

Series - On Your Mark!

Date/s - 24 June 2018

Topic - Let's Do Well Together In 2018!

Speaker/s - Senior Pastor
Lionel Goh

Welcome [15 min]

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

www.thesource4ym.com/games/

www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html < go to LEAD, click on ICEBREAKERS >

Worship [15 min]

You may select songs like *"The Lion And The Lamb"*, *"Living Hope"*, *"Worth It All"* or *"Divine Exchange"*.

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the cell discussion, cell members will commit to draw closer to God, draw closer to each other, and reach out to others.

Word [45 min]

As we reach the end of the first half of 2018, it is a good time to pause from our sermon series on Mark to **review** our journey in the last six months, and to **renew** our passion for the next half. SP Lionel looks back and shares what we have done from January to June and challenges us to move forward in the last half of 2018.

REVIEW: What Have We done

1. *A Year of Personal Preparation and Prayer*. Stirred by God's commands in Isaiah 40:3-5, we are to prepare the way of the Lord in 2018 by:

- a. *Raising up the valley*

Be strengthened and encouraged when we are down and out

- b. *Making low the mountain and hill*

Be willing to be humble, teachable and submissive

- c. *Smoothering the rough ground and rugged places*

Be willing to put aside our besetting sin, bad attitude, addiction, and carnal lifestyle

And what is God's promise for those who are willing and prepared?

"And the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all people will see it together." (Isaiah 40:5)

2. *Not just a RiverLife initiative but a National Resonance*. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, church leaders across denominations have consecrated 2018 as a Year of Fasting and Prayer. We are to prepare our hearts spiritually before we can reach out and be the Antioch of Asia. To do that, we need to understand God's *Spiritual Rhythm*:

- a. *Drawing closer to God*

- b. *Drawing closer to each other*

- c. *Reaching out to others*

3. In light of this *spiritual rhythm*, what have we done in the first half of 2018?
 - a. *Drawing closer to God*
 - Exposition of the Gospel of Mark over the pulpit
 - Personal devotion and cell discussion on the Gospel of Mark
 - Fasting and meditation on the suffering of Christ over Good Friday and the Easter season
 - b. *Drawing closer to each other*
 - Zone Pastors spending more pastoral time with Area Overseers and Cell Leaders
 - Regular cell meetings and fellowships
 - Zonal huddles and camps
 - c. *Reaching out to others*
 - Easter evangelistic services with guest speakers Pastor Ken Teo and Li Nanxing
 - Outreach service in June with Chef Heman Tan

RENEW: What Can We Do Better Together

1. *Church calendar from July to December 2018:*
 - A 40-day call to fast and pray for ourselves and the nation (1 July – 9 August)
 - One Thing Gathering (19-21 July)
 - Solemn Assemblies in Pentecost Methodist Church (29 July – 4 August)
 - Church 27th Anniversary (26 August)
 - Strategic Planning by Elders and Senior Leadership Team (July and September)
 - English Adults Leaders Retreat (7-9 September)
 - Christmas Cell Outreach (December)
 - Christmas Evangelistic Service (23 December)
2. In view of the *spiritual rhythm* above, what can we do better together in the last half of 2018?
 - a. *Drawing closer to God*

How? Through 40 days of prayer and fasting. In 2 Chronicles 7:13-14, there are **four** things God wants us to do:

 - i. Humble ourselves by fasting
 - ii. Pray and intercede for ourselves, families, church and nation
 - iii. Seek His face by waiting upon the Lord, delighting in Him and hearing His voice
 - iv. Turn from our wicked ways by seeking forgiveness, repenting from our sins and carnal lifestyle, and putting God first

And when we commit to do the above, there are **three** things God promises to do. He will:

 - i. Hear from Heaven
 - ii. Forgive our sins
 - iii. Heal our land

In addition, the practical results of prayer and fasting will lead us to:

 - Deeper intimacy with God
 - Greater spiritual clarity
 - Stronger faith and prayer life
 - Personal breakthroughs
 - Greater love for others

- b. *Drawing closer to each other*
 - Pray more for each other
 - Have more fellowship meals
 - Serve the needy with RiverLife Community Services
 - Go for year-end mission trips
- c. *Reaching out to others*
 - Take advantage of these uncertain times by offering the hope of Christ (Colossians 4:5-6)
 - Individually or as a cell, pray for the salvation of Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbours (FRAN), invite them to your cell Christmas party in December, or to the church Christmas service on 23 December.

Discussion Questions

1. **Looking back at the last six months in your journey with Jesus, what have been your joys and your tears? Your blessings and your struggles? Share both your ups and downs and how the cell can encourage and pray for you.** [15 min]

Leader's Notes: *This is a recap question for each of us to be authentic and real in our walk with the Lord in the last six months. What are the lessons learned? Mistakes made? Sins committed and confessed? Prayers answered? Promises fulfilled? "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body." (Ephesians 4:25)*

2. **Read Isaiah 40:3-5. In this key scripture for RiverLife in 2018, God commanded us to prepare the way of the Lord by:**
 - a. raising up the valley
 - b. making low the mountain and hill, and
 - c. smoothening the rough ground and rugged places.

How have you been doing in any of these in your faith journey in the last six months? What have been your challenges? What are the fruits of your labour? [15 min]

Leader's Notes: *A reflect and relate question for the cell to think about. The spiritual implications of these verses are:*

- a. *be strengthened and encouraged when we are down and out*
- b. *be willing to be humble, teachable and submissive*
- c. *be willing to put aside our besetting sin, bad attitude, addiction, and carnal lifestyle.*

Allow members to share their own perspectives of these verses in Isaiah as they view them in light of their own journey. Comparing Questions 1 and 2, Q1 is more general with regards to each individual's life, while Q2 pertains more to our church's vision of A Year of Preparation and Prayer in 2018. Let's be gracious with members' responses as both questions may overlap at certain points.

3. **Read 2 Chronicles 7:13-14. How do you plan to put into practice the spiritual rhythm of *drawing closer to God, drawing closer to each other, and reaching out to others* in the next six months?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes: *This is a response question. In view of the church calendar of activities and events, encourage members to take specific steps to fulfill God's mandate for us in the last half of 2018. (Suggestion for leaders: hand out blank cards and pens and challenge them to put their commitments in*

writing. Then pray over them towards the end of the cell meeting.) Refer to the list in the sermon notes above (under RENEW item 2) on drawing closer to God, drawing closer to each other, and reaching out to others. For the younger believers, encourage them with 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." For the more matured believers, challenge them to take their faith even further by going beyond the list. "For with God nothing will be impossible." (Luke 1:37)

Works [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. Every RiverLifer will take up the cross and finish the race well in the second half of 2018. (Matthew 16:24, 2 Timothy 4:7)

Announcements**1. SOLEMN ASSEMBLIES**

1 JUL-9 AUG | NIGHTLY | 8-10PM | IN CHURCHES NATIONWIDE

RiverLife will be co-anchoring the prayer meetings for the week of 29 Jul to 4 Aug with Pentecost Methodist Church and Bethesda Pasir Ris Mission Church.

For full schedule of Solemn Assemblies, please visit www.riverlife.org.sg/sites/files/riverlife/40day2018.pdf

2. ONE THING GATHERING 2018

THU-SAT, 19-21 JUL | WORSHIP CENTRE

CONFERENCE FEES: \$70 (ADULTS) | \$30 (FULL-TIME STUDENTS)

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR NIGHT SESSIONS

To register or find out more, visit www.onething.sg

Church Vision Statement:

"A vibrant family where sons and daughters mature and reveal the Father's glory from generation to generation."