

Weekly Cell Guide

Member's Copy

Series - 1 Peter
Topic - Attracting the Promises from Heaven
(1 Peter 3:8-12)

Date - 18-Oct-2020
Speaker - Ps Joachim Tan

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. Build My Life
2. Reward

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Commit to live out the five biblical traits of a disciple – unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.
2. Pursue a counter-cultural lifestyle that repays evil with good, knowing that we will bless the lives of others and we will be blessed by God.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. The believers whom Peter addressed in his letter were living under extremely severe circumstances. Into such a climate he conveyed some of the most astonishing promises of God to the church.
2. These promises were not for the future but for the present, in their lifetime. These scriptures show us how we may attract the promises of heaven.
3. Our goal is not attracting God's promises but living a godly, Christlike life that honours God. The promised blessings are the result of our desire to obey and please Him.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

1. The Situation

The church was poor, treated as aliens and persecuted again and again. In the face of such challenges, Peter encouraged the believers to endure and expect the promised blessings of God. And these blessings were not for the future, not for the next life, but for the present, the NOW, in their lifetime. Closer to home, we struggle in the aftermath of the pandemic,

with falling employment, lack of finances, fear of infection and social ramifications. But we will do well to heed Peter's much-needed encouragement in his letter to the church.

2. The Promises

a. We will inherit a blessing (v 9)

When we return good for evil, this pleases God. He will see and reward us.

b. We will experience the richness and fullness of life (v 10)

This is how we experience true joy, as King David did, despite his trials (Psalm 34:12-16).

c. God is watching over us and His ears are attentive to our prayers (v 12)

The certainty of this promise is never in doubt (Philippians 4:6-7).

3. The Person

The life that attracts the promises of Heaven is:

a. The person who manifests godly Christian attitudes (v 8)

Our attitude determines our altitude. As we are in Christ and Christ is in us, we must have the attitudes of Christ (John 17:20-23, Galatians 2:20). "The church should be the place where the walking wounded should feel at home." – Skip Heitzig

b. The person who values forgiveness and blessings over revenge (v 9)

When we are persecuted for Christ, we are called to bless instead of striking back. We are to commit to love all people unconditionally and treat them not as how they treat you, but as how Jesus would treat them (Romans 12:14-21). "We may pity from above but we can only sympathise from beside." – Skip Heitzig

Why does God choose to reward such a person?

- I. A sign of spiritual maturity
- II. A sign of a yielded life
- III. A sign of a redeemed life

4. The Choice

God is watching us. When we follow His commands in His Word, He promises to bless us, even in spite of the trials we may have to endure (Leviticus 17:10, Revelation 6:16).

Conclusion

When we are treated badly, we bless and not retaliate. We are to be zealous for what is good even if that brings persecution. Christ is our example of suffering for doing what is right.

Discussion Questions

1. **Is there any situation in your life where you have experienced God's blessing as a result of your obedience to Him?** [15 min]

2. **What five attitudes does Peter tell us to have active and alive in our lives (v 8)? In what way do these five qualities mark your life? Is there a particular area where God wants you to change or grow in?** [15 min]

3. Peter challenges the church not to respond to evil with evil, but to respond to evil with blessing (v 9) and he promised that God in turn will bless us (vv 10-12). What does this mean in practical terms? Is there anyone you have a difficult relationship with? What specific things can you do to improve it? [15 min]

WORKS [10 min]

Response to Message

- Pray that we will continue to abide in Christ in a daily relationship so we can draw from Him the power to live on a divine level that returns evil with good.

COVID-19 – Phase 3

- Pray for a smooth transition to Phase 3 in the coming weeks, and that people will not let their guard down while continuing to keep the infection at bay.
- Pray for God’s protection over RiverLife and other churches as they carefully return to onsite services in stages.

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

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.