



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

28 NOV 2021 | GROWING UP | EPHESIANS 4:11-16

Series: Rediscovering Church | Speaker: Senior 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. What a beautiful Name
2. Lord I offer my life



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Recognise that both God and us are partners in the growth of the Church.
2. Recognise the importance of commitment to a growing relationship with God and with His community.
3. Taking action steps in response to being rooted to His local Church.

SERMON SUMMARY

God is invested in the spiritual development of His Church and has provided godly equippers who are equipped for ministry to grow the Church into spiritual maturity and unity. At the same time, we have a part to play in ensuring that we are established in truth.

SERMON RECAP

God desires for all of us to grow up. Pastor Ben shared that the power of the Resurrected Christ is at work in His Church and is pouring spiritual gifts into the Church ([Ephesians 1:19](#)). Through the passage of [Ephesians 4:11-16](#), We will discover what these gifts are supposed to do in the Church, and what the power of Christ looks like when it flows through us.

1. Christ's Framework for Spiritual Growth – God's Work in His Church

a. The Provision: *Godly Equippers* ([v.11](#))

- God has provided us spiritual parents to bring about our unity and growth, and for them to pour their lives into us. They are devoted to our well-being and serve humbly in the life of the Church.
- Pastor Ben elaborated on the five-fold ministry.
 - The Five-fold ministry consists of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds and Teachers.
 - It shows team leadership: Apostles govern, prophets guide, teachers ground, evangelists gather and pastors guard
 - These are spiritual gifts and spiritual offices: eg. a prophet has the gift and also the office of a prophet
 - It operates in a trans-local and local way (it operates in a wider body but is committed in a local church)
 - What about the role of Elders? It is used synonymously with Pastor-Overseer: "Pastor" represents the role, "Elder" the person, and "Overseer" the office.
- We may have leaders who may be pastoral, move in the gift of evangelism or prophecy, etc. While we may have certain inclinations or preferences to be like specific leaders, God desires for us to learn from all our leaders and be all-rounded and balanced.

b. The Process: *Ministry Equipping* ([v. 12](#))

- Equipping brings us into our God-given destiny and it helps us to learn to serve one another and His Kingdom. Christ gave coaches to equip us so we might learn to serve one another and His kingdom, especially in the last days.
- Some fall into a misunderstanding that we can grow spiritually without being in a cell.
- Equipping and discipleship is based on our spiritual gifts and in our calling in the Holy Spirit
- We are to be equipped (first stage) for works of service (second stage). These can happen concurrently as well.
- The process of equipping is one that is relational. Do we have people who are pouring into our lives?
- Pastor Ben also shared that some of us have been hurt by leaders in the past, and as a result, it can be difficult to trust and submit to leadership again. We need to release forgiveness because God desires for us to be able to be in relationships where we can be ministered to and receive impartation.
- Spiritual growth is a team event. We can learn in a group on how to be more like Jesus.
- We can put spiritual practices in our lives to be spiritually mature. It is important to train ourselves as we need stamina to prepare for the tough times ahead. ([1 Timothy 4:7](#))
- We are all called to serve. God will provide us with the spiritual gifts we need as we step in the call.
- When we are equipped, it creates a chain reaction of disciples who are equipped for the work.

c. The Purpose: *Spiritual Maturity* ([v.13](#))

- The process continues until disciples mature to the fullness of Christ. The aim of discipleship is not perfection, but progress (Christlikeness - [1 Corinthians 1:10](#))
- A church that is spiritually mature attains the full unity of the faith

How will we know if we are growing spiritually? - The church will be healthy if we take up our responsibilities and work within God's framework.

2. Vital Signs of Spiritual Growth – Our Responsibility as His Church

a. Being established in truth ([v.14](#))

- Christ's resurrection power is at work for us to be rooted in truth.

- Satan uses falsehood. His agents are false teachers.
 - As believers, it is important for us to consider is if we are stable in our spiritual life. It is important to examine what we are moved by – is it good biblical preaching? Or merely good preaching?
 - It is also important for us to develop biblical discernment to know what half-truths are, or things that may lead us astray from the faith.
 - Seek counsel from our bible teachers. Pastor Ben also encouraged us to embark with our church’s Bible reading plan. In addition, he encouraged members to have a prayerful spirit when reading the Bible. Transformation in our lives will take place as obedience to His Word produces Christlikeness ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)).
- b. Growing in love ([v.15](#))
- The goal of truth is the expression of genuine Christian love.
 - Truth always aims for love, and both truth and love are essential for Christian growth
 - As we grow in spiritual maturity, we will grow in love for others and seeking to understand people instead of being rude and unloving. A mature Christian will choose to reach out instead of exacting revenge ([Matthew 5:44](#)).
 - Truth without love is brutality – it is harsh and unforgiving and promotes self-righteousness.
 - On the other hand, love without truth is hypocrisy and sentimentalism – the condoning of sin.
 - Love is tough, bold, self-sacrificial and compassionate.
 - One way to grow in maturity is by allowing godly people to speak the truth in love. As a cell, do we see sin but tolerate it?
- c. Participating fully ([v.16](#))
- Each of us fulfil our part in the Body of Christ. We need each other to play our roles in the body of Christ and to benefit others as well.
 - Some of us may have developed a spirit of consumerism in approaching church – seeing church as a place to serve our needs, to come and go as we please, or to watch a show.
 - Every member contributes to the growth of the whole and we cannot do without one another.
 - All of us play a role in growing the Body of Christ and it takes a whole team to play the game – when all the parts are functioning, the body is able to function as a whole.
 - It is important to be faithful to the talents that God has given each of us.
 - The Body of Christ will grow throughout the world when we are all doing our part and functioning properly.

