



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

28 MAR 2021 | THE MANDATE | JOHN 13:1-15, 34-35

Series : Pre-Easter | Speaker : Bishop Emeritus Wee Boon Hup



WELCOME

[15 MINS]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Lord, I Offer My Life
2. Saviour King



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Do a “reset” and return to our first love and fulfil Jesus’ mandate of loving one another as Jesus loves us.
2. Abide in Jesus – to slowdown and stay with God and let Him change us and continue changing us.

SERMON SUMMARY

Sometimes the Mandate for Maundy Thursday is understood as the Lord’s Supper or the act of foot-washing. However, the mandate that covers both is the one Jesus gave in John 13:34-35, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” When Jesus was asked which is the most important commandment, His answer is that

love for God and love for neighbour are a single command ([Mark 12:28-31](#)). There are three aspects in fulfilling the mandate: our attitude that accompanies and flows out from love, where we aim our love at, and how we act out our love in deeds and conduct. But it all begins with another mandate Jesus gave: to abide in Him ([John 15:5](#)). To love one another as Christ loves us requires that we be captured by a love greater than we have experienced before.

SERMON RECAP

What is the "Mandate"?

- John 13:34-35, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* This is THE mandate that covers all other mandates.
- When Jesus was asked which is the most important commandment, His answer is that love for God and love for neighbour are a single command ([Mark 12:28-31](#)).
- Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and you shall love your neighbour as yourself. If we profess to truly love our neighbour, it flows from our love for God and His love for us.

Why is it mandatory?

- 2020 is the year of "reset". We need to return to where we started – our first love – God.
- Jesus' disciples were also doing a reset. Jesus took an old commandment from the OT and made it into a "new commandment". He contextualised it for the disciples, to prepare them for the difficult road ahead without Him.
- Why is it a new commandment? From loving your neighbour as you love yourself (Mark 12:31), Jesus raised the bar of the commandment and changed it to loving your neighbour the way God loves you.

How do we fulfil this mandate?

1. The attitude
 - Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. It is an act of humility and servitude that could only come from divine love.
 - When we have the right attitude, we approach and serve those who we find difficult to love, those that we normally avoid. It is with them that our love will be tested.
2. The aim
 - Who we aim our love at. When Jesus gave the mandate, He is instructing His disciples to love each other. This means to love fellow believers.
 - If we cannot love fellow believers how can we love our neighbour? We have to start by loving the people 'inside' the Church before we can even serve the 'outside'.
3. The action
 - *"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."* - **1 John 3:18**.
 - The Greek word used for truth in this verse is "aletheia". It means a state of not hiding things, of disclosure – transparency.
 - When we are serving others, is our action in line with the truth of how we feel? Is our love or God's love evident to those we are serving? We need to align our internal feelings with our outward actions so that when others see us serving, they see the motivation behind it (God's love) and they see who we are (Christians).

Where do we start to do our "reset"?

- We go to a related mandate: **to abide in Jesus** ([John 15:5](#)). If we want to love one another, we have to abide in Jesus, and centre ourselves with Him.
- We have a result-oriented and action-driven culture. We just want to get down to the works and achieve our goals as quickly as possible. But in this "reset", we need a **slowdown-and-stay-with-God approach**.
- It is not our beholding of God that changes us, it is God's gaze upon us that changes us (God's grace). Alexander MacLaren wrote, *"You have been trying, and trying, and trying half your lifetime to cure faults and make yourselves better and stronger. Try this other plan. Let love draw you, instead of duty driving you. Let fellowship with Christ elevate you, instead of seeking to struggle up the steps on hands and knees. Live in sight of your Lord and catch His Spirit."* (<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/mac/2-corinthians-3.html>). Stay in God's presence.

- What will make us stay in God’s presence? It is when we’ve been seized by the power of a great affection for God. Ultimately, it is not what we can do for Him, but what He has done for us and is continuing to do in us that helps us in our “reset” and to fulfil The Mandate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The conversation Jesus had with His disciples starting in John 13 continues with a discourse up to chapter 16. What prompted Jesus to begin this teaching occasion? Start your discussion with [John 13:1](#), referencing this verse to [John 13:34-35](#). [10 Mins]
 2. What has been your experience of “loving one another” like? Share one positive experience, and one negative. What can you personally do to love one another (beginning with your cell, and family)? [10 Mins]
 3. Does our society instil in us a desire to serve? Where is the connection between what Jesus teaches about serving and what He teaches about love? Why is this important for disciples of Christ? [15 Mins]
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Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application
 - We will return to our first love and cultivate the love of God in us.
 - We will commit to serving others out of the love that God has for us, and us for Him.
 2. COVID-19
 - The community cases will remain low as the restrictions are further relaxed.
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1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
2. **Cradle Roll.** Our cradle roll on Level 2 is now open for parents with children under 3 years of age for diaper change and feeding only. There will be no child-minding provided. To protect the health and wellbeing of our children and parents, kindly adhere to these safe management measures:
 - Only one accompanying adult per child under 3 years of age.
 - There can only be 6 pairs of parent and child in the cradle roll at one time. This number excludes our volunteers on duty in cradle roll.
 - Each parent and child are allocated 20 minutes for usage of cradle roll.

Cradle roll will be open on Sundays from 9am to 10.30am only.

3. **Joining The Family.** Sat, 24 Apr | 10.30am-12.30pm | In-person at Faith Chapel (Level 2)
Sign up online at rlc.sg/jointhefam by Sun, 11 Apr
4. **Alpha Online**
Upcoming run starting, 15 Apr, Thursday (12 Sessions). Register at rlc.sg/ao-reg by 5 Apr.
5. **RL30, Short Broadcast, 9 APR, Friday, 8:30pm**
For those having cells on Friday Night (9 Apr), do tune in for a short broadcast by the church regarding RL30 at 8:30pm. The cell time can continue after that. For cells meeting on other days, you can still access the broadcast after Friday night. More details will be sent to you in the days ahead.
6. **RCS Family Run.** 31 May to 13 Jun | Sign up online: rlc.sg/rcsrn
7. **Good Friday & Easter Weekend**
 - Good Friday
 - Commemorate in Our Cell Communities 2 Apr
 - Cells to meet in homes Cells will watch a special devotion video together and move into a time of sharing.
 - Easter Sunday
 - English Adults Service
 - 4 Apr | 9am & 11am | Worship Centre
 - Attend in-person: rlc.sg/tickets-eng
 - Join us online: rlc.sg/eng-svc
 - Download the e-invite: rlc.sg/easter
 - Filipino Service
 - 4 Apr | 10am | Bible House



"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
Bank Code: 7171
Branch Code: 029

SCAN ME



