



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

25 APR 2021 | LET MY PEOPLE GO | EXODUS 6:1-8

Series : Journeying With God | 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. Purify My Heart
2. Build My Life



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Know our identity and know that we belong to God.
2. Respond rightly in our heart and mind to prepare ourselves for God's deliverance.

SERMON SUMMARY

RiverLife is entering into a season of consecration – a time where we allow our hearts to be purified at His altar – for our ungodly desires to die and His desires for us to be birthed. One vital truth to know is that YOU BELONG TO GOD. You cannot give yourself to God until you understand that you belong to Him. The journey of the Israelites out of Egypt is similar to the journey of consecration:

- Israel suffered from an identity crisis (do they belong to the Egyptians or God?) – we don't know our identity as God's people
- Israel was enslaved by Egypt – we are enslaved by the world
- God wants to set His people free to worship Him – God wants to set us free to worship Him

To prepare the Israelites (and us) for deliverance, God revealed Who He is and His purposes for them (and us). The correct response would be to fully devote ourselves to the One we belong to for Him to work in and through us.

SERMON RECAP

We are entering into a season of consecration as a church. To make sense of consecration, you must understand one fundamental truth: YOU BELONG TO GOD. Consecration means giving of ourselves unto God.

Israel's Predicament

The Israelites cried out to God in their groaning.

*“Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God. So, God **heard** their groaning; and God **remembered** His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God saw the sons of Israel, and God **took notice** of them.” - Exodus 2:23 (NASB)*

God's ears, mind and eyes were fully engaged in Israel's predicament. The word “took notice” is *yada* in Hebrew, which means to know intimately or deeply. God was a concerned Father toward the sons of Israel, who were in such bondage and oppression that they do not have the freedom to enjoy any relationship with God.

The problem with Israel: An Identity Crisis

Moses was called to lead Israel out of Egypt, to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation ([Exodus 19:6](#)). That is Israel's destiny, to be holy and righteous before God and before man. The world defines holiness as having the proper conduct: don't smoke, don't drink, don't gamble and don't womanise. But holiness is more profound than that. Holiness means being separated from sin and evil and being set apart for God's use.

In our journey of being holy, an important starting point is **KNOWING OUR IDENTITY**.

Moses represents Israel's identity crisis. Moses was born a Hebrew but brought up as an Egyptian. However, his destiny was to learn how to shed his identity as the Prince of Egypt and embrace his identity as the Son of Israel.

The people of God are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God ([1 Peter 2:9](#)). Having the right identity means understanding who we belong to. We don't belong to the world and the culture around us. We belong to God and thus are defined by God's truth, who God is, and what He says in His Word. We don't have a separate identity apart from God.

What does Egypt represent?

Egypt represents independence from God. The culture of Egypt tells us that man is the king of his own destiny. God, the source of truth, has been relegated and side-lined. Independence leads to separation.

God created us to be absolutely dependent on Him. The enemy wants to take away our inheritance of being in a love relationship with God. Like Adam and Eve, we are deceived into finding fulfilment without God. Some pursue money, pleasure, power, illicit relationships with people. The pursuit of things that ultimately doesn't satisfy is the result of an identity crisis. We have forgotten who we belong to and what will ultimately fulfil us. The God-shaped void in us can only be filled by being in a love relationship with God.

“And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage – in mortar, in brick and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigour.” - Exodus 1:14 (NASB)

Brick and mortar represent the spirit of Egypt. Man-made materials, self-effort, self-glorification. We want to make a name for ourselves (like the Tower of Babel). We are enslaved to the principalities of this world. We become

susceptible to the temptation, the deception, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. We become highly stressed, anxious, and fearful. We cast our eyes and ears on the wrong things and end up in habitual sin. We opened doors in our lives that attract spiritual oppression.

The good news is that God wants to deliver us from sin and bondage. God told Pharaoh through Moses, "Let my people go, that they may worship me". God desires to set His people free to worship Him. However, before deliverance, God has to get the Israelites to a place where they want to be delivered. Deliverance involves co-operation from the people.

God reveals two things about himself to His people to prepare them to be delivered.

1. God reveals His Person to His people – who He is

Abraham knew God as El Shaddai, God almighty. He is transcendent; He is immanent; He is infinitely greater. I AM is consistent with what God has revealed. God is self-existent, eternal and immutable.

But God is showing another side to Moses: a covenant-keeping God. He is not remote or aloof to His people. He is near them and intimately present. He is a personal and loving God. He is attentive and concerned for His people. He has seen the burdens of His people, and He will act to set them free. WE BELONG to such a God.

2. God reveals His Purposes for His people

Even though Israel is in bondage, oppressed, and so far from the destiny God has for them, it is part of the journey that God has prepared. God has not forgotten about the promises He made to Abraham. He will make good His promises to Israel.

