



# WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

14 MAR 2021 | THE UNDERPRIVILEGED AND THE GOSPEL | 1 JOHN 3:16-18

Series: Sent | Speaker : Ps Ernie Song



## 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. Saviour King
2. Build My Life



## WORD

[45 MINS]

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. To reflect on how we as Christians have a part to play in loving the underprivileged
2. To think of practical ways where we can embark on loving the underprivileged.

### SERMON SUMMARY

Caring for the underprivileged is a natural fruit of the Christian's salvation and discipleship journey. The Bible instructs and shows us the importance of caring for the underprivileged. Pastor Ernie exhorts us by sharing with

us about the following: 1) Why the underprivileged should matter to us, 2) What it means to take care of the underprivileged and 3) how we and our cells can care for the underprivileged.

## SERMON RECAP

### Introduction (Mark 13:22)

The elect is led astray when they have painted a picture of Christ that seems nice but is not Christ-like – it is actually focused on their own self. Pastor Ernie shared that a lot of teachings have become self-focused, however we are to be others-centred, like Christ. One of the areas that Christians can be led astray is in their responsibility towards the underprivileged.

#### 1. Why Should The Underprivileged Matter To Us?

- The term “The Poor” used in Scripture includes those in poverty, widows, orphans, disabled, fatherless, diseased, aliens, slaves etc.
- Scripture tells us that God stands with the underprivileged. They have a special place in God’s heart.
- This is a consistent theme all throughout Scripture - in the laws of Moses, to the judgments of the prophets, to the teachings and example of Christ, the example of the early church and in the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation.
- Therefore, we cannot separate our faith from our responsibilities towards the underprivileged.
- Though our society has become more economically developed, we need to be mindful that there are others in our midst that need our support to empower them

#### 2. What Does It Mean To Take Care Of The Underprivileged?

- **Physical Needs**
  - Example of Christ: Jesus fed the hungry and healed the sick in Israel.
  - We can do the same by giving financially. Covid-19 has been a difficult time for us all; even more so for those whose work and family income has been severely reduced due to the pandemic.
  - Pastor Ernie shared about initiatives where RiverLifers gave to those in need
- **Psychologically**
  - Example of Christ: Jesus ministered to the hearts and spirits of the Israelites.
  - We need to note that the difficulties the underprivileged face are not just financial. It is a multifaceted issue.
  - Due to the stressors they face and limited support, they may come across as having reduced cognitive behaviour, where they may make decisions that may not seem practical. They may spend money on wanting to get the best for their situation, but struggle with thinking about the long term consequences of their actions.
  - During these times, it can be frustrating for those around them and it is normal to question their decisions.
  - This is where counselling comes in. If we provide counselling for the underprivileged, we can help them make better choices in life. This will help provide them perspective for those moments of desperation, with the hope of empowering them should they need to make similar decisions in the future.
- **Laws And Societal Norms**
  - Example of Christ: Jesus challenged the Pharisees as they were oppressing the underprivileged.
  - Pastor Ernie also shared that while all of us are in this race to be successful at life, not all of us have the same starting point due to our various family circumstances. The moment they are born, they are at a disadvantage because of their family situations.
  - Those who have been given an advantaged at the start of life (eg. good family situations, never having to worry about financial matters, etc) should not focus solely on trying to be successful in life, but to track back and help those who are at a disadvantage in life.

#### 3. Where Does It Mean For Us As A Church (James 2:14-18)?

- Loving others by our works is a natural fruit of being a disciple. In other words, although we are not saved by our works, when we are saved, we can’t help but do good works. It is a natural fruit.
- All of us can play a part in various areas. Pastor Ernie shared the various ways:
  - a) Financial Givers: We can give to RiverLife Community Services to continue to support them in the work.

- b) Volunteers: We (especially the retirees) can volunteer our time to support the various works of RCS in the community.
- c) Movers and Shakers in Society: Pastor Ernie encouraged those who have been placed in higher places to be an influence in advocating changes in policies or creating a workplace culture that is inclusive and cares for those in need.
- d) Intercessors: This is a spiritual issue and we need prayer warriors to pray for our land.
- e) Full Time calling: Pastor Ernie also encouraged those who are called to serve the needy full-time to continue to steward the call to serve those in society.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What is the reason a Christian would want to associate with those in need? As a cell, think of the possible struggles Christians may have in connecting and helping those in need.** [10 Mins]

### Leader's Notes

The first part is a relate question. Leaders can ask members to search for Bible verses that talk about the believer and how to interact with those in need. Leaders can ask members to reflect and share about their thoughts about these verses, or if any verse spoke to them.

