

Series - For God So Loved The World

Date/s - 6 Nov 2016

Topic - Understanding God's Heart For The Lost

Speaker/s - Elder Andrew Goh

Welcome [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

www.thesource4ym.com/games/

www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html < go to LEAD, click on ICEBREAKERS >

Worship [15 min]

You may select worship songs such as "I'm Forever Grateful", "You Rescued Me" and "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)".

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Have a burden for the lost
2. Pray for boldness for the lost
3. Have a compassion for the lost like the way God does

Word [45 min]

Elder Andrew Goh started by conducting an electronic poll which he referred to as the "Living Parable". The responses from this poll are summarized and tabulated (at the end of the guide). Some similarities are found in the responses of both the 1st and 2nd services which go to show that there are common struggles we face when it comes to reaching out.

Elder Andrew encouraged us to share the Gospel in spite of those struggles. The more we share, the easier it gets and the more often we feel like sharing it. From 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6, we are called to have "boldness in our God" to share the Gospel. This "boldness" is not as in *arrogance* but it is in the *confidence* that God will see us through in the sharing of His Gospel. It is not just a 'skill' or a 'technique' but it is through the help of the Holy Spirit, we dare to share the Gospel despite opposition or difficulties.

As Christians, we are also "entrusted with the Gospel" – God has given us divine approval to share the Gospel. Are we to bury and hide the Gospel or do we prove ourselves worthy of the trust placed upon us by God? Trust is not just in "Honesty" but in "Capability." A Christian client asked an alcoholic lawyer, Cyrus Scofield, why he was not a Christian and then shared the Gospel with him. Scofield later became a famous theologian, and wrote and published the influential Scofield Reference Bible in 1909.

Elder Andrew then examined what is meant by "Lost" when used in the Bible. In Luke 15:4-7 (The Parable of the Lost Sheep), Jesus told of a shepherd with 100 sheep who "loses one of them". The shepherd then "go after the one which is *lost* until he finds it." When he finds it alive, he puts it on his shoulders rejoicing and brings it back to the fold saying "rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was *lost*." There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, who forsakes his old ways and embraces God's ways. God is a Seeker after us! The first question asked by God recorded in the Bible is "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). This shows that (a) God thinks of you; (b) God speaks to you; (c) God knows when you are not at the right place;

and (d) God wishes you to tell Him why you are not in the right place (as He did with Adam)¹.

The evangelical understanding that the “Lost” are the unregenerate (i.e., they lack everlasting life) – Jesus did not come to make bad people good; but dead people live!² See John 3:16. We see in 2 Peter 3:9 that God has His own timing and we are not forgotten by God. Our God is indeed awesome!

Is our heart for the “Lost” like Prophet Jonah’s heart or God’s heart? Jonah did not like the Assyrians so he was a very reluctant prophet for Nineveh. He did not preach well yet by God’s grace many believed including the king. Yet, Jonah was not happy (see Jonah 4).

- (a) Jonah had compassion on that for which he had not labored – God had compassion on those for whom He had labored.
- (b) Jonah had compassion toward a single plant – God had compassion for a vast multitude of people.
- (c) Jonah’s compassion was focused on his own benefit – God’s compassion was for the benefit of others.
- (d) Jonah had compassion on that which would cease to exist – God had compassion on sinners who will face eternal damnation.

In conclusion, Elder Andrew encouraged us to pray for a **Burden** for the lost and pray for **Boldness** for the lost. See Romans 1:16. We have boldness when we have a heart after God’s heart and share the same compassion for the lost!

Discussion Questions

1. **Look at the responses of the electronic poll conducted during service time. Briefly discuss what possible thrusts in evangelism that the church, cell or individuals can consider based on these findings.** [15 min]

2. **Share how you became a Christian. Reflecting on your personal experience, share what you, your cell or our church can be more effective in reaching the lost.** [15 min]

3. **Is our heart for the Lost like Jonah’s heart or God’s heart? Share with the group the specific person(s), if any, who you are praying for to receive Christ.** [15 min]

Works [10 min]

Let’s pray:

1. God would grant us a greater boldness & burden to reach one more for Jesus.

¹ Source: McAuslane.

² Source: Ravi Zacharias.

Announcements

1. CELL OUTREACH KIT FOR CHRISTMAS

Cell Leaders, please be informed that if your cell group is hosting the Christmas outreach you may approach the Cell Connection Counter starting this Sunday (while stocks last) to collect one Cell Outreach kit per cell group. More details in the email which you will receive by Friday.

2. MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENT WITH JASON WONG

Sat, 19 Nov | 3.30-6.30pm | Worship Centre

Free admission. Dinner will be provided.

Register at the Information Counter by Sun, 13 Nov.

For enquiries, please contact Christine Tan at 65114141, or email her at christinetan@riverlife.org.sg

3. WATER BAPTISM

Sun, 13 Nov | 2.30-5pm | Victory Chapel

31 RiverLifers will be getting baptised. Come and show them your support!

6 November 2016

The “Living Parable” Polling Responses

Qn	Item	1st %	2nd %
1	How long have you been a Christian?		
	A. Less than 1 year	0	4
	B. More than 1 year but less than 5 years	8	0
	C. Less than 5 but more than 10 years	8	0
	D. More than 10 years	84	96
2	How did you become a Christian?		
	A. Church meeting/Outreach programmes	12	15
	B. Personal friendship	84	73
	C. Reading book/Tract/Magazines	4	4
	D. Small group/Cell	0	8
3	When was the last time you led someone to the Lord?		
	A. Never	44	31
	B. Less than 1 year	12	23
	C. More than 1 but less than 3 years	4	15
	D. More than 3 years	40	31
4	In your opinion, what is the main reason for Christians not reaching out?		
	A. Don't know how	4	4
	B. No sense of urgency	28	36
	C. Too lazy/inconvenient	12	20
	D. Afraid of offending others	56	40
5	How would you prefer to share Christ?		
	A. Personally share testimony/beliefs about Christ	84	76
	B. Share evangelistic materials (tract/book)	4	4
	C. Invite someone to an evangelistic event	8	12
	D. Pray that someone else will witness to prebeliever	4	8
6	Currently, how many persons are you praying for (to receive Christ)?		
	A. None	12	28
	B. 1	20	8
	C. 2 - 4	36	24
	D. 5 or more	32	40
7	How often do you interact/socialise with prebelievers?		
	A. Never	16	0
	B. Not very often	16	11
	C. Somewhat often (weekly)	24	19
	D. Extremely often (daily)	44	70
8	How prepared are you to share the gospel immediately?		
	A. Don't know (not prepared)	16	20
	B. Not sure & no confidence	24	24
	C. Slightly prepared	36	32
	D. Very prepared	24	24
9	How many people (prebelievers) would regard you as a friend?		
	A. None	8	4
	B. 1 to 5	12	4
	C. 6 to 9	16	20
	D. 10 or more	64	72