



## 16 JAN 2022 | PASTOR BEN KC LEE | THE RIVER OF GOD EZEKIEL 47:1-12

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Surrender ourselves to God and allow Him to have absolute right of way in our lives.
2. Bring the River of living waters to the desert, depressed and dead places around us.

### SERMON SUMMARY

The story of Scripture – our story – ends with God's presence on earth, bringing life, renewal, and healing to everything. The Church is where God's presence meets with His people and where the Spirit fills and empowers them. This is so that God's grace can flow into a society that is broken and bring about real change and restoration. We personally experience genuine revival when we throw ourselves at the mercy of the River and allow the Spirit of God to have the absolute right of way in our lives.

### SERMON RECAP

This vision by Prophet Ezekiel is a vision for RiverLife Church in our new season. God showed Ezekiel what is coming.

#### 1. A Trickle of Water from the Temple (V1-2)

- The trickle of water begins with the presence of God who dwells in the Temple. He is the source of the River. The River started with a trickle – a small beginning.
- The trickle flows past the altar, where blood is shed. It points to Jesus on the Cross, reconciling man to God.
- Honour the work of the Lord in your life – no matter how small. God is doing something in you.



## 2. Becomes an Uncrossable River (v3-6)

- *Measurement #1: Ankle Deep (v3)*
  - This represents the step of faith that saved our soul.
  - This is the initial presence of the Holy Spirit within during salvation.
  - We're in total control of our lives.
  - The Lord desires that we don't remain here but to go deeper.
- *Measurement #2: Knee Deep (v4a)*
  - This represents a life that is learning dependence on the Lord.
  - We can feel the power of the River as it rushes past – we know that God is real – but are not affected by it.
  - We're in control of our lives.
- *Measurement #3: Waist Deep (v4b)*
  - This speaks of spiritual power in our lives. We feel the power of the River and are moved a few steps by it.
  - The Holy Spirit will touch the areas of our lives that need changing.
  - When we are waist-deep in the River, people see more of the River (more of God) and less of us.
  - We've surrendered some control over ourselves.
- *Measurement #4: Swimming Deep (v5)*
  - This is living immersed in the River of God. We have allowed God absolutely right of way in our lives.
  - The Holy Spirit is fully in charge.
  - When we're this deep, we've gone beyond our own human ability and stopped supporting ourselves.
  - We've given ourselves up to the will of the River. This is where we learn to rest and allow Him to carry us through life.

Wherever we are in the River, ask the Lord to help us take the next step deeper into the River.

## 3. That Brings an Overwhelming Abundance of Live (V7-12)

- The supernatural River starts from the Temple of God and flows into the Dead Sea.
- The water flows to desert places, depressed places, and dead places. It can reach the deepest places of despair and brokenness – within and around us.
- Where the water flows to, trees will grow, fish will go, fruit will show, and health will glow. The River transforms and restores everything it touches.
- Although we are in the River of the living water, why doesn't it always feel like the power of the River is flowing through our lives? It's



because we live in the fallen world and the enemy is against us. Our sinful nature resides within us.

- The four depths represents the level of our surrender. How deep are we willing to go? Learn to wade out a little deeper into the things of God. God will bring you deeper – “He led me through” (v3-4).

### Conclusion

- What we are trusting God to do in 2022: source, surrender, search and rescue.
- Wade into the Holy Spirit’s water over our head. Surrender ourselves totally to God’s flow and let those water flow to others.
- In a broken world, the church is the channel of the River of life.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Which one of the four depths (refer to sermon recap pt.2) of surrender spoke to you more personally and deeply? Why? [10 mins]**

#### Leader's Notes

In his sermon, Pastor Ben talked about the four depths of the River, each representing a different measure of surrender. Share with the group which depth of surrender do you most align with. Are you at that depth currently? As believers, we are called to full surrender, to give ourselves up for God. Are you prepared for that? Leaders can quote the promises of God in the Scripture to encourage members to move into a posture of greater surrender of control to God (eg. [Psalm 115:11](#), [Joshua 1:9](#) and [Matthew 6:34](#)).

