



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

05 DEC 2021 | THE BLESSINGS OF SAYING YES | LUKE 1:26-38

Series: With You This Christmas | 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. O Come Let Us Adore Him
2. Lord I offer my life



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Adopt the posture of a servant and say “Yes” to His will for our lives.
2. Continually say “Yes” to God even through the pain and disappointment.

SERMON SUMMARY

From the example of Mary, the mother of Jesus, Pastor Lionel shared these 4 learning points:

1. Saying “Yes” to God is easy and natural when we adopt a servant’s posture before God.
2. Saying “Yes” to God brings forth both pain and joy in our journey of faith.
3. We need to say “Yes” continually, even when the journey gets tough.
4. At the end, we will receive God’s commendation and eternal rewards.

SERMON RECAP

1. A Tainted Reputation

- For Mary to say “Yes” to God, her pregnancy will complicate her life – perception of the people around her, her relationship with her parents and fiancé, Joseph.
- Yet, her posture is one of a servant – without complaining or counting the cost.
- Application
 - Saying “Yes” to God brings forth both pain and joy in our journey of faith.
 - It takes humility and faith to follow God’s agenda.
 - Saying “Yes” to God is easy and natural when we adopt a servant’s posture before God.

2. An Arduous Journey

- Mary had to travel 5 days on a donkey to Bethlehem and she had to give birth in a stable.
- But God gave encouragement to Mary – choir of angels, the witness of Simeon and Anna the widow, the wise men from the east. God also provided for the family through the gifts of the wise men.
- Application
 - Sometimes when we serve God, life will not turn out the way we want it to be.
 - We need to trust God to take care of us as we say “Yes” to Him.

3. A Murderous Ploy

- King Herod had murderous intentions towards Baby Jesus.
- Yet, God protected Him and His family throughout.
- Application
 - When we do the work of God, expect the evil one to stir up trouble for you.
 - But when we say “Yes” to God, God will always protect us when we do His work.

4. A Pierced Heart

- The prophecy by Simeon ([Luke 1:67-80](#)) was fulfilled 33 years later when Jesus was accused and rejected by Israel.
- Mary, witnessing all of these events would have experienced a heartbreak.
- Yet, after Jesus rose from the grave, her heart would have been satisfied with her decision to say “Yes” to God 33 years ago, in spite of the expected anguish and pain ([Luke 1:46-55](#)).
- Application
 - When we say “Yes” to God, we will go through times where we will suffer disappointment, anguish and pain.
 - Yet, “Yesses” to God will never be wasted, and when we approach the end of our lives, we will be able to look back and be satisfied because we continually said “Yes” to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which point concerning Mary's response towards God resonates with you the most?

Leader's Notes

This is a recap question. Encourage your members to share with the group which point of the sermon concerning Mary's response to God resonates with them the most. You can recap with them the points:

- Saying "Yes" to God is easy and natural when we adopt a servant's posture before God.
- Saying "Yes" to God brings forth both pain and joy in our journey of faith.
- We need to say "Yes" continually, even when the journey gets tough.
- At the end, we will receive God's commendation and eternal rewards.

Transition

Mary's journey towards submitting herself to God's will was not an easy journey. Rather, it was filled with dangerous situations, gossips, disappointments and perhaps, questions about God's intention towards her. It is important for us to deal with these disappointments or questions about God when we journey in obedience to God's will.

2. "God is only interested in His glory. That is why He requires our "Yesses" each day – for the expansion of His Kingdom." What is your response to this statement?

Leader's Notes

- *"Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him for ever."* – **Westminster Shorter Catechism**
- Man exists to display God's glory over all creation. Man is the crown of God's creation. Therefore, our primary purpose of existence is for God's glory alone. However, God is also "others-centred". This is demonstrated in the relationship between the members of the Holy Trinity. God's glory matters to Him.
- But our lives matter to Him as well. This is demonstrated most effectively in the cross – God gave everything to save unworthy sinners like us. He wouldn't do that if our lives do not matter to Him. So, while His glory matters to Him, our lives matter to Him too. That is who God is.

Transition

Therefore, we must never be afraid to give our "Yesses" to God. Our lives matter to Him too. So, when we seek FIRST His kingdom and righteousness, God will take care of all these things (those things that matter to us). So, we need not be afraid to give our "Yesses" to Him.

3. As disciples of Christ, what are the "Yeses" that we need to give to God throughout our journey? What is one area that you feel you need to say "Yes" to God in this season of your life?

Leader's Notes

- This is an application question. In essence, this is a "Lordship" question. As disciples of Christ, God desires that we submit to His will for our lives in the following areas:
 - **Character** – Allowing God to mould our character into the likeness of Christ.
 - **Values** – Allowing God to shape the values that drive our behaviours each day so that it is Kingdom-driven and not self-driven.
 - **Relationships/Community** – Relating to others as Christ relates to them, allowing others to shape us, and to serve our spiritual communities with the gifts that God has given us.
 - **Purpose** – To live life for God's glory and not ours; to expand God's kingdom on earth; not to make comfort, status and enjoyment our goals.
- In addition to this, encourage members to share one aspect of their life that they have been struggling to submit to God. It may be the pursuit of success, comfort or wealth. It may also be the importance of one's children over God, or the desire not to remain single. When we surrender these areas to God, we are submitting them to a God who is good, faithful and others-centred. He knows the desires of our hearts ([Matthew 6:26](#)). Everything He does is out of His goodness and faithfulness towards us. So, even though we may not always understand His ways, we can take comfort in His heart. He is a faithful God and a good Father who will never fail His children.

- Also, the “Yesses” that God requires of us is for our good – so that we can mature into Christlikeness. Christ is the pinnacle of what a human being can become. Therefore, when we become like Christ, we reach the full potential of what a human being can become.

Closing

Our “Yesses” matter to God because it is for His glory and for our good. Therefore, let us not hesitate to surrender our “Yesses” to Him and to allow Him to shape us into His image!

PRAYER

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 remember that our God is a good God who wants the best for us. Therefore, we need not fear giving our “Yesses” to Him.
- God will show us the areas of our lives that need to be surrendered once again to Him.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Praise God for the decrease in community cases.
- Pray for God’s protection especially from the Omicron variant.

3. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, 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 to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. With You This Christmas.** As a church, we want to be intentional about in-person connection this Christmas. This is something we can all do, in our own ways – to be present with someone. Here are some ways you can reach out to the unchurched this Christmas season:

a. Buy or host a meal with an unchurched person, couple or family.

- 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’ve put together a digital resource kit containing conversation starters and festive recipes that you may find helpful. Download the digital kit via this link: rlc.sg/withyou-kit

b. Invite them to one of our Christmas services so that they can experience the love of God.

- 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.
- You would have received a postcard on your way into the Worship Centre – you may pass it on to someone God has placed on your mind to reach out to this Christmas!
- For those of you at home who wish to get some postcards, you may obtain them at our in-person services in the next two weeks.

- c. **In your cells, spread the love of Christ by preparing and distributing gifts to people in our communities.**
 - Some people we can reach out to include our neighbours, migrant workers in our neighbourhoods, healthcare workers amongst us who may be away from loved ones this Christmas.
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



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