on the personal insecurities and vulnerabilities in our faith journey. Leaders can encourage members to honestly share about the fears they have and how these affect them at a deeper level. In relating these fears, members can also reflect on which things they have placed their security on – that is, what they are resting on instead of God. Fear can be viewed as a kind of mistrust in God. We cling on to other things because we wrongly believe that if we cling completely to God, He is not sufficient and will let us down.

### Transition

Fear limits hopes, dreams and callings. God desires for us to overcome fears by trusting in His Word. Only then, we can be in His will and experience the fruitfulness that He intends for every believer through the work of Jesus Christ. We must therefore choose and commit to grow spiritually!

- 2. Elder Ee Yang shared on God's order of things, contrasting it with the order that the world seems to value. Reflect on whether how you live is in alignment with what God's Word teaches and share with the Cell on areas that we want to focus on in 2021 to bring your life into alignment with God's order. [10 Mins]**

### Leader's Notes

God's order of things is placing God first, followed by marriage (for those who are married), family, vocation, and ministry. Members are encouraged to reflect whether the way we spend our time and focus our energies is aligned with God's order. This is not to stir up a guilt trip as we all fall short, but it is important as a community of believer to give one another encouragement and to hold ourselves accountable. This is so that we can be more and more sanctified in our spiritual journey – see [Hebrews 10:24-25](#).

In [Matthew 4:1-3](#), Jesus was tempted to prove His identity as the Son of God. Are we trying to do or accomplish things in our lives to be a "somebody" and prove our identity? Are we trying to win accolades or seek the approval of men? We are intrinsically valuable to God and we do not need to prove our identity as it has already been settled by God's Word. Elder Ee Yang shared two acronyms to help us focus on what is truly important:

TGIF = Today God Is First

TWG = Time With God.

### Transition

It is critical that we settle our hearts and minds on our purpose and goals in life. Only then can we order our lives accordingly, especially when faced with temptations and distractions. Once we choose and commit to God to follow His way, we can be focused on our spiritual pursuits and invest in what truly matters for now and from an eternal perspective.

- 3. Read [Isaiah 41:10](#) on God's promise to be with us in victorious living. Sometimes we do not sow because of fear. At the start of 2021, what do you plan to invest your time, focus and resources on? Share this with the Cell. [10 Mins]**

### Leader's Notes

This is a call to sow in faith even amid uncertainties and even, famine – see [2 Corinthians 9:6-8](#). God will bless us abundantly when we sow in faith. Practical ways we can consider for the new year are:

- Invest in God's Word (nurturing a relationship with Him),
- Invest in our own growth,
- Invest financially in God's kingdom,
- Invest in relationships (especially at home), and
- Invest in the lives of pre-believers.

Leaders can encourage members to break out into smaller groups to share and pray over these growth commitments, anchoring them as resolutions for the new year.

### Closing

[1 John 4:18](#) speaks of God's love driving out fear. God's love can overcome the fears when we let Him govern our lives. Ultimately, we must foster greater trust in the nature and character of God despite the uncertainty of the times.



Consider dividing the group into sub-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Pray that:
    - We do not yield to our natural reflexes and responses when faced with uncertainties. Instead, to trust in God's Word for His provisions for us.
    - We examine our lives to follow God's order of things which places priority on love and relationships, and not compromise and led astray by the world's value systems.
    - We may sow by investing our lives generously in God's Word, our growth, in relationships and in the lives of pre-believers.
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1. **Bible Reading Plan.** This year, we are commencing a Bible Reading Plan that will take you through the 66 Books in two years. There are also links to Additional Resources for the overview and key themes and lessons of each Book. You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
2. **TraceTogether.** The use of TraceTogether app or token for check-in to our church premises will be mandatory from Sat, 23 Jan.
3. **Abiding (5 Part Sermon Series).** Spiritual formation is empowered by God's Spirit. This means, as disciples, we walk in a lifestyle of: Fresh encounters with Jesus (John 8:12), frequent experiences of Scripture (Psalms 119:105), faithful engagement with God's people (Matthew 5:14). Join us as we journey through this message series that will help us build foundations. There will be a combination of timeless truth and timely direction for restoring balance, focus, and meaning within our souls.
4. **RiverLife Prayer Room.** We invite you, with your family or community, to set apart time and space amid the busyness of your week to pause, realign, and set our hearts to behold Jesus together. *Details - Wednesdays, 8pm to 9.30pm* (Live streamed from Worship Centre). Link: [rlc.sg/rpr-watch](https://rlc.sg/rpr-watch).



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;  
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."  
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

# Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

## 1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing  
mobile banking app.  
Scan this QR code on the right.

**SCAN ME**



## 2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:  
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0  
Bank Code: 7171  
Branch Code: 029

