



12 JUN 2022 | LAM ZHENGXIN | HOSTING GOD'S PRESENCE
EXODUS 40:33-35; PSALM 132:3-5; EPHESIANS 2:19-22; 1 PETER 2:5;
PSALM 27:4

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Reflect on the privilege on being set apart to be His temple.
2. Take steps to actively host the presence of God in our lives

SERMON SUMMARY

From Moses to King David, and from King Solomon to the prophets, the tabernacle and the temple have been the central features of the Israelites. God has purposed us as His people to host His presence. As RiverLifers, have we embraced our identity as the temple of God?

- We are the Priesthood and we host the presence of God by worshipping Him ([1 Peter 2:5](#))
- We are the temple of God and host His presence by keeping the temple holy ([1 Cor 3:16-17](#), [2 Cor 6:14-17](#))
- We host the presence of God by seeking His face and not His hand ([Psalm 27:4](#))

SERMON RECAP

From Moses to King David, and from King Solomon to the prophets, the tabernacle and the temple have been the central features of the Israelites.


The Bible notes how God desires to dwell with man once again. God called Abraham in [Genesis 12](#) and Abraham's family grew to a huge nation. In Exodus, Moses issued God's command to let His people go for the purpose of worship ([Exodus 8:1b](#)) God reminded them of their purpose ([Exodus 19:5-6a](#)) and instructed them to set up the tabernacle ([Exodus 40:1-4](#); [33-35](#)).

When David became King, he brought back the Ark of the Covenant. He recognised that the nation of Israel hosting the presence of the living God set them apart from the rest of the nations ([Psalm 132:3-5](#), [2 Samuel 7:2](#)). The temple was completed during Solomon's reign ([1 Kings 8:10-11](#)).

Though the temple was later destroyed, we learn from the prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah that God's Spirit would now dwell in human flesh ([Ezekiel 36:26](#), [Isaiah 44:3](#)). Zhengxin exhorted us to embrace our identity as the temple of God ([Ezekiel 47](#)). We are the Temple of God and our purpose is to host His presence.

How we can host the presence of God:

- 1) We are the Priesthood and we host the presence of God by worshipping Him ([1 Peter 2:5](#)). As we embrace this identity, it changes us to orient to a life of worship unto God. Worship begins with the orientation of our hearts and with beholding God ([Psalm 27:4](#)). We can also behold God in His Word.

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- 2) We are the temple of God and host His presence by keeping the temple holy. When we live in unrepentant sin, we treat the sacrifice of God with contempt and we no longer walk in His holiness ([1 Cor 3:16-17](#), [2 Cor 6:14-17](#)). There is a call on our lives to be clean and holy. We must be quick to repent and there needs to be sincerity in our repentance. We must walk by the Spirit ([Ezekiel 36:26-27](#)).
 - 3) We host the presence of God by seeking His face and not His hand ([Psalm 27:4](#)).

Brother Lawrence wrote the following:

"That we might accustom ourselves to a continual conversation with God, with freedom and simplicity. That we need only to recognise God intimately present with us, to address ourselves to Him every moment, that we may beg His assistance for knowing His will in things doubtful, and for rightly performing those which we plainly see He requires of us, offering them to Him before we do them, and giving Him thanks when we have done."
– Fourth conversation in *The Practice of the Presence of God*.

David wrote Psalm 27 in difficult times. He prioritised seeking God's face over seeking God's hand. May we be a Church that chooses to host His presence and live His calling for us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Have you hosted someone or was a guest of someone hospitable? What was your experience? What are the attitudes we need to have as we choose to host the presence of God?** [15 mins]
2. **How have we been as stewards of God's temple? What are the things in our lives that hinder or help us in being a good steward?** [15 mins]
3. **What does it mean to live a lifestyle of worship and holiness and of seeking God? How can we as a cell encourage each other in this journey?** [15 mins]

WORKS

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

1. **Sermon Application**
 - Thank God for the privilege we have to be His temple
 - For us to walk in step with the Spirit and with each other as we grow in our faith.
2. **COVID-19 in Singapore**
 - Pray for God's continued protection from the virus.
 - Pray for lives and businesses that have been impacted by the pandemic.



3. Russia-Ukraine War

- Pray for a swift end to this war and for the principalities that are influencing this situation to be broken.
- Protection for the people of Ukraine especially those who are believers.

4. Mass Shootings in USA

- Pray for God to comfort the affected families.
- Pray for a change in gun laws in US to facilitate a safer environment in the USA.


5. 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

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **How to Pray and Change Your World Seminar with David & Greta Peters, 8-9 July.** This seminar is designed to help you grow and mature in their prayer life, especially if you have desire to see how a lifestyle of prayer can change the world around you. David & Greta will teach on Intercession, Prophetic Prayer as well as The Power of Declarations and Praying Scripture. Details: Fri, 8 Jul at 8pm-10pm and Sat, 9 Jul at 9.30am - 12.30pm. Registration is required for this seminar, and you may obtain complimentary tickets via this link: rlc.sg/prayer-seminar.
2. **Current Sermon Series – In Step with The Spirit. 29 May – 19 June.** Our Father calls us to deep communion and intimacy and to walk as Jesus did – in step with the Spirit. In this series, let's learn to listen to the Lord to know his heart and character, and respond to His leading and nudges.
 - May 29: Hungering for God
 - Jun 05: Pentecost Sunday
 - Jun 12: Hosting God's Presence
 - Jun 19: Hearing God's Voice
3. **Spiritual Parenting for Young Couples (SPYces). 3-31 July, 1.45pm – 5.00pm.** This course is for parents with adult children who are married or soon-to-be married. This course will help you to walk with your adult children as spiritual parents. Registration: rlc.sg/spyces. For more information, contact Christine Tan at christinetan@riverlife.org.sg.
4. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)

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- *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
5. **F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg.
 6. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.
 7. **Missions from Home.** In order to find out more information concerning our mission initiatives in the nations and how you can participate, visit our new mission website. (rlc.sg/mfh)
 8. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
 - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
 9. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
 10. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

11. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*
12. **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>
13. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
14. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

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Interbank Transfer

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



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Reference to qualify for tax deduction.*

