

Series - Vision Message 2019

Date/s - 24 Feb 2019

Topic - RiverLife Shifts

Speaker/s - Pastor Ben KC Lee

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 “Jesus I Come”, “Goodness of God” or “Majesty of Heaven”.

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Understand the “shifts” that RiverLife is making in this new season
2. Commit to be developed as a disciple
3. Commit to be “spiritual parents” to newer Christians

Word [45 min]

Pastor Ben recapped the New Year Sermon on 6th Jan 2019. He spoke of God doing a new thing for RiverLife – which the church leadership prayed and planned for in the second half of 2018. God is renewing the house and building a new family. This shift relates to the time period that the world is in now. The Lord is preparing to return, and He wants us to get ready for end-time harvest (Luke 4:18-19) and to overcome persecution.

SHIFT #1 – A SEASON JUST ENDED

- The chapter from 2011 to 2018 has ended. For the past 8 years, RiverLife has learnt many lessons and we have much to be thankful for.
- However, we should “forget the former things” and “not dwell on the past” (Isaiah 43:18). We should open the eyes of our hearts to what God is doing in this new season (Isaiah 43:19).
- Nevertheless, there are some things that will not change in RiverLife:
 - Freedom in worship
 - Being a family church in an age that emphasises individualism
 - We are 100% Word and 100% Spirit
 - We will remain a cell church

SHIFT #2 – SHARPENING STRATEGIC FOCUS

- A strategic focus acts like our compass, pointing the way for the church. We need to sharpen our focus for a clear direction forward (Ecclesiastes 10:10).
- Pastor Ben highlighted the strengths and uniqueness of RiverLife:
 - Strengths: We are anointed in corporate worship with a talented worship team; we have a sizeable property that is ideally located to prepare for end-time harvest; we have able volunteers and trained ministry teams.
 - Uniqueness: Our worship is presence-centred with a strong focus in God; we are an Eastern suburban church near leisure facilities and a beach; we are an Evangelical-Charismatic church; we are interdependent (self-governing but we journey with three other churches from the ‘Bartley family’); we have a gifted technical and production team.

- Our Mission: We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.
 - The Great Commission teaches us that making disciples is the mission of the church. Every believer is a minister.
 - Get personal with the Lord and run hard after Him. As we get closer to Him, He transforms us into His likeness.
 - We reveal Him in public by bringing His Kingdom into our marketplace, our classrooms, our daily living environment.
- Our Vision: A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.
 - As in Ephesians 5:27, our vision is to be a “radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish”, radiating the glory of God.
 - As we are transforming, we become God's change agents in our family, our marketplace, and our nation. Joining a cell is the start of this transformation journey.
- Our Values:
 - Rooted – Be cautious that we don't feel entitled. It is not about us but about Christ. We want to be Christ-centered and abide in Him. Without Him, we're nothing.
 - Family – Relationships is the key to experience God and one another. The Christian experience is fully lived with others. Make RiverLife a home for all of us.
 - Disciple Making – The job of changing lives does not only lie with the leadership team. Although it is not easy, all of us must do what we can, and God will do the rest. It is through the Holy Spirit that we can achieve this.
 - Servanthood – In a world of self-promotion, we are devoted to serving with humility and “hiddenness.” We are building a church where members put others first and serve where needed.
 - Sent – We bring Kingdom culture into every sphere of our lives. We have the responsibility of bringing healing and hope to all who are hurt and in despair in our communities and the nations.

SHIFT #3 – DISCIPLES SHIFT

- RiverLife is going to align all our cells, all our ministries on the same track to build disciples.
- This is the era of spiritual mothers and fathers (1 Thessalonians 2:7, 2:11-12)
- 3 Priorities in Disciple-Making:
 - Instil Kingdom Perspective – Developing a Kingdom mindset that makes decisions to extend the Kingdom of God, not for self-serving purposes.
 - Cultivate an Outreach Lifestyle – An evangelistic lifestyle that tells people about God and encourages spiritual conversations.
 - Nurture a Disciple-Making DNA – Help members grow from being a casual attendee to a fully devoted follower of Christ. RiverLife is developing a process to help members grow from spiritual infants to become spiritual parents.

