



03 JULY 2022 | PS LIONEL GOH | THE ALTAR OF AWAKENING | GENESIS 28:10-22

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Desire to seek God for an awakening to His identity and purposes for our lives
2. Desire to repent of our worldly ways and goals so that we can live the abundant life that God has given to us through the cross

SERMON SUMMARY

Many of us live defeated lives because we forget our true identity in Christ. We need God to awaken our hearts to recognize our spiritual identity and live out our life purposes. Then, we will be able to live for God and experience His abundant life.

SERMON RECAP

Jacob, the patriarch, used his cunning and unscrupulous ways to get ahead in life. However, everything changed when he had an encounter with God at Bethel. There, Jacob was awakened to his true spiritual identity and destiny. From that moment onwards, Jacob no longer walked in his old ways. He was awakened, and he was able to trust God to overcome his life challenges. At Bethel, God called Jacob back to his altar and gave him a new name for his transformed life.

Likewise, many of us are living defeated lives. We have succumbed to worldly standards and have embraced worldly goals that focuses on self-love. God desires that we have an encounter with Him, just like Jacob did so that our lives can be awakened to His identity for us and His purposes for our lives. May we walk away from our worldly identity and start to embrace our spiritual identity, just like Jacob. Only then will we be living the abundant life Jesus gave to us on the cross!

My Identity and Life Purposes in Christ: rlc.sg/spiritualid



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share with the cell the last time you had a tangible encounter with the Lord – what was the experience like and how did it impact your life from then onwards?**

Leader's Notes

This question encourages members to share concerning their own encounters with the Lord. This will help encourage those that are within the cell that God can encounter them as well. Encounters with the Lord are not without a purpose – they are given so that our faith can be strengthened, and our lives aligned to God's will for us.

Transition

Throughout Scripture, we see various individuals having encounters with God and His Spirit. Their lives were forever changed as a result. Therefore, we should not dismiss encounters with the Lord as unnecessary. It only becomes unnecessary when we are not willing to align our lives to God's will.

2. **Which area of your life do you think needs a touch from the Lord the most at the moment so that your life is aligned to God's will for you?**

Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and respond question. God grants us encounters so that our lives can be aligned back towards His ways and purposes. As your members share, encourage them to reflect on those areas of their lives that are not aligned with God's will and ways. This can include their character, their life goals, their value system or the way they relate with others. Those are the areas of their lives that needs an awakening from God. Encourage your members then to seek the Lord's touch in those areas of their lives so that their whole lives can be aligned to God's will and God's ways.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." – Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Transition

All of us need encounters with the Lord so that those areas of our lives that are not aligned to God's ways and will can be awakened and renewed. May we be open to God's touch in our lives in every season.

3. **The speaker encourages us to have a fresh awakening of God's truths through the daily meditation of biblical verses provided (rlc.sg/spiritualid). How can you spur each other in your cell to rebuild your spiritual altar in the coming months? Pray for ideas to help each other to rebuild your spiritual altars.**

Leader's Notes

This is an application question. The goal of this question is to give an opportunity to the cell to answer this question – "how can we do this together?" There is much strength and wisdom if believers are to journey



together. Encourage your cell members to keep each other accountable and to find ways on how they can spur one another on in this journey!

Closing

The journey towards abundant life is not a solo journey. It is one taken with many others. Therefore, let us depend on each other and to spur one another on as we all return to our altars of awakening so that our lives can be awakened to God's purposes!

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

- That God will grant us encounters and awakening so that our lives can be aligned to His ways and His will for us.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

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

3. 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.
- Comfort and change to come to USA in the midst of a spike in mass shootings all over the country.

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

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Current Pulpit Series – Rebuilding the Altar.** 2-31 July. This series seeks to lead people to rebuild the altar of God in their lives.

- 3 July – The Altar of Awakening
- 17 July – The Altar of Identity
- 24 July – The Altar of Repentance
- 31 July – The Altar of Worship

2. **How to Pray and Change Your World Seminar with David & Greta Peters, 8-9 July.** This seminar is designed to help you grow and mature in their prayer life, especially if you have desire to see how a lifestyle of prayer can change the world around you. David & Greta will teach on Intercession, Prophetic Prayer as well as The Power of Declarations and Praying Scripture. Details: Fri, 8 Jul at 8pm-10pm and Sat, 9 Jul at 9.30am - 12.30pm. Registration is required for this



seminar, and you may obtain complimentary tickets via this link: rlc.sg/prayer-seminar.

3. **40.Day Prayer 2022.** 40.Day is an annual national prayer initiative by LoveSingapore. The theme for this year's prayer guide is "to live is Christ", a journey through the book of Philippians. The prayer guide is can be accessed one day at a time at this link: <http://www.lovesingapore.org.sg/40day/2022>. Prayer entries will be posted one day at a time starting from Friday, 1 July. Let us join the body of Christ in Singapore in seeking the Lord.
4. **Call for Musicians and Vocalists.** The Worship & Music ministry is on the lookout for musicians and vocalists – keyboardist, electric guitarist, bassist, drummer and singers. If you are interested, you can sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Do note that an audition will be required before joining the ministry.
5. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
6. **F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg.
7. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.
8. **Missions from Home.** In order to find out more information concerning our mission initiatives in the nations and how you can participate, visit our new mission website. (rlc.sg/mfh)
9. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
 - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.

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- You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is looking for 20 Food Collection Helper/Driver that is able to help with the loading/unloading of fresh food items at blocks where we are reaching out to. Commitment: Minimally once a month for 6 months, Saturdays, 12-4pm. Contact: rlcares@rcs.org.sg.
10. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
 11. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
 12. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*
 13. **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>
 14. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
 15. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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