



# WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

22 AUG 2021 | DISAPPOINTMENT WITH GOD | MATTHEW 11:2-11

Speaker : Ps Lionel Goh



## WELCOME

[15 MINS]

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

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



## WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. You Alone
2. Reward



## WORD

[45 MINS]

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Acknowledge that we have limited knowledge.
2. Submit to God's plans and timing.
3. Commit their disappointments to God, rise up and serve Him.

### SERMON SUMMARY

Everyone faces life disappointments; some are with God. It's important for each of us to approach God and deal with these disappointments. We don't want to be paralysed by them. We must arise from this sadness and start serving God faithfully in His new assignments, especially in our community.

## SERMON RECAP

### 1. Everyone faces disappointments in life ([Psalms 13:1-2](#), [44:23-24](#))

- We all face disappointments in life, when expectations are not met, dreams and desires not realised, and prayers not answered.
- God desires for us to rise from our disappointments and inadequacies to serve Him.

### 2. The Disappointment of John the Baptist

Even before he was born, John the Baptist was already chosen by God to be the one to herald the arrival of Jesus. He was filled with the Spirit of God. We will examine how John became disappointed.

- a. John was faithful to his calling ([Luke 1:16-17](#), [John 1:29-34](#), [3:27-30](#))
  - John baptised Jesus and testified that He is the Messiah.
  - When Jesus began His public ministry, John got less 'popular', but he knew that he must decrease and Jesus must increase.
  - John also knew that nobody could receive anything unless God gives it to them.
  - Lessons to learn: We cannot receive what God does not give. So let us find joy in accepting what God has given us.
- b. In prison, John had doubts about Jesus as God's Messiah ([Matthew 11:2-3](#))
  - John was imprisoned in a dungeon for a year, a contrast to his life of freedom. The captivity broke him.
  - John was also expecting Jesus to establish a new Kingdom of Israel. But all he heard from his disciples was that Jesus was only teaching and preaching. This was different to his understanding of the end times.
  - Lessons to learn: We get disappointed with God because He doesn't do what we expect Him to.
- c. Jesus responded to John's disappointment ([Matthew 11:4-6](#), [Isaiah 61:1-2](#))
  - Jesus' advised John not to look inwards, or at the situation around, but to look up at God and at Scripture. See what God is doing.
  - Lessons to learn: We don't have the full picture of God's plans for our lives and the world. So, let's not stumble over what we *think* God should do, but instead, focus on God Himself.
- d. Jesus had a very high opinion of John ([Matthew 11:7-11](#))
  - John felt that he was a failure. He only had 18 months of ministry before being imprisoned. He felt that he could do more for God.
  - However, Jesus says that no one is greater than John the Baptist.
  - Lessons to learn: We may think we have failed and disappointed God, but God has a very different assessment of us!

### 3. How do we deal with our disappointments with God?

- a. We pour out our honest feelings to God ([Psalm 22:1-2](#))
  - David is not ashamed to pour out his feelings to God.
- b. We acknowledge we have limited knowledge ([Isaiah 55:8-9](#))
  - We don't have all the answers. It is important that we submit to the sovereignty and wisdom of God.
- c. We commit our problems to God ([Proverbs 16:1-4](#))
  - Trust that God will sort out your problems in His time.
- d. We step up to serve God faithfully ([2 Timothy 4:5-7](#))
  - Don't wallow in your disappointments, rise up and serve God.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1. Why do you think John was disappointed? [10 Mins]

#### Leader's Notes

This is a recap question. It is highly likely that John was disappointed that Jesus didn't turn out the way He expected. John probably expected Jesus to restore the kingdom of Israel. However, all He heard Jesus did was preaching and teaching.

Sometimes we are disappointed when things didn't turn out the way we wanted it to, and we blame someone else or God. But most of the time, we may be disappointed with ourselves the most. We feel that we could do more, work harder, or do things differently. We expect ourselves to be perfect and to do things correctly. We want to control the outcome. That is why we cannot accept it when things don't turn out the way we wanted it. We feel like a failure.

#### Transition

Most times, our disappointments are with ourselves. We want the outcome we want. But no one can tell how things will turn out in future. As believers, we should submit to God's sovereignty and wisdom. When we trust and obey Him, He will never short-change us. Trust Him to make everything right in His time.

