



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

2 MAY 2021 | THE CALL TO COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP | EXODUS 19:3-8

Series : Journeying With God | Speaker : Pastor Ben KC Lee



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. Reflect and be thankful of God's goodness in our lives,
2. Know what God requires and promises in the new covenant, and
3. Respond by embracing in faith this covenantal relationship with God.

SERMON SUMMARY

The story of Exodus is the account of God's covenantal faithfulness to Himself and His people. Though this covenant has been replaced by a new and better covenant made through the blood of Christ, there are instructive lessons for us. God initiates a covenant relationship within the framework of grace. This is an intimate relationship that is opposite of a casual, on-off relationship. He is going to bind Himself to certain promises He would make to Israel. In return, the people were to bind themselves to certain obligations unto God. He calls us into a unique covenant relationship which is to be embraced by faith.

SERMON RECAP

The story of Exodus is the account of God's covenantal faithfulness to Himself and His people. A covenant is a coming together. For instance, marriage is a covenant for life. Though God's covenant with us may seem bilateral, it is unilateral as God initiates the relationship and provides ALL the benefits. In this unique, covenantal relationship, we are called into His presence. Pastor Ben Lee then taught on the following key points about God's covenant as illustrated in [Exodus 19:3-8](#):

1. What God has done (v.4)

- What he did to the Egyptians.
- How He bore them on eagle's wings.
- Where He brought them, to Himself.

These reveal God's divine and covenantal love. He wants to bring us out to bring us in. He frees us from slavery and bondage. We can therefore live free as we head to the *Promised Land*. Pastor Ben Lee shared a personal testimony of God's protection in his growing up years in a foreign country battling loneliness and waywardness. Despite being tempted and making many mistakes along the way, God protected him and brought him to His presence. See [Colossians 1:13-14](#).

2. What God requires (v.5a)

- Obey Him fully
- Keep His covenant

Obedience is in response to what God has done and to His love for us. Our salvation is secured as God has saved us. We need to work out this salvation. See [Philippians 2:12](#). Pastor Ben Lee also shared about his mother's constant tender-heartedness toward God which touched him and prevented him from making serious mistakes at critical decision points. Her prayers also led him to return to the Lord! God changes our hearts when He saves us, which then leads to true and complete transformation over time.

3. What God promises (v.5b-6)

- You are God's special treasure. **[POSITION]**
- You are God's priests who form His kingdom. **[PURPOSE]**
- You are a holy nation for God's service exclusively. **[PRACTICE]**

We are CHOSEN by God despite our pasts. All believers are to be God's priests. Similar to what was taught in the Old Testament, we can approach God personally – God is near and close. God will provide a way out for us when we are tempted to sin. We are destined to display God's work amongst the nations. God has prepared each of us for our assignment from the beginning! See [1 Peter 2:9-12](#). In God's kingdom, even responsibilities are privileges. We are special even before we do anything. God has His purpose for us not because we are good, but He is! And He loves us despite us not being lovable or worthy. He invites us into intimacy so we can experience God's love and goodness!

4. How we respond to God (v.7-8)

In summary, God initiates a covenant relationship within the framework of grace. This is an intimate relationship that is opposite of a casual, on-off relationship. He is going to bind Himself to certain promises He would make to Israel. In return, the people were to bind themselves to certain obligations unto God. He calls us into a unique covenant relationship which is to be embraced by faith.

Let us commit together: "We will do everything the LORD has said." See [Philippians 2:13](#). Even when we fail, God does not. God even takes care of our failures as we journey with Him. Pastor Ben Lee challenges us to set aside time and space to get close to God. God wants to give of Himself to you. God is still calling today! What is your response?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **We are God's treasured possession. Reflect on what God has done in our lives and share with the cell what you are grateful to God for.** [\[10 Mins\]](#)

Leader's Notes

In the first sermon of the current series, Elder Ee Yang taught us that knowing we belong to God changes our perspective in life. In this second sermon of the series, Pastor Ben Lee shared from Exodus 19:5 that we are God's treasured possession. What does this mean? How do we feel to be treasured and loved? It is a good exercise for members to reflect on God's goodness in our lives. These do not have to be spectacular or outwardly miraculous, but they should be personal! Our worship of God becomes more intimate when we share with one another personal testimonies of God's hand in freeing us from our struggles, bondages, or strongholds.

