

# Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

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**Series** - A Counter-Cultural Life                      **Date** - 08-Nov-2020  
**Topic** - The Church of One Another (1 Peter 4:1-11)   **Speaker** - Lam Zheng Xin

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## WELCOME [15 min]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

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## WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Spirit Touch Your Church
  2. Goodness of God
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## WORD [45 min]

### **Spiritual Objectives**

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

1. Renew our focus on love as the most important thing for Christian community;
2. Practice hospitality in practical ways; and
3. Commit to serve one another in the church.

### **Sermon Summary**

As members of RiverLife Church, we should:

1. Love one another deeply because love covers a multitude of sins;
2. Offer hospitality to one another and be intentional to those who need friendship; and
3. Serve one another.

The church community is built up when we become others-centred and when we use our God-given gifts to serve one another. In this way, we can learn and grow as Christ's disciples.

### **Sermon Recap (Full Summary)**

Zheng Xin continues with the sermon series on 1 Peter, which has the key theme on Christian holiness and living amid suffering. We are to carry the same attitude of Christ, which is to live for the will of God, even if it means having to go through suffering and persecution. How should we treat one another in the church community?

### **1. Love One Another Deeply Because Love Covers A Multitude Of Sins (v 8)**

We are all imperfect and will hurt or offend one another. In the church community, we can have diverse backgrounds, preferences and perspectives. Relationships are susceptible to

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strain or even destruction because of one wrong word or one wrong action if we do not have love as the starting point. We are all, without exception, in need of grace from one another. Love covers a multitude of sins – it is the most important thing if we are to do the further two exhortations well. Therefore, we must learn to forgive and seek reconciliation.

## **2. Offer Hospitality To One Another And Be Intentional To Those Who Need Friendship (v 9)**

At the heart of offering hospitality is being others-centred, instead of being self-interested. Hospitality is an expression of our love for others. Zheng Xin challenges RiverLife Church to be a place where people can find friends. Many people desire deep friendships, but such relationships require intentionality. We can find someone in need of friendship and be intentional in reaching out and going deep.

Do we allow people to know who we truly are? Relationship is the primary context in which discipleship happens. Hospitality is the gateway into relational discipleship and helping one another to mature in Christ.

## **3. Serve One Another (v 10-11)**

The call is for each of us to serve one another. Serving is saying that the most important person in the church is not me, but the person beside me. Serving is an important part of our Christian discipleship. Each of us has a role and responsibility in the body of Christ, that is, the Church. With love for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, we can build up the church – this church of “one another”!

We cannot fully live out our Christian faith if we are not serving the body of Christ. We must not have an individualistic faith – just exclusively between God and me. The church community is built up when we become others-centred and when we use our God-given gifts to serve one another. In this way, we can learn and grow as Christ’s disciples.

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. 1 Peter 4:8 tells us to love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins. This is key to having good relationships with others in the church and beyond. Is there a relationship in your life right now that would benefit from putting this into practice? [10 min]**

#### **Leader’s Notes:**

*This is a relate question for members to evaluate and share about the relationships they have within God’s family. Our imperfection and brokenness can destroy relationships. For instance, we would say things which are careless or insensitive to each other. We may come with fears and insecurities. Our relationships with one another can always be one offence away from breaking down if we are not careful to guard and nurture it. This does not mean that we ignore sins or hide the offence. We are called from different backgrounds and have differences in perspectives, preferences to love one another above all, and we need to exercise grace toward each other. This is a humble love that “looks not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4). Such love applauds the good qualities we find in others while speaking the truth in love. We should encourage one another in our spiritual journey.*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

When the love of God through Christ so filled our hearts, then the offences of others (and our own sins) are covered in Christ-like forgiveness. We must prioritise our relationships with one another over our personal viewpoints, agenda or ego. With love as the foundation, we can truly build and grow the relationships in God's family – 1 Peter 4:9-11.

2. **Teaching from 1 Peter 4:9, Zheng Xin speaks of hospitality as intentional friendship with others, especially strangers and those in need of friendship. Hebrews 13:2 implores "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." How can we be more hospitable as an individual, a Cell and/or a church? [15 min]**

**Leader's Notes:**

*In modern English, the word "hospitality" conveys little more than the thought of "entertaining," but in the Bible, it is something important and radical. The Greek word for hospitality – philoxenia – literally means the "love of strangers." Christians are constantly called to hospitality (Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8). Hospitality entails bringing one another into our common life, as we eat together, play together, or pray together. Christians are called to be quick to include and accept people and meeting practical needs in a spirit of love. Leaders can discuss practical ways for members to practice hospitality individually, as a Cell or as a church.*

*The practice of hospitality among Christians as a way of life can be something immensely powerful in building community and meeting needs. These are some important pointers to keep in mind when practicing hospitality (adapted from Public Faith and the Practice of Hospitality by Jeff White, 2014):*

- *Embrace of others is more important than the place where hospitality occurs.*
- *It is essential that we bring our authentic and flawed selves into hospitable relationships. Pretending to be something we are not does not give life to others.*
- *Engaging in meaningful conversation and cultivating active listening skills in which we take a genuine interest in others are essential.*
- *Hospitality is often best practiced as a community. We ought to enlist others to help us rather than trying to do it all on our own.*

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Practicing hospitality reflects God's heart. True hospitality, to borrow from Timothy Keller's definition, is the heart and practice which turn strangers into guests, guests into friends, and friends into potential members of the family. The next question continues with how we can serve one another in the Christian family.

3. **Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. It talks of putting God-given gifts into practice so that you can serve others. Share any encouragement or kind acts you have experienced from a cell member or inside the church. Share also practical ways we can serve one another in the cell group and/or within the church community in the next one month. [15 min]**

### Leader's Notes

*This is a call to action! Peter calls us out of our comfort zones by stating that every single one of us is called to serve. Every believer has resources and abilities which the Holy Spirit had given by grace and can be used to build up and strengthen others. The inflow of our gifts from God should result in a beneficial outflow of His grace to others. Each of us can make a distinctive contribution to individuals and to the community of faith, stimulating growth in others and ourselves to Christian maturity. This brings glory to God!*

*Zheng Xin challenges us to ask our cell leader these questions:*

- *How can I serve you?*
- *What can I do to help out in the cell?*

*Do we adopt the posture of wanting to serve our cell leader and our cell group?*

### Closing

Serving is saying that the most important person in church or cell group is not me but the person beside me. RiverLife church should not be a church that is about "me" but it is a church that is about one another. Serving one another in love is an important part of our Christian faith and is crucial to our Christian discipleship.

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## **WORKS** [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. Pray that we will:
  - Be connected as a church and serving one another
  - Forgiving and showing grace to one another in the church and cell group
  - Be intentional in loving those who need friendship and be hospitable to one another.
2. Pray for the pilot partial resumption of in-person gatherings
  - We continue to support and encourage one another in our church community through physical and virtual gatherings as we adjust to the new changes
  - Wisdom for the leadership and staff to implement safe management measures and other changes for the in-person gatherings.

### **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.