



# WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

15 AUG 2021 | HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE? | 1 PETER 4:7 – 11

Series: Following Christ | Speaker: Pastor Joachim Tan



## 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. Hosanna
2. Make a Difference



## WORD

[45 MINS]

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Reflect on the three charges Peter gave to the Church in the end times.
2. Take practical action steps to bless our local communities and/or the nations.

### SERMON SUMMARY

In 1 Peter, believers are taught to live victoriously in the light of persecution and to be ready for His second coming. From 1 Peter, Ps Joachim noted 3 charges Peter gives to the Church to live ready for the end times.

1. Pray Intensely ([v. 7](#))

- For believers to be mindful about the quality of our prayer lives – Prayer is crucial in our spiritual walk, let us take it seriously and to be watchful about what God is doing in our world.
2. Love Fervently ([v. 8-9](#))
    - For believers to be mindful about those around us and to consider how we can love others (especially those who have yet to know him).
  3. Serve Generously ([v. 10](#))
    - For us to use the gifts and talents we have to edify the church, to bless the poor and to advance the Kingdom.

Ps Joachim also shared about a RiverLife Missions initiative (#MissionfromHome) and encourages members to join a team or to support their fundraising efforts. Aside from overseas mission work, Ps Joachim also encouraged members who are interested to serve local communities to sign up for RLCares (details are in the Announcement section below).

## SERMON RECAP

*“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.” – C.S. Lewis*

The purpose of 1 Peter was to teach believers to live victoriously in light of persecution and to be ready for His second coming. Traditions recorded that the apostle Peter had to watch his wife’s crucifixion. It was recorded that he told her “Remember the Lord”. It also recorded that when the apostle Peter was to be crucified, he pleaded to be crucified upside down as he did not deem himself worthy of dying the same way as the Lord Jesus Christ.

How are we to live in the last days? We find the answer in [1 Peter 4:7-11](#). The greek word for “End” is telos - it is the idea of fulfilment, hope realised, and the realisation of all things that had been promised. Jesus expects us to be ready for the coming of the Lord. ([2 Peter 3:14 \[NIV\]](#) and [Luke 12:35-37 \[NASB\]](#)).

*“Every generation since then has lived in that same expectancy; the expectancy of the second coming of Jesus Christ. And to not do that is not to be a faithful Church.” – John MacArthur*

Ps Joachim noted three charges Peter gives to the Church to live ready for the end times.

### 1. Pray Intensely ([v. 7](#))

- The apostle Peter exhorted them to be serious and watchful in their prayers.
- How is our attitude towards prayer? Have we taken the importance of prayer lightly, or has prayer become something so routine that we do not care whether God answers our prayers?
- Pastor Joachim also shared the example of how the twelve disciples had fallen asleep in the garden of Gethsemane, against Jesus’ instruction to keep watch.
- We are exhorted to be mindful about the quality of our prayer lives, as our prayers determine the closeness of our relationship with God.
- *“You can go through the motions of devotions, but there is an erosion of devotion inside of you.”- Skip Heitzig*
- Many of us may have experienced feeling jaded due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our walk with God.
- Pastor Joachim shared another preacher’s observation about dating and married couples. The dating couples are the ones engaged in conversations and actively spending time together. When we are in love, we desire to spend time talking to the one we love. Is this a befitting reflection to the relationship we have with God?

### 2. Love Fervently ([v. 8-9](#))

- Pastor Joachim picked out three key words from these verses

- “Fervent” in verse 8 means “strenuously” and would describe a horse at full gallop (in ancient times). It is also a descriptor for athletes who would give their all to run the race. We are encouraged to be proactive to love others with all our hearts.
- “Hospitality” is a New Testament word that literally means “loving the stranger in practical ways” – to be loving, compassionate, kind and generous to strangers, or people we do not know. It is embracing the fact that we are to love people outside of our normal circles. *“It is not only to open our homes but our hearts to them (strangers).”* – John Macarthur. These include the nations and the local communities in Singapore.
- Let us be mindful about those around us and to consider how we can love others (especially those who have yet to know him).

### 3. Serve Generously (v. 10)

- We have all been given gifts to edify the church, to bless the poor and to advance the Kingdom.
- Pastor Joachim shared about how God’s church is beautiful - she is a reflection of God’s beauty and love as we live out these three charges in a fallen world.
- *“When prayer is fervent, when love is preeminent, and when serving in prominent, then God is glorified, the Church is edified and the world is notified that God is real!”* – Skip Heitzig

In verse 11, Pastor Joachim also reminded us of the importance of serving “with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”

Through his preaching, Pastor Joachim shared about the struggles faced by the various countries and by the churches in the countries. The struggles include: people dying due to the Covid-19 situation, churches without a shepherd as the pastors were dying as well, children being sold as brides at a young age due to poverty and to cope with the pandemic issues etc. Pastor Joachim also shared encouraging stories about how MFH teams came together to intercede for the pastors and contributed financially to meet the needs of the people there. He also stressed the importance of doing prevention work – setting aside funds to practically address the needs of the nations. Members can consider signing up for RiverLife’s Missions initiative (#Missions from Home, MFH) – they can join a team or to support the various fundraising efforts.

Aside from overseas mission work, Ps Joachim also encouraged members who are interested to serve local communities to sign up for RLCares (details are in the Announcement section below).