Resource: <https://www.compassion.com/poverty/what-the-bible-says-about-poverty.htm>

Leaders can also encourage members to share about the struggles they may face in committing to giving to the poor – is it an issue of time? Commitment? While more practical steps can be explored in the response question, leaders can also affirm members who had previously tried to reach to those in need.

For leaders to note: Some of the members may have had real struggles working with some of the needy they interacted in the past i.e. frustrations in relating to the needy due to their decision making, issues with healthy boundaries (e.g. the person might have taken up a lot of their emotional time and space.) It could also be the structure of giving (e.g. too much time commitment that may have made it exhausting for the person.)

### Transition

Caring for the underprivileged is a natural fruit that comes as we reflect upon God's love for us. Loving others is not a bed of roses and there can be challenges at times. However, we are not alone in this journey - we can always find a support and sounding board in each other as we grow to become more like Christ in loving the underprivileged.

2. **What are our attitudes towards loving the underprivileged? What is the reason God wants us to care for the underprivileged? What are some possible lessons God wishes to teach or show 1) us as His people, 2) those in need and 3) the world?** [10 Mins]

### Leader's Notes

The first part is a relate question. Leaders can get members to think briefly about our attitudes towards the underprivileged. Is there an us-them divide? How similar and different are we? Members can share about times where they had spent reaching out to those who are underprivileged – what their experience was, what were the lessons they learnt. Though we are the ones who give and bless, there are times where the resilience and quiet strength of these people inspire us.

The second part of the question is for members to reflect and be curious about the possible reasons God wants us to partner with Him in caring for those in need. What are some lessons God desires for us to learn – is it to learn to worship Him in our actions by loving our neighbour and learning to have a heart like His? Is it about learning to be outward looking and to focus on building what lasts for eternity instead of hoarding things for our own security? Is it for the lost or those underprivileged to know the love of God through the tangible actions and presence of the Church? For the world, is it because “our lives are the only Bible many people ever read” (William J. Toms)? Leaders can get members to share their own thoughts and reflections and expand on it aside from what has been mentioned here in the leader's notes.

Resource: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/january/what-your-church-can-do-to-care-for-poor-guest-post-from-ar.html>

### Transition

The underprivileged have a special place in God's heart – may we have a heart like His and hold them in special regard as well. Caring for the underprivileged is a fruit of our salvation and discipleship journey.

### 3. **What is one way you and your cell can embark on to care for the underprivileged?** [15 Mins]

#### Leader's Notes

*This is a response question for the cell to ponder and think about one step they can do to love the underprivileged. This is a question that members may have been asked many times. Leaders can first ask members to share about past experiences they may have had, and if these are steps they wish to continue doing or start doing again. Members who are presently caring for the underprivileged can also share about their experiences. Members can also think about what Pastor Ernie suggested or join in initiatives started by the church. Members can also think about starting small i.e. praying for / reading up about the church's local community outreach or overseas missions efforts.*

#### Closing

We ourselves were once blind, but have been saved by grace. We have reconciled back to God by the blood of the lamb. May we see the great privilege we have been given to become children of God, and may we be reminded that we have been blessed to be blessings. Even as we reach out to the underprivileged, may it be out of a heart of gratitude towards God and out of joy and wisdom to be His hands and feet in a broken world. May we also have eyes of love to see these people as we all are: Imago Dei, in His image.



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

1. RiverLifers will reach out and make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged in our communities.
2. God will continue to bring the COVID-19 pandemic to a halt.
3. For those who are struggling financially in our midst.



1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
2. **Alpha Online**  
Upcoming run starting, 15 Apr, Thursday (12 Sessions)  
Register at [rlc.sg/ao-reg](https://rlc.sg/ao-reg) by 5 Apr. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).
3. **Joining The Family**  
Sat, 24 Apr | 10.30am-12.30pm | In-person at Faith Chapel (Level 2)  
Sign up online at [rlc.sg/jointhefam](https://rlc.sg/jointhefam) by Sun, 11 Apr. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).

4. **RiverLife Community Services.** Here are some opportunities for you and your cells to be involved in reaching out to the underprivileged.

- a. **VOLUNTEER.** 12 BLESS Family volunteers needed, 8 BLESS Care volunteers needed. Main role is to befriend and journal with families and elderly. Sign up or find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/rcsvolunteer>
- b. **FINANCIAL BACKER.** You can support the work of RCS financially by using the QR Code below.
- c. **RCS FAMILY RUN.** Find out more on how you can participate through the QR Code below.



RCS Donations



RCS Family Run



RCS Newsletter



"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

