



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

17 OCT 2021 | THE BEST TIME EVER! | MATTHEW 24:30-35

Series : Jesus is Coming Back | Speaker : Pastor Lionel Goh



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. The Return
-



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Remember that God loves us and He will deliver us from evil in times of troubles and suffering.
2. Live with wisdom and discernment while waiting eagerly for Jesus' return.

SERMON SUMMARY

In the coming Tribulation, Israel and Christians will be under tremendous persecution and suffering. Jesus will return to deliver His people from evil and restore Israel to God. This is the best time ever as God's people can then live in peace and joy in Christ's Millennial Kingdom.

SERMON RECAP

1. A Timeline of End Times

- Pre-Tribulation View of the End Times: It is the belief that all believers will be raptured into heaven for seven years and enjoy God's presence while the Antichrist rises up and The Tribulation will start. Israel and new Christians (coming to faith during The Tribulation) will suffer severely for seven years before Christ returns and a new heaven and earth forms.
- Post-Tribulation View of the End Times: The Tribulation will start when the Antichrist comes. Believers and Israel will not be raptured but goes through the seven years of Tribulation before Christ returns.
- Whichever view it is, the only fact that we know for sure (without exception) is that we will all see the second coming of Jesus Christ.

2. Recap: The 4 Sets of Birth Pangs

- Disasters in the World ([Matthew 24:4-8](#))
- Developments in the Church ([Matthew 24:9-14](#))
- Distress in Jerusalem ([Matthew 24:15-28](#))
- Darkness in the heavens ([Matthew 24:29, Luke 21: 25-26](#))

3. Israel in the End Times

- Many Jews today are as permissive, as secular, and as worldly, as the rest of the world. They still reject Jesus as The Messiah.
- The Great Tribulation is also known as Jacob's Trouble! Jacob is the father of Israel and it means that the Great Tribulation is a chastisement of Israel.
 - a. Antichrist will break his peace covenant with Israel ([Daniel 9:27](#))
 - b. Great persecution will overwhelm the Jews ([Matthew 24:15-22, Zechariah 13:8-9](#))
 - c. But the Lord will come to Israel's rescue ([Zechariah 14:1-4](#))
 - d. Abundant grace will fall upon Israel ([Zechariah 12:10, 13:1-2, Romans 11:25-27](#))
 - e. God's love for Israel is everlasting ([Jeremiah 31:3-4](#)).
- Why would God still take care of modern Israel who worships the idols of money, immorality, power, etc.? Because God is a covenant-keeping God. He keeps His promises and His love.

4. Jesus Will Come With Great Glory ([Matthew 24:30, Revelation 19:11-16](#))

- God loves and cares deeply for His People. He always keeps His covenants with them.
- God will deliver you in His sovereign time. Stay faithful, take courage, and continue to walk with Him.
- When Jesus returns, it will not be in secret but with great signs.

5. What Will Jesus Do at His Second Coming?

- Defeat the Antichrist ([Revelation 19:19-21](#))
- Imprison Satan for 1,000 years ([Revelation 20:1-2](#))
- Restore Israel to God ([Zechariah 12:10-11, 13:1-2](#))
- Gather His Chosen Ones ([Matthew 24:31](#))
- Judge the nations ([Matthew 25:31-33](#))
- Establish His Millennial Kingdom ([Revelation 20:4](#)).

6. Be Watchful and Discerning ([Matthew 24:32-35](#))

- Be ready for the End Times.

7. Lessons We Can Learn Today

- a. Jesus loves and cares for His Chosen Ones
- b. He will keep and protect them as He has promised
- c. His words will never fail
- d. We need to be watchful and discerning for His coming.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **In The Great Tribulation, there will be a great persecution of Christians. It will be a time of severe testing and we must be ready for it. What can we do to get spiritually ready? (If your cell consists of parents with young kids, consider how we can prepare our children for The Great Persecution.)** [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

"So, my answer to the question of how to prepare is, pray for the Lord to come. This is what we long for. This is our great and blessed hope. We want the Lord Jesus to come. Let's pray, 'Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus.' And the way to get ready for it is to trust the promises of God to turn all of our sufferings — we are not promised to escape suffering — for our good, and then to be about the will of God so that when He comes, He will find you faithful at your appointed task." - John Piper ([How Do I Prepare for the Rapture?, Desiring God](#))

Practically speaking, there are many ways to get spiritually ready.

