



## 23 OCT 2022 | PS ERNIE SONG | FAMILY: LOVE IN THE MIDST OF IMPERFECTION | GENESIS 1-3, JOHN 10:10, REVELATION 21:1-5

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

- a. Acknowledge that we are weak and not righteous, and to repent of our ways that block our relationship with God; and
- b. Commit to strive towards holiness and wholeness, so that our families, parenting and marriage will be blessed.

### SERMON SUMMARY

#### #1 The Design of the Family (Genesis 1-2)

In Genesis 1-2, God created Adam and Eve – the first family unit. God designed this family unit to rule and reign on the earth ([Genesis 1:28](#)). Adam and Eve, together, were meant to be God's representatives (Image-Bearers) to all of creation. Though they are equal, Adam and Eve each reveals a different aspect of God to creation.

#### #2 The Fall of the Family (Genesis 3)

The serpent redefined the family (approached Eve, not Adam), and tempted Eve to be self-centred (do whatever you want!). The serpent tempted Eve to disconnect herself from the Source of life – God. This opened the doorway for pride, conflict, shame, etc to enter into the family unit; not just Adam's family, but every generation after Adam. That is why family life today is imperfect and at times destructive.


#### #3 The Hope of the Family (Revelation 21:1-5, John 10:10)

Christ's work on the Cross bought us not just salvation but freedom and wholeness because we are once again reconnected to the Source of life. As a result, we can draw out of God's goodness and righteousness to do family life. Though we still live in the imperfection as a result of sin, the return of Christ will bring forth the full restoration of the family unit.

### SERMON RECAP

#### #1 The Design of the Family (Genesis 1-2)

In Genesis 1-2, God created Adam and Eve – the first family unit. When man was created (male and female), God gave them a mandate – God designed this family unit to rule and reign on the earth ([Genesis 1:28](#)). "It is not good" that man should be alone ([Genesis 2:18](#)). Even though Adam was in perfect communion with God, it was still not good. Part of being human is the ability to relate, not just with God but with one another because God is a relational God.



Adam and Eve, together, were meant to be God's representatives (Image-Bearers) to all of creation. Though they are equal, Adam and Eve each revealed a different aspect of God to creation. This is also why as Christians; marriage must be between a man and a woman.

## **#2 The Fall of the Family (Genesis 3)**

The serpent redefined the family (approached Eve, not Adam) - breaking God's designated order by bypassing the head of the house. In cleverly combining lies with a distortion of facts, the serpent tempted Eve to be self-centred (do whatever you want to do!). Sin happened when Eve decided that she was going to bypass authority and Adam remained passive. The serpent tempted Eve to disconnect herself from the Source of life – God.

This opened the doorway for pride, conflict, shame, etc to enter into the family unit; not just Adam's family, but every generation after Adam. The family is forever damaged and is imperfect because of this act of disobedience. That is why family life today is imperfect and at times, destructive.

The consequence of sin is that we will fail in our roles as image bearers. This is evident in the desire in some quarters to redefine the family, marriage and gender. These lead over time to disastrous consequences in many societies in the West, where the institutions of family and marriage are under increasing strains.

Scripture tells us that towards the end times, the world is going to become darker. This is the environment that our children will be growing up in – an environment that is the consequence of the Fall. So, where is the hope for the families today?

## **#3 The Hope of the Family (Revelation 21:1-5, John 10:10)**

Christ's work on the Cross bought us not just salvation but freedom and wholeness because we are once again connected to the Source of life. When we have a thriving relationship with God, we receive life – grace, love, righteousness, long suffering, wisdom, etc... everything we need for life and godliness. As a result, we can draw out of God's goodness and righteousness to do family life. We can become the Image Bearers we were meant to be to our children, to our spouses, to our parents, and to our siblings.

Though we still live in the imperfection because of sin, the return of Christ will bring forth the full restoration of the family unit. As the days get darker, Ps Ernie exhorts that the Church and the Family are the last line of defence against the advancing kingdom of darkness. We need to stand our ground, taking our God-given roles and responsibilities in the family seriously, because we are fighting for every generation after us.

Through Christ, we have authority (which was lost in the Garden of Eden because of the Fall) over the works of the enemy. Christ bought for us healing, not just physical, but spiritual and emotional. We can be free from our bondages and the consequences of sin - past hurts, the imperfect ways we were brought up, etc. Through Christ, we can overcome our own pride and insecurities to live free from bondages and strongholds. Therefore, the best gift we can give to our family is a "whole" self – one that is whole and free, actively connected to the Source of life, that is Jesus Christ! When we are whole, our families will benefit.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Ps. Ernie shared some findings from a survey conducted with our youths in MegaLife. Does it surprise you? How can you, the cell and the Church respond to the challenges revealed through the survey?
2. Ps Ernie reminds that “we are not righteous” and “we are weak.” In our family life, what does this mean for us as spouses, parents and family members?
3. It is said that “the best gift I can give to my family is my wholeness.” Share with the cell on ‘what is the next step that I can take in order for my family to have a “whole” me?’

