



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

26 DEC 2021 | SAMSON: A LIFE WELL WASTED | JUDGES 13-16

Speaker : Pastor Ernie Song



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. Build My Life
2. Reward



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Constantly reflect on our spiritual growth to prevent a slow fade.
2. Be vigilant against allowing the values of the world to shape us.
3. Be focused on building up our spiritual community and commit to invest time and effort in it.

SERMON SUMMARY

As we end another year, it is important to reflect spiritually on this year – have our lives been an impact for God’s Kingdom in 2021, or has it been a wasted year? In Judges 13-16, we see that Samson’s was a life that was filled with such a great potential at the start. However, in the end, it was a life that was well wasted and mattered little to the kingdom of God (Israel). The key problem with Samson as well as Israel is ignorance because of a lack of reflection. Likewise, if we don’t reflect on our lives, we will be ignorant of the idols, wrong priorities, and sinful ways in our lives. Samson’s downfall was due to two key reasons: Friendship with the world; and a lack of spiritual community.

Pastor Ernie exhorted us to reflect constantly to prevent a slow fade. Such constant examination of one’s life through the counsel of the Holy Spirit and our spiritual community is critical so that we stay on the straight and narrow path – see [Matthew 7:13-14](#).

SERMON RECAP

As we end another year, it is important to reflect spiritually on the year – have our lives been an impact for God’s Kingdom in 2021, or has it been a wasted year?

The Book of Judges is an account of individuals that God raised to preserve Israel from the hands of the Philistines. The spiritual condition of Samson is a representation of the spiritual condition of Israel as a whole. In Judges 13-16, we see that Samson’s was a life that was filled with such a great potential at the start. However, in the end, it was a life that was well wasted and mattered little to the kingdom of God (Israel). The key problem with Samson as well as Israel is ignorance because of a lack of reflection. Likewise, if we don’t reflect on our lives, we will be ignorant of the idols, wrong priorities, and sinful ways in our lives.

Samson’s life was pumped with potential right from the start – see [Judges 13:5](#). Like Samson, every disciple of Christ is pumped with potential from the day of his salvation. But prophetic words spoken over our lives must be merged with our desire to honour God.

Samson’s downfall was due to two key reasons:

a. Friendship with the world

Samson was constantly in enemy territory and was being attracted to the ways of the Philistines. Friendship with the world means allowing the values of the world to shape us. We should ask ourselves whether we are a friend of the world or a light in the darkness. [Deuteronomy 10:12-13](#) speaks of God’s command to follow Him wholeheartedly. Pastor Ernie exhorted us to examine the following areas of our lives to see if the values of the world have shaped us in 2021:

- Management of finances
- Lifestyle
- Career/Ambitions
- Parenting
- Retirement.

b. A lack of spiritual community

Although Samson was gifted with supernatural strength, his strength was largely used for himself, not for Kingdom purposes. The reason for this? He was constantly alone – no accountability and no spiritual guidance. Samson was not even aware when the Lord had left him – see [Judges 16:20](#). [Proverbs 11:14](#) speaks of the protection from a spiritual community. An immature disciple’s focus is always on oneself. A mature disciple will also be concerned with the Kingdom of God, the church, and the well-being of others (i.e., Christlikeness).

Pastor Ernie exhorted us to **reflect constantly to prevent a slow fade**. Such constant examination of one’s life through the counsel of the Holy Spirit and our spiritual community is critical so that we stay on the straight and narrow path – see [Matthew 7:13-14](#).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one blessing I have seen Jesus do in my personal life this year? [10 Mins]
 2. 2021 is drawing to a close. Spend the discussion time to take turns to reflect on one of these 5 aspects of your life in 2021. [15 Mins]
 - a. Character
 - b. Lifestyle
 - c. Mission
 - d. Spiritual Growth
 - e. Relationships
 3. What are the three biggest lessons God taught me this past year? How can I continue to apply them in the coming year? [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 remember that constant reflection is key to our spiritual growth and maturity.
 - God will show us the aspects of our lives that need strengthening in 2022 and for the Holy Spirit to guide us to continue to apply the lessons we have learnt from God in 2021.
2. **COVID-19 in Singapore**
 - Praise God for the decrease in community cases.
 - Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.
3. **COVID-19 in the World**
 - A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
 - Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
 - Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.
4. **Opportunities for Outreach**
 - Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

1. **No Watchnight Service.** There will be no watchnight service this 31 December.
2. **Resumption of 11am Service.** Our 11am service had resumed on Sunday, 19 Dec to allow more RiverLifers to return to church for worship. Let's free up our car park lots for guests and visitors, our elderly and parents with young children. *If you can, do park your vehicles outside of the vicinity.* Our back gate will be opened for the convenience of those who park outside of church.
3. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
4. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this *QR code* on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200100806D*.

2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*
Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this *QR code* on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200711586WDON*

Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.