Christ equips us to grow up so that His body can be one.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Pastor Ben shared how God has provided us with a framework for spiritual growth and the vital signs of spiritual growth. As a cell, take time to reflect on either points:**
 - **The reason/purpose of equipping and involving spiritual mentors/shepherds in this framework of spiritual growth**
 - **How having the three vital signs is an outward sign of an inward growing faith.**

[10 Mins]

Leader’s Notes

This is a recap question:

- a. For members to think about the purpose of having different ones of us becoming equipped so as to equip others. God desires for all of us to partner with Him and for all to play the unique roles He has created us for. He desires for us to be in relationship with one another where we can give and receive from one another. He desires for us all to be equipped so that we can continue to stand strong in our faith and empower others to be able to withstand the trials that come.
- b. For members to think about what the characteristics of a growing disciple would look like (e.g. is the person open to knowing more about God’s Word and is able to identify what teaching/advice is Biblically sound? Is the person open to being corrected and taking steps to love others (beyond their previous comfort zones) and also willing to speak the truth in love to other believers? Is the person taking time to give back to the church, be it in tithing or serving while balancing the other commitments God has placed in their lives?

Leaders may also use this time to share about the equipping sessions RiverLife Church has been providing.

Transition

God desires for all of us to grow as individuals and to reflect Him wherever He has placed us. He has also blessed different ones of us with giftings and talents and all these contribute to the growth of the Church. Through this, we grow in unity as we mature together.

2. **As we grow together in maturity and in community, there are times where we will experience hurt. Healing comes as we release forgiveness (an ongoing process that needs time). Share with the cell if there is a time where you intended to release forgiveness or a time when you had released forgiveness.**
 - a. **What was your experience? OR**
 - b. **What are some barriers to forgiveness? What are the benefits that come with forgiveness?**

As a cell, how can we support one another when we are hurt?

[10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a relate question for members to be open about the experiences they have had in church. Leaders can choose to have the cell in smaller groups, if preferred. Leaders can scope the questions further for members to share about an experience where they wish to release forgiveness (to share the barriers they are experiencing); or a time they chose to forgive (the benefits they experienced). Leaders can use to choose part b) if members are generally new to church or may not have personal experiences to share in the group.

Transition

As we grow in a community, it is inevitable that we will be hurt or hurt others. However, there is a place for repair and restoration when we allow God to heal. May we allow one another to be like iron that sharpens iron, to allow for vulnerability and healing, to speak the truth in love while keeping Jesus at the centre of our relationships.

3. **Spiritual growth is a process that includes three ingredients: Salvation, community and disciplines. How have these ingredients helped develop you in your spiritual journey? Is there any aspect you wish to take steps to develop further? How can the cell support you? [15 Mins]**

Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question for members to explore and discuss how these three aspects help us grow. Members can give specific examples of any of the three ingredients (e.g. having a deeper understanding of their salvation, having a mentor/accountability partner helped them to grow). If members wish, they could also share one or two small pointers they hope to contribute to the cell or how the cell could support them in their spiritual growth (e.g. ad hoc reminders about loving their pre-believing friends/family members, encourage them to serve in ministry, attending church midweek sessions together, etc).

Questions regarding the three ingredients

- a. Salvation: Do we have a clear understanding of our salvation? Are there times when we have doubts that we are saved? How are we growing and living out our knowledge that we are saved by grace, through faith?
- b. Community: Are we rooted in a community? How have we been blessed by others, and how can we bless others in this community? What are some ways we can practice genuine Christian love towards one another?
- c. Disciplines: What are the disciplines we have put in our lives to help us grow? Do we need more information about how to grow in these disciplines, and where can we find them?

Closing

Spiritual maturity is both an individual and group process. As we mature in our walk with God, we have the privilege to journey alongside others younger in the faith. As they mature, they will empower others as well. Being rooted in where God has placed us grants us a stable environment where we can grow and mature as a Church. It is a refining process of iron sharpening iron. However, let us also hold on to the end goal where we as a community become what God has envisioned His Church to be.



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 keep our focus on Jesus and whenever we grow sceptical or cynical towards the Church, we will turn our attention back to Him.
- We know our identity as God's people and to hold on to His promises unwaveringly.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Thank God for the further relaxation of the COVID-19 measures.
- Pray for God's continual 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 us opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

1. **With You This Christmas.** This Christmas, we are reminded of Jesus, whose name is Emmanuel (God with us) and He is God's gift of presence to us. We want to rally every RiverLifer to give the gift of presence and be with someone or a family this festive season so that they may experience Christ in their lives too! We will be distributing a Christmas postcard every Sunday for the next three weeks for you to give to a pre-believing individual. If you're keen on obtaining one, do join us in-person at church for service (rlc.sg/tickets-eng). Apart from giving this postcard to someone, there are a few things you can do:

- Invite pre-believing family or friends to our English Adults Evangelistic Services on 5, 12 & 19 Dec. We will have two Christmas services on 19 Dec at 9am & 11am, and there will be prayer for healing. The e-invite can be downloaded here: rlc.sg/withyou-eng.
- Reach out through food and fellowship. Think of an individual, a family or a community that you can bless and reach out to. Host them in your home, have a meal with them, pray with them and have Spirit-led conversations.

- We have a special resource to get you started on reaching out. This resource contains conversation starters and recipes that you can use to bless someone this season. Link: rlc.sg/withyou-kit
- 2. **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>
- 3. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

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:

PayNow

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

Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.

