

Weekly Cell Guide

Leader's Copy

Series - A Counter-Cultural Life **Date** - 29-Nov-2020
Topic - Stand Firm & Finish Strong (1 Peter 5:6-14) **Speaker** - SP Ben KC Lee

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. Reward
 2. Be Thou My Vision
-

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

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

1. Be reminded to stand firm in our faith by submitting to God and being watchful
2. Recognise the importance of spiritual friendships and being a faithful friend to other believers.

Sermon Summary

- Stand firm and finish strong
- To grow through suffering, humble yourself before God, resist evil, trust God, and stand together in God's true grace with the saints
- Remain sober minded and receive grace to resist evil so that you can give glory to God and express love towards one another.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

In 1st Peter, Peter encourages us to position ourselves for victory in God as we go through suffering in this fallen world.

Peter gives us four commands to develop attitudes and actions to stand firm and finish strong with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Ben shares four pointers with us:

1. **Be Submissive Under the Power of God** (vv 6-7) - Suffering can make us proud if we question God on why we must suffer. Bearing a grudge towards God when we suffer also distances us from God. Submitting to God makes us humble - it gives us an accurate view of ourselves before God. Jesus models for us submission. Humbling ourselves before God, resting in His care and trusting in God grants us peace and hope.

Applications

Application 1: Realise that God is in control (v 6). Submission to God is an act of faith, it leads us to depend on God, which leads to salvation.

Application 2: Realise that God cares for us and that our burdens are anxieties that causes us to lose sight of God and focus to on our fears.

2. **Be On Guard Over Evil (vv. 8-9)** - Listening and obedience to God's Word quickens our spiritual senses to evil at work. We can resist evil with God.

We are in a spiritual battle and need to stand guard. The evil one's goal is to get us to disobey God, destroy our faith and devour us. However, Jesus has won the war against the evil one on the cross. While we are not to be preoccupied with demonic opposition, we must not underestimate the enemy. Christians have been given the boldness to proclaim the Gospel and this angers the enemy - spiritual opposition is to be expected! We need to be honest with others that we will face trouble even when we believe in Christ, however we have the victory in Him.

Applications

Five practical instructions to guard against evil:

1. Be self-controlled (and disciplined)
2. Be watchful and spiritually alert
3. Resist the evil one (James 4:7)
4. Stand firm in the faith – We are to be watchful when doubt replaces hope
5. Be willing to suffer.

3. **Believe God's Promise About My Final Future (vv. 10-11)** - Trusting that God will make things right enables us to sustain hope when going through suffering.

Peter reminds his readers that God knows what He is doing and He is in absolute control. Peter gives three reasons for a hopeful attitude – be hopeful because 1) of God's grace. 2) the suffering will end and 3) we are going on to glory (v. 10). In this suffering, we are tempted to sin but God uses the trials to establish and strengthen us to stand firm and finish strong.

4. **Band With Other Saints in God's True Grace (vv. 12-14)** - We are to journey together with others in the faith as we cannot do it by our own strength.

Peter shows us the importance of spiritual friendships by sharing with us about other believers in the faith – He calls Silas a faithful brother, about the church in Rome who was facing persecution. In the same way, in RiverLife, we journey with other churches e.g. the Bartley Family of Churches. Peter also writes about his disciple Mark, who wrote the gospel of Mark.

Pastor Ben encouraged RiverLifers to build spiritual friendships, to aspire to be a Silas and Mark – people who joyfully give to the Kingdom of God – and be inspired by the oneness of the Father, Son and Spirit. God comforts us and we are able to comfort others in trouble (1 Corinthians 1:3-4). Pastor Ben encouraged us to be faithful friends to fellow believers, to gather together to stand firm in true grace and be righteous in an evil world.

Discussion Questions

1. **In your experience, how do you think the devil works in our lives? How does he “prowl around in our lives” and “devour us”? Share an occasion in your life when the devil was prowling around and manage to “devour” you.** [15 min]

Leader’s Notes:

Many Christians are oblivious to the presence of the devil prowling around us. As Christians, we must remind ourselves that he and his demonic forces are actively prowling around in our lives. The key to be victorious over him is to close off all open doors in our lives for sin to enter. When those doors are closed, the devil can only prowl but can never enter into our lives.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to the Next Question)

Christians must be wary of the forces in this world that are used by the devil to corrupt and take captive believers (bondages of sin). These can come in the form of ungodly media content, corrupt talk, unholy lifestyle, etc). We must constantly be on the alert, especially when we are not in the company of fellow believers.

2. **Peter exhorted the believers to be self-controlled, sober-minded, alert and watchful in our lives. How does this look like in our lives?** [10 min]

Leaders’ Notes

This is a relate and response question. Depending on the profile of the group, leaders can choose to start by asking these questions: What are the evils and temptations we face in this life? What are the obvious and subtle ones? How can we continue to stay watchful and alert? The purpose of the question is for members to discuss and identify the subtle temptations of this life, especially the grey areas. Leaders can choose to let members discuss on the identified topics, to take home and ponder if more time is needed. Leaders can wrap up by emphasizing the five practical instructions that Pastor Ben shared, and to note the importance of us knowing God’s Word for ourselves and to seek God’s discernment and wisdom even as we navigate and make choices in this world, and for us to prayerfully be the salt and light especially for those who have yet to know Him.

Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

We are encouraged to stand firm when facing opposition. We do not go through it alone – this gives us strength and courage when faced with adversities.

3. **Think of a friend who has/had been a faithful friend in the faith. Share your experience with the cell. How can you be a faithful friend to others?** [10 min]

Leader’s Notes

This is a reflect and response question. Leaders can get members to reflect on how different individuals have been a spiritual friend to them – it could have been through a small gesture, or prayer or in other forms. They can share how this encouraged and inspired them in the faith. Members can also think about how they can be a spiritual friend to others. Leaders can also ask members to ponder about how they can be a spiritual friend as they grow through the different life stages, and how it would be similar or different.

Closing

Though we will face challenges and battles in this life, let us take heart that the battle belongs to the Lord, that He has the victory and we need to stand firm together and put on the armour of God (Ephesians 6:18). May we also remember that this is not a lone journey, and we are to look out for each other as fellow disciples in the faith.

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. Pray that we will:
 - Reflect on the learning points in 1 Peter and ask God for illumination and guidance on living a counter-cultural life.
 - Stand firm in God's Word and rely on God's strengthening no matter what evil hits us now and in the future.
 - Stand together with fellow saints so that we can give glory to God and express love towards one another.
2. Pray for the gradual 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 and perseverance for the leadership and staff to implement safe management measures and other changes for the in-person gatherings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading Plan

Download weekly reading schedule at rlc.sg/brp.

2. RiverLife Weekly

Issue 33: Fathers As Disciplers-in-Chief

Read the full note at rlc.sg/wkly33

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.