In summary, for the new season, RiverLife aims to be a parenting church with a people development agenda and culture. The church will channel our resources and manpower to achieve this objective.

Discussion Questions

1. **We merely run around in circles if we don't know where we are going. With this, what is the single most-important objective in your personal and/or family life? What do you want it to be?** [15 min]

Leader's Notes: This is a relate question for members to think what they truly treasure in their personal and family life – see Matthew 6:20. Where are we heading? Are we distracted with pursuing objectives that will not matter in eternity? Our focus should be to store up treasures in heaven and not for the here and now for our own selves. Jesus teaches that our purpose in life is to love God and love others. Is our single most-important objective aligned with this? Challenge members to think about how their personal and/or family objectives can be aligned with God's. While it is natural or even human to worry, especially when troubles are aplenty, Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:33 to put God first and live by faith that our God will add "all these things" to us!

2. **Of the values mentioned in the sermon, which one resonates with you and why is this important to you and in the church? How do you reinforce and demonstrate that value in your life?** [10 min]

Leader's Notes: This is a reflect question for members to think about the values they would like to embrace in their life and why. Pastor Ben highlighted the five core values that RiverLife aspires to have as part of our spiritual DNA: Rooted, Family, Disciple Making, Servanthood and Sent. As outlined in the synopsis and the handout given at the services, the leader may reiterate why these values are so important. Leaders can talk through the responses to the questions and link it to further discussions on: How do these values help in their walk with God and in their spiritual growth? It is also good for members to think about practical ways they can reinforce that values, i.e., how do they live it out?

3. **The new mission and vision for RiverLife is to make disciples and help them become spiritual parents. This means that no matter what age you are, you have a responsibility to grow spiritually and to take others with you. How can you contribute to move to a people development agenda and culture for RiverLife church?** [20 min]

Leader's Notes: A response question for members to take responsibility in their spiritual growth and to think of practical ways to contribute to the church's mission of disciple-making. Pastor Ben spoke of three immediate ways for members to step up:- (a) participating actively in the Cell, (b) taking up membership in the RiverLife church, and (c) serving the church in areas/ministries that need help. Beyond that, leaders can prompt members who are mature Christians to think of how they can start being a spiritual parent (i.e. maybe starting with younger members within the cell).

This is a good article on why the Bible says that spiritual growth is not optional:
<https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/spiritual-growth-is-not-optional>

You may refer to this article for 10 ideas on how to grow spiritually:
<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/women/breaking-the-complacency-habit-10-ways-to-grow-spiritually-in-2012.html>

Works [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. For the church to never forget what is important to God and why we are here.
2. For every RiverLifer to have the desire to be disciplined and to disciple someone.

Announcements

1. Presence Room, Sundays | 8:30am | Worship Centre

Pre-Service Prayer Meeting on Sunday mornings will be re-launched as Presence Room starting on 3 Mar.

2. Joining the Family, Saturday, 30 Mar | 1:30 – 4:30pm | Faith Chapel

Joining the Family class will help you to understand God's heart for the Church and His call for us to be identified with a local body of believers. This is a pre-requisite for Associate Membership. Sign up at the Information Counter or online at bit.ly/rlcjoiningthefamily by Sun, 17 Mar.

3. Marriage Preparation Course

Suns, 31 Mar, 7 – 28 Apr | 1:45 – 5:00pm | Faith Chapel

Sat, 4 May | 9:00am – 5:00pm | Faith Chapel

This course will equip you with biblical foundations and practical principles needed to build a lasting marriage. Register at the Information Counter by Sun, 24 Mar.

Church Vision:

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.

Mission:

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.