

Weekly Cell Guide

Member's Copy

Series - 1 Peter

Date - 4-Oct-2020

Topic - A Cross-shaped Life in the Workplace (1 Peter 2:18-25)

Speaker - Ps Dinah Lee

WELCOME [15 min]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Reward
2. Oceans

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. reflect on Jesus as our Model of submission
2. commit to living a Cross-shaped life in the workplace

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. What is the Cross-shaped life? Submit to your supervisors (unless our submission goes against what is right and pleasing to God). (v18)
2. Why have a Cross-shaped life? The purpose of our submission in spite of unjust treatment grants us favour with our Father and enables us to represent Christ. (v19-21)
3. Who forms my Cross-shaped life? Jesus is our Model of submission. (v22-25)

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Peter was writing to the Christians at that time, exhorting them to live a counter-cultural life – a new identity in Christ as people with a living hope.

The passage this week touches on submission to our bosses. Slavery was very common in the Roman world during Peter's time. There were both educated and common slaves. Some did menial jobs and some did vital jobs (e.g. craftsmen, accountants, teachers). Some were even more educated than their masters.

Ps Dinah preached on living a Cross-shaped life in the workplace.

1. What is the Cross-shaped life? Submit to your supervisors. (v18)

- Other verses for reference: Colossians 3:22-23, Acts 5:29

- The scope of our submission – we are to submit to our bosses unless it undermines our obedience to the Lord, e.g. when we are asked to be an accomplice to sin (shady deals, compromising situations, etc.)

2. Why have a Cross-shaped life? Should I submit despite unjust treatment? (v19-21)

- The purpose of choosing submission despite unjust treatment
 - a) finds favour with our Father and
 - b) represents our Saviour.
- When we face unjust treatment, we need to be careful that these situations do not drive us to bitter anger, self-pity or ungodly beliefs that God has forgotten us. We need to work through these emotions and submit them to God. It takes a yielded Christian to submit and to let God fight our battles. (Romans 12:19-21)
- Ps Dinah exhorted RiverLifers to love our enemies and to do good to them (Luke 6:33-35, Ephesians 6:5-8). She also gave a caveat that our rewards as quoted in the verses may not result in a promotion or a pay raise, and exhorted us to let God do what He knows best.
- We imitate Christ and represent Him to others when we respond in meekness, gentleness and submission in times we experience unfairness at our workplace (1 Peter 2:21). She also reminded us how sinners were brought back into the Kingdom of God through Jesus' undeserved suffering and death on the Cross.

3. Who forms my Cross-shaped life? Look at the example of Christ. (v22-25)

- Christ is the Model of our submission. In Him, we are dead to sin and alive to righteousness. We have the capacity to submit despite unjust treatment because this is a way to demonstrate the power and freedom we have in Christ.
- We are able to endure unjust treatment because we have returned to our Shepherd. Jesus enables us to stop sinning and start living right. We can expect God to accomplish His purpose through our endurance of unjust treatment.

We are most like Christ when we follow in His steps through submission. This is one way to live a counter-cultural life with a Cross-shaped attitude in our workplaces.

Discussion Questions

1. **What does a Cross-shaped life look like - what are the Biblical values and beliefs you bring to your workplace?** [10 min]
2. **Were there times you faced unjust treatment? How does submission to your workplace authorities in spite of unjust treatment look like?** [15 min]
3. **Jesus modelled submission to God in His suffering and He will give us the power and freedom to imitate Him. As you reflect on your current situation, is there anything you would want to continue or do differently in living a Cross-shaped life?** [15 min]

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. That RiverLifers will be good workers in the marketplace – people who live a Cross-shaped life in their workplaces
 - RiverLifers will practise submission in their workplace.
 - RiverLifers will always turn to Christ as the ultimate example of submission when they find it difficult to submit.
2. Pray for Covid-19 Phase 2:
 - Continue to pray for the cases in our country to remain low.
 - Pray for the economy's recovery; and those who are unemployed will find a job soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Joining The Family

Sat, 7 Nov | 10.30am-12pm | Online via Zoom

Sign up online at rlc.sg/jointhefam by Sun, 1 Nov. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg Tune in at this link: rlc.sg/rpr-watch

Note: This course is a pre-requisite for Associate Membership. Getting water baptised in RiverLife does not confer church membership though water baptism is a requirement for membership

Church Vision

“A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.”

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.