God has blessed us so much – let our hearts break for what breaks His, and let us partner with Him in the harvest field. Let us ignite our prayer life, give generously, love the local communities and the nations!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Pastor Joachim shared that we are in the end times. Do you agree with this? What are your thoughts / reflections as we see and hear what is happening around the world today? OR Share your experience on a mission trip - How was the experience for you as you worked together with other believers in reaching the lost and blessing the body of Christ? [10 Mins]**

### Leader’s Notes

This is a reflect and response question for members to share their thoughts on the end times – how does living with this view shape their decisions and lifestyle? Leaders can also ask members to share their thoughts on the happenings in our world – does it make them feel pessimistic or riled up to take action and pray?

For the second question, leaders can get members to share about their experiences serving in mission trips. Members can share about their experiences working and serving together – how did individuals with different strengths come together? What were the challenges and lessons learnt?

### Transition

As we reflect on the end times, let us also consider how we are to live. OR As we hear about the experiences of those who have gone on mission trips, it is a reflection of how we are moulded and refined through our service, and we see how God desires to use the church to bless the lost.

2. **Pastor Joachim pointed out 3 charges in 1 Peter – to pray intensely, to love fervently and give generously. Is there a charge that you resonate with and desire to grow in?**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and relate question for members to consider. Members can choose to reflect on a) the quality of their prayer life, b) how they are loving the strangers in their midst and c) how they are blessing the lost. The cell can consider how these 3 charges would be played out in their everyday lives and which charge they would like to focus on building as we stay alert in these end times.

Transition

As we consider an aspect to grow in, let us consider how we can take an action step in showing hospitality to the local communities in Singapore or the nations.

3. **Pastor Joachim spoke about Missions from Home / RLCares. Would this be something we as RiverLifers can consider for this season? If yes, which one will you be signing up for? If not, is there something else you feel led to devote your time towards?**

Leader's Notes

A response question for members to share an action step. Leaders can get members to read the RiverLife website to find out more about the various #MFH teams and projects, and to find out more about RLCares. Leaders can ask members to consider if there are any queries they may have about participating in these, and how the cell can come together to encourage one another.

You can consider directing your member towards the following articles to help them have a better picture of the impact of COVID-19 among South East Asian countries:

- [Myanmar](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Malaysia](#)
- [Philippines](#)
- [Singapore](#)

Closing

We are approaching the end times and it is important to prepare ourselves to be ready to live victoriously in the light of persecution. In the difficult times, all the more we as the Church need to rise up to live lives that point others to God through our actions. As we love fervently and serve generously, it is also important for us to grow deep in our walk with God through prayer (praying intensely).



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

1. **Sermon Application**

- For wisdom to discern and reflect on where we are in the race
- For God to grant us singlemindedness, zeal and fervour to pursue wholeheartedly after Him

2. **COVID-19 in Singapore**

- a. Pray against the spread amongst the various clusters.
- b. Pray that the spread of the Delta variant will be stopped as well.

- c. Continued progress in Singapore to overcome the negative economic and social impact of the current crisis.
- d. Pray for those whose livelihood have been directly impacted by this pandemic especially those in F&B.
- e. Pray for the mental wellbeing of Singaporeans as the disruption by the pandemic has affected many e.g. those in the education system etc.

### 3. COVID-19 in the World

- a. A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, especially in India and the rest of South Asia.
- b. Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- c. Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals 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. **Joining The Family.** Sat, 11 Sep | 10.30am-12.30pm | In-person at Faith Chapel (Level 2)  
Sign up online at [rlc.sg/jointhefam](http://rlc.sg/jointhefam) by Sun, 29 Aug. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).
3. **Missions from Home.** What does Missions look like when we're unable to travel? We believe God is calling RiverLifers to sow continually and faithfully into the nations by partnering Him and adapting in the way we approach Missions. We have 104 RiverLifers who have signed up for 9 MFH teams, reaching out to India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand. Over the next few months, they will be collaborating with our Missions Partners to develop missions projects that provide prayer support, resources and raise awareness for their ministries. We encourage all to get involved by praying, giving, or serving. Find out more about the different countries we're working with: [rlc.sg/mfh](http://rlc.sg/mfh). Join a MFH team: [rlc.sg/mfh-serve](http://rlc.sg/mfh-serve)
4. **RCS.** Our RiverLife Cares initiative will continue with food distribution on the following dates: 11 Sep (Tampines Street 45, Blk 492E and 492F), 26 Sep, Sun (Tampines Street 44, Blk 466). If you are interested in joining the team to distribute food, do email the RCS team at [rlcares@rsc.org.sg](mailto:rlcares@rsc.org.sg).
5. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
6. **Alpha Online.** 2 Sep to 20 Nov. 12 Sessions. Thursday zoom sessions (8.00pm - 9.30pm): 2, 9, 16, 23 Sep | 7, 14, 28 Oct | 11 Nov Sunday in-person sessions: 2, 23 Oct | 20 Nov. Sign up online at [rlc.sg/ao-reg](http://rlc.sg/ao-reg) by Tues, 17 Aug. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).
7. **The Behold Album.** The RiverLife Worship team has launched a new album titled 'Behold'. Listen to the album and access chords and lyrics for the songs: [rlc.sg/thebeholdalbum](http://rlc.sg/thebeholdalbum)

## ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

**1. PayNow**

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this *QR code* on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200100806D*.

**2. Interbank Transfer**

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



## ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

**1. PayNow**

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this *QR code* on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200711586WDON*