In this context, God gave Moses seven promises. The seven "I will":

a. **Take you out of bondage** – Deliver you from sin and its consequences

- I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.
- I will free you from being slaves to them, and
- I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.

b. **Take you for my people** – Establish an intimate relationship with you

- I will take you as my own people, and
- I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

c. **Take you into the promised land** – Shower blessings upon you, exalt you above all people

- And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.
- I will give it to you as a possession.

What was the Israelites' immediate response?

They didn't believe Moses. They didn't listen to Moses because of the harsh slavery and their broken spirit. They were trapped in their pain, their affliction, their disappointment.

How about us as 21st century Christians? We may not be under forced labour, but we show symptoms of being trapped under the bondage of self-effort and performance.

In our situations, God is telling us that:

- He is a loving, covenant-keeping God
- He knows our present spiritual struggles and bondages
- He wants us to set us free from our sins and bondages
- He will do all things to deliver us if we only allow Him to

- More than that, He wants to bring you into an intimate relationship with Him and cause all His goodness to enter your life

We need to have the correct response before God. Flow with God's plan. Don't be a stumbling block to what He wants to accomplish in your life. Take this journey of being taken out of Egypt, into greater intimacy with God, and seeing God's promises fulfilled in your life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What are the implications of knowing that you belong to God? How does that change your perspective of your life right now?** [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

When we know that we belong to God, how we live changes, the key distinctive characteristic of belonging to God is holiness – being separated from sin and evil and being set apart for God's use. We forgo the old ways of living when we are born again as God's children. Belonging to God means that only He can fulfil us. Only He can satisfy that deepest need we all have – to be loved by God and enjoy deep fellowship and intimacy with God. *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* (Matthew 6:33)

Considering that, your perspective of your life should change. Take Paul, for example. When he was saved, a massive transformation took place in him. He completely surrendered his life to God, and in everything he did, he did it in service to God. He devoted his born-again life to living for God because he knew WHO he belonged to.

Transition

When you truly know who you belong to, you will start to transform, and how you live your life will change.

2. **Why do you think Israel responded in unbelief? Do we have the same response towards God's promises and purposes to us? How do we respond rightly?** [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

Most of the time, when we are deep in pain and affliction, we cannot see God and feel His presence. We don't remember His promises to us amid trials and suffering, and we forget His past goodness. However, remember that God is always with us. He is always listening and attentive to our situation, like how He heard Israel's cries and responded. He is also a promise-keeping God and a way maker. He wants to set us free and will do all things to deliver us, but we must allow Him. We need to cooperate with God. When we remain faithful to God in our hardship, He remains faithful to us.

In our suffering:

- How can we stay steadfast and continue to trust in Him?
- How can we continue to praise Him?
- How do we centre our focus on Him?

"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." - **Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)**.

Transition

It is challenging to keep our eyes on God when our emotions and situations overwhelm us. We have to fight to believe, continue trusting, and never give up worshipping and praising Him. Don't allow the enemy to steal to kill and destroy our love relationship with God.

3. **As God delivered Israel from slavery, what spiritual bondage(s) do we want God to free us from?** [15 Mins]

Leader's Notes

Read this resource on what spiritual bondage is: [What is spiritual bondage? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/What-is-spiritual-bondage/)

Although we are believers of God, the devil continues to attack us and tempt us to sin. An important question to ask your members first is whether they *want* to be free from those bondage(s). Then follow up with reflecting what bondage(s) they want God to deliver them from. Some bondages could be lust, anger, unforgiveness, pride, covetousness, etc. When we hold onto these bondages, we are not free to worship God. We cannot worship Him wholeheartedly. We cannot give ourselves entirely to Him. The devil's stronghold(s) is still within. Part of walking in the journey of consecration is to commit ourselves to remove these strongholds from our lives.

Wrap up this question with a prayer from God to work in us, purify us, and deliver us from these bondages.

Closing

In preparation for consecration, we want to present ourselves holy and unblemished on His altar – to give ourselves entirely to His purposes. That can only be achieved when we genuinely desire purification and surrender everything to God.



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

1. Sermon Application
 - We will commit to breaking free from spiritual bondage.
 - We will prepare our hearts for consecration.
 2. Myanmar
 - Continue to pray for peace and good governance to return to the country.
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1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
2. **Season of Consecration.** As part of the call to consecrate, we are rallying every RiverLifer to read the book [Crazy Love](#) by Francis Chan in June. This is to prepare our hearts for the Special e-Gathering and sermon series based on the book in July. The call to consecrate calendar:
 - 2 - 31 May - 30 Days of Prayer & Fasting
 - 5, 12, 19 & 26 May – Consecrate Nights on Wednesdays (8.30pm to 9.30pm)
 - 1 - 30 Jun – Read and reflect on Crazy Love by Francis Chan
 - 3 July (SAT) – Special e-Gathering with Francis Chan
 - A four-part Consecrate sermon series will run on Sundays from April to August.



"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

