Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series-Building The FutureDate-03-May-2020Topic-It Takes Everyone to Build the ChurchSpeaker-Lam Zhengxin

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. Lord, I Offer My Life
- 2. Saviour King

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. Recognise that we all play a part in building the church.
- 2. Take ownership in the Body of Christ and take our place in building the church.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

- 1. It takes everyone to build the church.
- 2. Everyone must know their place in building the church.
- 3. Everyone must take their place in building the church.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

Zhengxin preached from Nehemiah 3 and made the following observations and applications:



1. To rebuild the walls in Jerusalem, people from all walks of life were involved – religious leaders, goldsmiths, perfumers, the ruling class, etc. Likewise, it takes everyone to build the church. God's design for the church is the 100/100 principle, i.e., 100% of people should be involved in 100% of the work. Real transformation happens when people intentionally desire each other to grow in holiness and Christlikeness. The work of discipleship is everyone's assignment and not the job of pastors alone. (See Ephesians 4:11-13 and 1 Corinthians 12)

Applications

- Build yourself up, i.e., first feed yourself spiritually.
- Build others up, i.e., encourage a devotional life in your marriage, family and cell.
- Work together to rebuild all the walls in our church today.
- 2. If it takes everyone to build the church, then everyone must know their place on the wall, e.g., the Sheep Gate was repaired by priests as it was closest to the temple. Taking ownership of the city must come before building of the wall. To the Israelites, Jerusalem meant everything to them. In the same way, we cannot help to build the church unless we are first a part of the church. When we are in a cell, it is not about getting our own needs met, but to meet the needs of others. It is being open to know others and choosing to love and encourage each other when we go through difficult times.

<u>Applications</u>

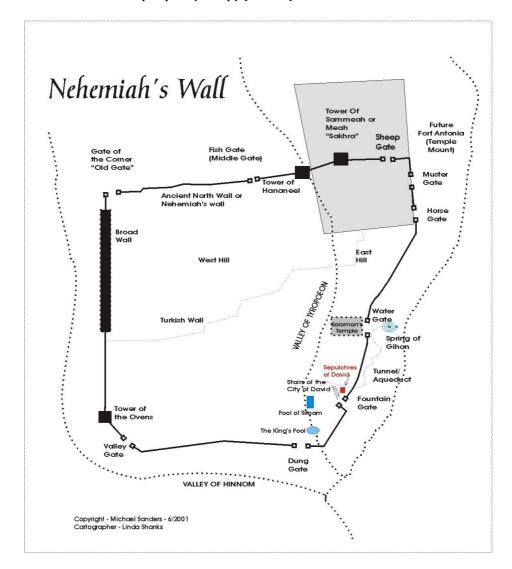
- Join a cell! Get connected to others and build one another up.
- Grow from a disciple to a disciple-maker, for we are all called to be disciple-makers (Matthew 28:19-20).
- 3. If it takes everyone to build the church, then everyone must take their place on the wall. In Nehemiah 3, people were assigned to portions of the wall where they had a vested interest in. Likewise, we are encouraged to join and participate in a church ministry where we can sow into, however big or small our contribution may seem.

Applications

- Be part of a ministry in church.
- Contribute prayerfully, physically or financially to the work of the Lord.

Discussion Questions

1. Look at the text in Nehemiah 3 and the picture of Nehemiah's wall. How many people were involved and what were their occupations (if mentioned)? What else did you notice about these people? (Recap) [10 min]



Leader's Notes:

This is a recap question. Using the picture, leaders can get members to run through the chapter together and point out the different groups involved in rebuilding the walls at different gates.

Leaders can reiterate the points made during the sermon – that everyone played their part and everyone knew and took their place at the walls despite the difficulties because they were all focused on rebuilding the walls.

Some questions to ponder:

Everyone was involved and built near their homes or where they had a vested interest in. What would it be like for those who had or had never built walls before? How would the rebuilding of the walls have looked like at that time?



<u>Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)</u>

Not everyone was a builder by trade in Nehemiah's time, however everyone chipped in to rebuild the walls. Similarly, there will be joys and challenges, victories and difficulties when God's people work together to build His church. God's desire is for all of us to be active participants in the spiritual growth of ourselves and the church.

2. What were your experiences working in a team in a church ministry? What helped or hindered its success? (Relate, Reflect) [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

A relate and reflect question. Linking it to the previous question, leaders can ask members if they had been involved in any church "building" projects before, e.g., mission trips, overseas community projects, local outreach efforts, etc. They could also share about times they worked as a group in school or at work or in the community. How was the experience for them?

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

There will always be times of excitement and uncertainties when we work on projects together. We may not be sure if we can work well together, or we may not be certain how the outcome will be. Discuss what had helped or did not help in our past experiences. Explore how we can bring the lessons we learned to build our cell and the church together.

3. Cell is a place for us to give and receive. It is also a place for us to know others whom we might not have met and to journey alongside each other in our difficulties. What are some ways you can give to your cell group? (Response) [15 min]

Leader's Notes:

A response question for members to share. Leaders can get members to think about what some of their attitudes are towards the cell group. Where some members may feel inadequate, leaders can encourage them to take small steps in how they can contribute; or challenge them to first focus on building themselves spiritually and keeping each other accountable in their journey. Members can also think about friends or people they know who are not in a cell and reach out to them.

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

We all have a part to play in building God's kingdom. We all play different roles and no gift is too small. God sees the attitudes of our hearts and is pleased when we make ourselves available. He desires for all of us to be involved in building His church and to experience the joy that comes in growing and working with other disciples of Christ.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

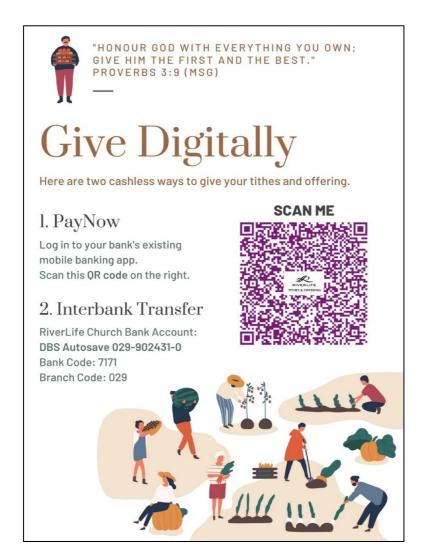
1. **COVID-19 Situation.** Continue to pray for the COVID-19 situation especially for the foreign workers living in the dormitories. Pray for protection from the virus as well as for their basic necessities to be met during this season.



2. **Cell Community**. Pray for your cell community that God will make all of us builders and not spectators – that we will strengthen the relationships within the cell and do what we can to strengthen the community life of our cells.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. **RiverLife Bible Reading Plan.** We just ended the second week of our Bible Reading Plan. It's not too late for you to join us. You can access the weekly Bible Reading Plans by visiting our website: https://www.riverlife.org.sg/brp.
- 2. Supporting Our Migrant Workers. Besides providing spiritual support, we can also support our migrant workers financially. This work will be done through our community arm RiverLife Community Services (RCS). As a way of caring for those who have been affected by this pandemic, we have set up the "RiverLife Cares" fund. The money raised from this fund will be channelled to those affected (which include Singaporeans and non-Singaporeans such as migrant workers) by the ongoing pandemic. You may contribute to the "RiverLife Cares" fund via PayNow, and details can be found at www.riverlife.org.sg/rlcares





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.

