

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - Building The Future
Topic - Private Life Inspection

Date - 26-Apr-2020
Speaker - Ps Ernie Song

WELCOME [15 min]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
 2. Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me
-

BIBLE READING PLAN [10 min]

Take some time to talk about the Bible Reading Plan. The time of sharing can include the following:

- a) How's everyone's progress so far?
 - b) What are some things that God has spoken to you through the various readings?
-

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Commit to rebuild/fortify the walls of their private lives;
2. Honestly evaluate the state of their private lives; and
3. Commit to allow God to be the King of their lives.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. Before rebuilding/fortifying the walls of our private lives, we need an honest evaluation of the state of our private lives.
 2. This evaluation includes examining our motives to see if God is our source, if we are living for the audience of One, and if He is truly Lord over our private lives.
-

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Building the Kingdom of God requires churches to be strong. For churches to be strong, the members need to be strong. A member is only as strong as the state of his/her private world. In this sermon, Ps Ernie continues with the book study of Nehemiah.

Nehemiah 2 describes the start of the rebuilding process (of the wall in Jerusalem). How should we go about rebuilding/fortifying the walls of our private lives? We begin by honestly evaluating the state of our private lives, where only God can see, to examine if we are truly disciples of Christ. In Nehemiah 2:12, we see that Nehemiah surveyed the walls in secret. Some Christians are “approval addicts” and love to publicise in the social media when they do spiritual things. Is the focus of our devotional, cell and church life for the approval of men or do we live for the audience of One? During this COVID-19 season, more than ever, we need to heed the words of Christ in Matthew 6:6 to also carry out our spiritual acts of devotion in the secret place where no one except God can see.

Nehemiah 2:13 mentions the Pool of Siloam – one of the main water sources for the whole city drawn from the Gihon Spring. This water was important especially during a city siege. In order to fortify our private lives, we must first see where our source is from. Where are we drawing our strength and life from? Only God has the living water that can give us abundant and eternal life. We must examine our spiritual walk with God and not crave for second-hand anointing or feed on yesterday’s manna. Do we gauge our spirituality primarily by how we feel after a church service or after we serve? Are we drinking from the source, i.e., the Word of God?

Nehemiah’s last stop (in verse 14) was the King’s Pool. He needed to know if Jerusalem could still house a king. In ancient times, the king is the mediator between the people and God, setting the rules on how the people should live so that God is pleased. In 1 Timothy 2:5, we have one King and His name is Jesus. We are called to allow Jesus to be the King of our private lives, governing all our actions, especially where no one is looking. Ps Ernie used the unique practice in Japan of repairing broken pottery called Kintsugi to illustrate what God can do, if we allow Him, to make something beautiful out of the brokenness in our lives. We have broken walls. We need to surrender our lives completely to God!

Discussion Questions

- 1. At the start of the rebuilding process, Nehemiah evaluated the conditions of the ruined walls in Jerusalem. Ps Ernie encouraged us to do the same for our private lives. Share honestly whether we have sought the approval of people as our primary motivation, rather than God’s and trusted in things for our security, rather than in God. [10 min]**

Leader’s Notes:

This is an ice-breaking question. If we are honest with ourselves, we have all fallen short and we need to constantly come to God to reflect and ask Him to search our hearts – see Jeremiah 17:9-10. What truly motivates our actions and how we interact with one another? Do we trust in the idols of this world, such as material things, money, power and fame, more than trusting in God who knows our innermost being? The one who trusts in the Lord is unshaken by the storms of life and is sustained by the Lord Himself. The idols of this world are deceitful and temporal, and they will fail one day and ruin us in the midst of the challenges in life. During this disruptive period brought about by

COVID-19, how have members' perspectives been changed? Leaders can encourage members to look to God for the answers to the difficulties we may face.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

If we have turned away and trusted in other things instead of God in our private lives, we can ask God for forgiveness and ask Him to search our hearts and re-orient us towards Him! God is ever ready to guide us in our walk with Him. The next question is about getting spiritual inputs in our lives.

- 2. In order to fortify our private world, we must first see where we are drawing our strength and life from. Share with one another how you receive spiritual inputs in your life. [15 min]**

Leader's Notes:

This question is for us to reflect and relate. Nehemiah 2:13 speaks of the Pool of Siloam which is a main water source for the city of Jerusalem. It is also where Jesus healed the blind man (John 9:1-11). During the current season of COVID-19, is God prompting us to do an honest analysis of our private lives? We can become spiritually blind and not even know it if we are not willing to pause and evaluate the state of our private lives.

Christians may become overly dependent on Sunday Services, speakers or worship leaders for their feeding. Is our gauge of spirituality how we feel after the church service or after we serve in a public ministry? Instead of craving for second-hand anointing, we should drink from the source – God's living water. God desires for His children to receive from Him and to commune with Him. In our walk with God, are we regularly feeding on the Word? Are we maturing each day into the likeness of Christ? Examining our hearts, we should ask ourselves whether our lives can become less about ourselves and more about God's work.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Leaders can encourage members to commit/continue to read and meditate on God's Word. God will heal us of any spiritual blindness that we may have and set us on a path towards maturity. Only then can God take His rightful throne in our lives!

- 3. Ephesians 1:20-21 speaks of Jesus being enthroned not only in this age but also in the one to come. Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart today. Is there any aspect of your life that you have not made Jesus the Lord of? Share and commit them to God. [15 min]**

Leader's Notes:

This question is for us to respond in commitment. Ephesians 1:20-21 speaks of God raising Jesus from the dead and that Jesus is now seated at His right hand in the heavenly places. Jesus is not only a friend or just an adviser, He is King and Lord.

In Nehemiah 2:14, Nehemiah stopped at the King's Pool as his last stop. The king is the mediator between the people and God – see also 1 Timothy 2:5, setting the rules so that God is pleased. If you examine your heart of hearts, at your thoughts and at your private life, is Jesus really the Lord over every part of your life? What really motivates you in this life?

When you allow God into the hidden and broken parts of your life, He is going to heal your hurts and make something beautiful of your private life. Will you surrender your private life to Jesus as our King and Lord? Will you allow God to rebuild the broken walls and bring about a greater glory in Him? Leaders can encourage members to exercise faith and pray together to make this commitment.

Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting to Cell & Closing the Discussion)

It is said that either God is the Lord of all, or He isn't Lord at all. God is calling you to allow Him to be Lord over all your motivations, thoughts, goals and dreams. Let Jesus govern your actions especially when no one is looking. In this season of the Circuit-Breaker, when everything is on a PAUSE and we have time on our hands, God is granting us an opportunity to fortify our private lives so that He is the centre of our lives and that we learn to drink from His living water. Let us continue to allow Him to mature us in this season and to help us organise our private lives so that our lives can emerge from this Circuit Breaker with a "new normal."

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. Pray for Riverlifers to rebuild/ fortify our relationship with God, and to surrender every area of our lives to Him as our King and Lord.
2. Pray for the COVID-19 situation in Singapore with the further extension of the Circuit Breaker.
3. Pray for the many around the world who are suffering due to the COVID-19 situation.

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.