



**31 JAN 2021** The Spiritual Discipline of Scripture Living Psalm 19:7-14
Series: The Spiritual Discipline of Scripture Living Speaker: Lam Zhengxin



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

Ice Breakers 1
Ice Breakers 2



You may select songs like

- 1. Build My Life
- 2. Be Thou My Vision



#### **SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES**

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

- 1. Understand that it is important to build the discipline of reading God's Word; and
- 2. Learn how to meditate on God's Word, internalise it and live it out as disciples of Christ.

#### **SERMON SUMMARY**

The Word of God is a treasure we should cherish, and it has everything we need for spiritual maturity and growth. Therefore, we are to read it, meditate on it, and obey it. Ultimately, the Word of God is God's personal word to us. It should cause us to grow in our relationship with Him and not just in our knowledge of Him.

#### 1. The Characteristics of God's Word:

#### a. The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul (v7a)

- Zhengxin shared that reading God's Word is the only way to grow spiritually.
- No amount of good sermons, worship sets or Christian books can replace the spiritual discipline of reading God's Word. They are merely supplementary sources.
- The Word of God is sufficient for all our spiritual nourishment.
- Scripture is God's primary way to transform us God has revealed Himself directly to us through His Word.

#### b. The Testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple (v7b)

- We live in an age of fake news, and one that is filled with conflicting messages.
- In contrast, the Word of God is sure, and we can build our lives on this firm foundation.
- We can trust in its certainty that the future will be what God's word says it will be, despite the uncertainties we are experiencing now.
- The Word of God assures us that God is in control. We can trust that His grace and mercy will sustain us through difficult times.
- "Simple" is someone who is open to be taught openness of heart when we read Scripture, is crucial. We must not bring along our pre-conceived notions. We must allow Scripture to confront our lifestyle and exercise its authority over us.

#### c. The Precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart (v8a)

- In our world today, there is a high value placed on happiness. The starting point is self.
- In the Bible, instead of happiness, joy is highly esteemed, and it is the fruit of walking in God's ways. The starting point is God.
- When we walk in the commandments of God, we start to live according to God's design. When we live out the Word of God, there is a joy and peace that comes with being right with God.

#### 2. The Delight of reading and living God's word

- a. Like the psalmist, is the Word of God a delight to us?
- b. 3 stages in our Bible reading journey: Duty Discipline Delight
- c. As long as we persist with the habit of reading God, we will discover joy in His Word.

#### 3. How to approach the Word of God

#### a. Study it

- It is important that we engage the mind when we read God's Word. There needs to be right understanding.
- While we can rely on commentaries, the best commentary is the Bible itself.
- The more we read the Bible, the clearer it will get.

#### b. Meditate on it

- If all we do is study God's Word, all we might become is a student, and not necessarily a disciple.
- Meditating on God's Word helps bring what is in our heads into our hearts.

#### c. Live it out.

- The written Word needs to become the living Word.
- We need to translate Scripture reading to become "Scripture living."
- We need the Word of God to act as a mirror to our ways, to show us our blind spots, so that we do not end up justifying our sinful or idolatrous actions.

May we be a people who are obedient to God's Word, and to allow Scripture to correct us, so that Scripture reading becomes "Scripture living" in our lives.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What is your experience with the Word of God? Has it been a delight for you or has it been a struggle for you to dedicate time to read it? [10 min]
- 2. Zhengxin mentions that the Word of God is always right. It is infallible. Therefore, what are the implications of this for our daily lives? [15 min]
- 3. Zhengxin shared three handles how to approach God's Word: studying it, meditating on it, then living it out. Which handle do you think God is calling you to focus on in this season? What are some practical ways or small steps you can adopt daily to grow in approaching God's Word? [15 min]



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

#### 1. Sermon Application

• RiverLifers would make the Word of God central in the way they live their lives. They would seek to read it, meditate on it and to live it out!

#### 2. COVID-19

• Continue to pray for God's protection over our countries and surrounding nations as we continue to battle this pandemic. Pray that all vaccines will be effective in their fight against the virus.



- 1. Bible Reading Plan. You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting https://rlc.sg/brp2021.
- 2. **TraceTogether**. The use of TraceTogether app or token for check-in to our church premises will be mandatory from Sat, 23 Jan. 21
- 3. Water Baptism Class. 20 Feb, 9am 12pm. Faith Chapel. Register for this class at <u>rlc.sg/baptism-class</u> by Sun, 14 Feb. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at <u>karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg</u>.
- 4. **Ticketing For 250 In-Person Services.** Sun, 7 Feb: In-person service for 250 pax commences at 9am & 11am for all. Booking of tickets for this service will open on Sun, 31 Jan at 2pm via <a href="rec.sg/tickets-eng">rlc.sg/tickets-eng</a>.

#### 5. CNY Weekend.

- Sat, 13 Feb. Chinese service as per normal at 10am. No Youth Service.
- Sun, 14 Feb. English service at 9am only. 11am service will resume on 21 Feb.



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN; GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST." PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

# Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

## 1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.
Scan this QR code on the right.

### 2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: DBS Autosave 029-902431-0