## 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**
  - For God to help us acknowledge that we are weak and not righteous, and to repent of our ways that block our relationship with God
  - For us to strive towards holiness and wholeness, so that our families, parenting and marriage will be blessed!
2. **COVID-19 in Singapore**
  - Pray for God’s protection in the midst of an increase in community cases
3. **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.
  - Pray for peace especially in areas of conflict (Ukraine) and potential conflict – China & Taiwan.
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

Digital Bulletin: [rlc.sg/bulletin](http://rlc.sg/bulletin)

1. **Nov-Dec Church Calendar**
  - 13 Nov – Christmas Gear Up (Service extended for 15 mins)
  - 13 Nov, 11 am – Workshop: How to Share the Gospel in 5 Mins
  - 13 Nov, 2.30pm – Water Baptism Service
  - 20 Nov, 11am – 377A Forum: Future of the Family
  - 03 Dec, 4.30pm – RL Cares Community Outreach
  - 17 Dec, 2.30pm – RL Cares Community Outreach
  - 04 – 25 Dec – Christmas Evangelistic Services



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2. **Current Pulpit Series – Family Matters.** In this series, we will explore issues concerning family, marriage and parenting. Our desire is to see families of RiverLife strengthened and be God’s light in this nation. This series is relevant for all as it also explores the role of one’s spiritual community in strengthening the families within RiverLife.
    - *Series Details*
      - 23 Oct – The Imperfect Family
      - 06 Nov – Thriving, Not Surviving
      - 13 Nov – The Arrow Makers
    - *Beyond the Pulpit*
      - 23 Oct, 6 & 13 Nov: Sermon Self-Reflection Guides (Link: [linktr.ee/rlcsg.pulpit](http://linktr.ee/rlcsg.pulpit))
      - 6 Nov: Irreplaceable Movie / Documentary Screening (Link: [rlc.sg/nov-reg](http://rlc.sg/nov-reg))
      - 6 & 13 Nov: Podcast Episodes to explore topics in regards to family, marriage and parenting.
  3. **Leaders Advance 2022.** 3-5 November. More details and registration here: [rlc.sg/la2022](http://rlc.sg/la2022)
  4. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC’s mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the [Digital Bulletin](#) for more details.
  5. **Children’s Day Book Gift Sets.** Missions from Home (MFH) are selling children’s day book gift sets to help families in Myanmar with food and necessities. Link: [rlc.sg/mfhm-book](http://rlc.sg/mfhm-book)
  6. **RiverLife Kindergarten**
    - RLK has vacancies for Chinese Teachers. If you wish to apply, please send your resume to Mrs Tan Oi Leng ([oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg](mailto:oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg)).
    - RLK are looking for volunteers for their Annual Concert and K2 Graduation. Full Dress Rehearsal – Thu, 10 Nov, 8am-1pm. Concert & Graduation – 12 Nov, 9am – 12pm. Contact: 65114168
  7. **Updated Safe Management Measure.** Mask wearing for indoor worship services and religious classes is now optional. All worshippers and performers can sing and play instruments without wearing masks.
  8. **RiverLife Missions Upcoming Trips.** Signup: [rlc.sg/signupformissions](http://rlc.sg/signupformissions).
    - Arise and Shine Church Pastors & Leaders Conference. Pangasinan, North Philippines. 9-14 November. Cost: \$800.
  9. **Call for Musicians and Vocalists.** The Worship & Music ministry is on the lookout for musicians and vocalists – keyboardist, electric guitarist, bassist, drummer and singers. If you are interested, you can sign up at [rlc.sg/serve](http://rlc.sg/serve). Do note that an audition will be required before joining the ministry.



10. **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](http://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.)
- *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.)

11. **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](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg) and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at [jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg).

12. **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](http://rlc.sg/serve) or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.

13. **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/racs2022](http://rlc.sg/racs2022).
- 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@racs.org.sg](mailto:office@racs.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@racs.org.sg](mailto:volunteer@racs.org.sg).
- RCS is looking for 20 Food Collection Helper/Driver that is able to help with the loading/unloading of fresh food items at blocks where we are reaching out to. **Commitment:** Minimally once a month for 6 months, Saturdays, 12-4pm. Contact: [rlcares@racs.org.sg](mailto:rlcares@racs.org.sg).

14. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is [rlc.sg/podcast](http://rlc.sg/podcast) or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.

15. **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](https://rlc.sg/resource). This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
16. **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.*
17. **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>
18. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
19. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at [stories@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:stories@riverlife.org.sg) to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

## ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

### PayNow

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

### Interbank Transfer

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



## ONLINE GIVING TO MISSIONS

Give digitally:

### PayNow

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

### Interbank Transfer

UOB Account 450-309634-4  
Kindly indicate "Missions" in your transaction reference.





## 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.*