#### Transition

When we fully immerse ourselves in the River, we experience revival. The Holy Spirit will fill us and empower us to bring life to others.

- 2. What are some of the desert, depressed or dead places that God has transformed and restored within you? [15 Mins]**

#### Leader's Notes

The River transforms and restores everything that it touches. Life flourishes when you allow the Holy Spirit to work in you to effect change. When members share their experiences, it is to spur and inspire one another to desire more the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. May it also rid us of the unbelief that nothing can change us and that we are beyond help. With God, there is always hope for a better tomorrow. [Psalm 23:4](#) speaks of God being always there with us though the darkest valleys in life!

#### Transition

As believers, we have the privilege of being in the living waters. Our spiritual thirst is quenched, dead places are brought to life, and we have hope eternal.



**3. What “little things” will you do with boldness and faith, believing they are a part of the flow of the living water of God, bringing His Kingdom and His will? [15 Mins]**

Leader's Notes

The River represents the life that flows out from God. The “little things” that we do in faith for God makes up part of the river flow that brings life to the dead places. Do not underestimate the little things – it is the small trickle at the start of the river that turns into a gushing flow at the end.

Sometimes we find it difficult to do God’s will for us. It requires courage and sacrifice, and we may be unwilling to step out of our comfort zone. However, we can start with the little things and slowly build up our courage and faith. Then you will find that step-by-step you have ventured out onto the path that God has set out for you. Walking in the path He has willed for you is the safest place you can be.

Closing

When we begin to do the “little things” for God, we are exercising and building our spiritual muscle. We experience God’s power first-hand. Our faith strengthens and our courage grows. The trickle has become a gush, bringing about real change and restoration. [Ezekiel 47:12](#) paints a picture of God’s promise of abundance and healing. This is the hope and future that awaits us!

**WORKS**

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

**1. Sermon Application**

- A strong desire and longing for God to flood our lives and grow our relationship with Him.
- Full surrender to God leading to complete transformation in our lives and the lives of people around us.

**2. COVID-19 in Singapore**

- Praise God that the Omicron strain seems weaker than the Delta strain.
- 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, 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 to mature in Christlikeness.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Service Ticket Returns.** Due to the capacity constraint, if you have booked tickets but are unable to attend – we ask that you kindly return the tickets (as early as possible) so that more RiverLifers have the opportunity to worship in-person. To return your tickets, go to the EventBrite confirmation email and click “View and Manage” or write in to inform us via “Contact Organiser”.
2. **Bible Reading Plan.** Our BRP takes you through the Bible in 2 years. We are continuing from where we left off in 2021. Even if you have not started with our BRP since last year, you can jump right in with us from 2022.
3. **Pulpit Series – Let the River Flow.** This series is a continuation of our journey beyond 30 as a church and will help us discover our Heavenly Father’s invitation to give ourselves fully to Him and experience rivers of living water flow from our hearts to our communities. The six-part message series kicks off with vision weekends exploring our future through the Scriptural image of the River.
4. **Resumption of 11am Service.** Our 11am service had resumed on Sunday, 19 Dec to allow more RiverLifers to return to church for worship. Let’s free up our car park lots for guests and visitors, our elderly and parents with young children. *If you can, do park your vehicles outside of the vicinity.* Our back gate will be opened for the convenience of those who park outside of church.
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. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
7. **Water Baptism Class.** Sat, 19 Feb, 9am to 3.30pm. In-person at Faith Chapel (Level 2). Register for this class at [rlc.sg/baptism-class](http://rlc.sg/baptism-class) by Sun, 13 Feb. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh, [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).
8. **Joining the Family.** Sat, 26 Feb, 10.30am to 12.30pm. In-person at Victory Chapel (Level 1). Sign up online at [rlc.sg/jointhefam](http://rlc.sg/jointhefam) by Sun, 13 Feb. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).

## ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

### **PayNow**

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



### **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.*