Transition

God calls us to a special covenantal relationship. See [Romans 5:8](#) - He initiates even when we were rebellious and unworthy of His love. This relationship with God needs to be front and centre of our life journeys. The next question looks at the nature of this relationship.

2. **Read [Exodus 19:5](#). What does God require? What does He promise? What is the nature of this covenantal relationship?** [\[10 Mins\]](#)

Leader's Notes

As we commit to journey with God in this season of consecration, it is important to reflect and know the nature of our relationship with Him. God makes a covenant with His people. A covenant is a chosen relationship in which two parties make binding promises to each other. See the resource, "[Covenants: The Backbone of the Bible](#)" by Whitney Woollard for a further understanding on Biblical covenants.

God initiates this covenantal relationship with us under grace, even when we were still sinners and unworthy of His love – see [Romans 5:6-8](#). God had delivered Israel from the bondages of slavery in Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. Similarly, in our lives, God has delivered us from the oppressions and darkness of sin so that we can have a new, eternal life filled with His love, His freedom and His light! God requires us to obey Him fully and keep His covenant in our walk with Him. His promise to us is that we will be His treasured possession, His priests who form His kingdom and a holy nation – set apart for Him.

Transition

Knowing that we are called to this covenantal relationship would help us understand that the relationship offers both privileges and responsibilities. When one fails to understand this, one will be tempted to live a licentious life, seeking only to enjoy the privileges of grace without taking on the responsibilities to fulfil God's requirements. The next question discusses further on living as His priests who form His kingdom.

3. In what sense are you a royal priest? How do you live as a priest? In what areas can your personal priestly function grow? [15 Mins]

Leader's Notes

The Bible talks of all believers being called to be priests. This may not be immediately intuitive to us as we may consciously or subconsciously divide our lives into the spiritual and secular, and consequently apply differing expectations or standards for behaviour and conduct. [1 Peter 2:5-9](#) makes it clear that we are chosen and called to royal priesthood. All believers in Christ share in His priestly status; therefore, there is no special class of people who mediate the knowledge, presence and forgiveness of Christ to the rest of believers. We all have the right and obligation to read, interpret and apply the teachings of God's Word.

Priests perform many roles but in essence, we are invited to come into God's house and enjoy His presence. As priests, we are called to live differently and to minister to the people that God has placed us with. In the Old Testament, priests brought the sacrifices into the tabernacle. Now, we are all priests in the new spiritual house – the Church – and must offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God as His priests. See also the resource "[Becoming a Spiritual House and Holy Priesthood](#)" by John Piper who wrote, *"If we are going to be a spiritual temple for God's presence, and if we are going to be a holy priesthood, and if we are going to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God, then we must day-by-day, hour-by-hour come to Christ. We must taste His kindness by feeding on His Word—His promises, His commands, His teachings, His warnings—until we are so filled with Him that His Word will dwell among us richly as we teach and admonish one another with thankfulness in our hearts to God."*

Closing

God's covenant is embraced by faith. Let us as His people commit together, as in Exodus 19:8, "We will do everything the LORD has said" and consecrate ourselves for His Kingdom purpose!



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 always have a heart of thankfulness for what God has done by delivering us from the domain of darkness so that we have a living hope in Jesus Christ.
- Through Jesus Christ, we have the strength to keep God's covenant and obey Him wholeheartedly.
- In response to God, we would say yes to greater intimacy with Him and that we will love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- The COVID-19 situation in Singapore would be under control and that we would revert to having low infection in the community and dormitories.
- Continued progress in Singapore to overcome the negative economic and social impact of the current crisis.

3. COVID-19 in South Asia

- Swift end to the COVID-19 crisis in the world, especially in India and the rest of South Asia.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for the healthcare professionals who are at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage and strength to confront this crisis.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

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.

There is a weekly reflection guide available on our *Becoming 30* website at rlc.sg/becoming30 that you can use as you journey through the 30 days of Prayer & Fasting.

3. **Water Baptism Class.** Sat, 29 May. You can register online via rlc.sg/baptism-class.
4. **AGM 2021.** This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held digitally on Sun, 20 Jun. Leadership members will be invited to attend. To help facilitate the dispatch of AGM documents, please inform us if you have changed your residential or email address.



"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