### 2. Were you disappointed with God recently? Share a recent disappointment you had. [10 Mins]

#### Leader's Notes

Share honestly with your cell members on a recent disappointment you faced. If there is none, you may share on a past disappointment. Are you disappointed or angry with God? How did this disappointment affect your relationship with God? Did it cause a rift between God and you? When you explore your feelings towards God that arose from this disappointment, you are also examining the relationship you have with God. Are you walking in His ways and submitting to His daily leading?

#### Transition

Disappointments in life are to be expected. There are small and big disappointments, and some are just too 'big' for us to let go – and it begins to affect our relationship with God. It is important that we address our disappointments with God and mend the relationship. Remember that He is bigger than our disappointments.

### 3. Ps Lionel listed 4 actions we need to take to overcome our disappointments and rise forth to serve God once again:

- a. We pour out our honest feelings to God ([Psalm 22:1-2](#))
- b. We acknowledge we have limited knowledge ([Isaiah 55:8-9](#))
- c. We commit our problems to God ([Proverbs 16:1-4](#))
- d. We step up to serve God faithfully ([2 Timothy 4:5-7](#))

Which of these actions should you take now to step up to do God's will once again? [15 Mins]

#### Leader's Notes

Addressing our disappointments with God should not be taken lightly. Disappointments can cause us to drift further away from God and subsequently, we may lose our faith as a result. This is not how your race should end. Ps Lionel provided us with 4 practical actions we can take to overcome our disappointments. Doing all is necessary, but now, which one of these actions would help you most in your situation? Reflect on it and commit to doing it. Share with each other the actions you choose and hold each other accountable to take that step. Don't let the disappointment fester. Act now!

#### Closing

Don't let your disappointments draw you away from God. Lean into Him and work out your disappointment with Him. Only God can heal you from your disappointment – slowly but surely.

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Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

**1. Sermon Application**

- God, through His grace and love for us, will help us to overcome our disappointments.
- We will continue to love God and rise above our disappointments to serve Him again.

**2. Singapore Happenings**

- Wisdom, strength and perseverance for the leaders and people in Singapore to overcome the difficulties and uncertainties brought about by COVID-19 in the next phase of our response.
- Continue to take the necessary precautionary measures as a church as advised by the relevant authorities, acting, and responding with confidence and not irrational fear or panic.

**3. COVID-19 in Singapore**

- The COVID-19 situation in the surrounding countries in South-East Asia and beyond to turn for the better.
- God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities.

**4. COVID-19 in the World**

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, especially in India and the rest of South Asia.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[5 MINS]

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
2. **New Pulpit Series – Reset The Table.** 12 Sep - 26 Sep. In this series, we will focus on core commitments that assist Christian families in developing healthy processes of spiritual formation and encourage them to strengthen their relational ties with one another. Sep 12 - Marks of Maturity, Sep 19 - Church at Home, Sep 26 – Generations.
3. **Missions from Home.** What does Missions look like when we're unable to travel? We believe God is calling RiverLifers to sow continually and faithfully into the nations by partnering Him and adapting in the way we approach Missions. We have 104 RiverLifers who have signed up for 9 MFH teams, reaching out to India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand. Over the next few months, they will be collaborating with our Missions Partners to develop missions projects that provide prayer support, resources and raise awareness for their ministries. We encourage all to get involved by praying, giving, or serving. Find out more about the different countries we're working with: <rlc.sg/mfh>. Join a MFH team: <rlc.sg/mfh-serve>

4. **RCS.** Our RiverLife Cares initiative will continue with food distribution on the following dates: 11 Sep (Tampines Street 45, Blk 492E and 492F), 26 Sep, Sun (Tampines Street 44, Blk 466). If you are interested in joining the team to distribute food, do email the RCS team at [rlcares@rcl.org.sg](mailto:rlcares@rcl.org.sg).
5. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
6. **Alpha Online.** 2 Sep to 20 Nov. 12 Sessions. Thursday zoom sessions (8.00pm - 9.30pm): 2, 9, 16, 23 Sep | 7, 14, 28 Oct | 11 Nov Sunday in-person sessions: 2, 23 Oct | 20 Nov. Sign up online at [rlc.sg/ao-reg](http://rlc.sg/ao-reg) by Tues, 17 Aug. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).
7. **The Behold Album.** The RiverLife Worship team has launched a new album titled 'Behold'. Listen to the album and access chords and lyrics for the songs: [rlc.sg/thebeholdalbum](http://rlc.sg/thebeholdalbum)

## ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

### 1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200100806D*.

### 2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*  
Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



## ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

### 1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200711586WDON*