Pray – Pray constantly about your walk with God, for Him to strengthen your faith, for you to encounter Him numerous times, for Him to help you with your unbelief. In everything, depend on God, even to be spiritually ready for the Tribulations.

God's Word – Dive deeply into the Word of God. Read up on all of God's promises. Remember them and keep them in your heart – it will be a great source of strength and encouragement in the storm. Meditate on His commands.

God's Will – Do His will so that when the Master returns, He will find you a good and faithful servant. Keeping yourself busy with God's work keeps our mind focused on Him and not on ourselves. It is good training.

There are also other ways that we can prepare for The Great Tribulation. Encourage your members to share freely and learn from one another.

Transition

The Great Tribulation would be an especially difficult time for believers. We must stand firm, endure, and not fear. Keep in mind that at the end of it all, our perseverance will be rewarded, and we will be reunited with our Heavenly Father.

2. **Pastor Lionel said that God loves us and will deliver us from evil. God's promises will never fail. What are some of God's promises that you lean upon in times of trouble and suffering?** [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

The Bible records many of God's promises to us, His children. Take heart that God loves us so deeply and that He is a promise-keeping God. Whenever we encounter trouble, we should have a Bible verse or a promise from God that we go to for encouragement and to take comfort in. Leaders can encourage members to share with one another some of God's promises that help us focus on God and keep the faith in the midst of the storm (Be encouraged!).

Transition

Let us encourage and remind one another of God's promises. Sometimes when things get difficult, we forget who God is and what He can do. It is good to be reminded of His everlasting promises and His deep love for us.

3. **Pastor Peter Tsukahira shared in Thursday's equipping session (14 Oct) that the spirit of the antichrist is one of selfish ambition (wanting to climb to the top) and lawlessness. How do we guard ourselves from the spirit of the antichrist?** [15 Mins]

Leader's Notes

Peter Tsukahira's Session 2 Recording - <https://youtu.be/GCFNlzIMRag>

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." – Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV)

Pastor Peter said that the way to escape the spirit of the antichrist is to follow what [Philippians 2:3-4](#) says. Do nothing out of selfishness. Humble oneself and to love others beyond yourself. Be more interested in others and to genuinely serve them out of love.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” – Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

When we live exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit, we are living in Christlikeness. So, train ourselves to apply the fruit of the Spirit so as to guard ourselves against the spirit of the antichrist. The more we practice, the more it becomes second nature.

Closing

As we are all sinful and flawed, the spirit of the antichrist comes naturally to us. In fact, we may even admire the ambitious trait of others (or even in ourselves) because we believe that this person “will make it big one day”. However, when we are not careful, selfish ambition causes us to act based on self-interest and blinds us to our sinful actions and thoughts. It goes against the very nature of Christ – who taught us to love others as we love ourselves.



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

1. Sermon Application

- God will prepare our hearts and minds for The Tribulations and greatly strengthen us.
- We will turn our focus from ourselves to others, and to humble ourselves to serve them.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- God’s protection as we learn to live with COVID and begin to open up our borders.
- God’s hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities, especially the old and the vulnerable.

3. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek maturity in Christlikeness.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

- Jesus Is Coming Back Sermon Series – Weekly Rhythms.** On top of the weekly Sunday Sermons, there will be two additional platforms as part of this series:
 - **RiverLife Prayer Room on Tuesday at 8pm.** You can join us at the Prayer Room on Tuesday nights at: rlc.sg/rpr-watch.
 - **Equipping Sessions on Thursday night at 8pm with Peter Tsukahira.** Our next session will cover the topic on The Millennium. (**Note:** Recordings for each session will be made available only for one week after the session). You can join us for this session on Thursday nights at: rlc.sg/midweek.
- 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. Join a MFH team: rlc.sg/mfh-serve
- 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>
- Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

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