



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

**12 SEP 2021 | MARKS OF MATURITY | PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4; GALATIANS 6:2;
MATTHEW 13:23; LUKE 6:46; MATTHEW 6:19-21; COLOSSIANS 3:1-4;
MATTHEW 5:3**

Series : Reset the Table | Speaker : Lam Zheng Xin



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. Purify
2. Lord, I Offer My Life



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Acknowledge their spiritual poverty and depend on God for their spiritual growth and maturity.
2. Live out the Word of God with the help of the Holy Spirit and to serve others wholeheartedly.

SERMON SUMMARY

To grow in spiritual maturity as a family, we need to know what the marks of spiritual maturity are. Spiritual maturity is ministry otherness, Bible living, living for eternity and spiritual poverty.

SERMON RECAP

- Spiritual maturity is not ministry giftedness, it is ministry otherness** ([Philippians 2:3-4](#); [Hebrews 10:24-25](#); [Galatians 6:2](#))
 - Spiritual maturity is not measured by how gifted or how anointed one's ministry is. It is whether your heart is for others.
 - Spiritual maturity is when our lives and ministry increasingly becomes about others. We have to be careful to serve others and not ourselves.
 - Whenever our relationship is more about the other person than ourselves, the relationship thrives (especially in marriage).
 - The more we make our lives about others, the more we grow in spiritual maturity.
- Spiritual maturity is not Bible knowledge; it is Bible living** ([Matthew 13:23](#); [James 1:22](#), [Luke 6:46](#); [James 1:19-20](#); [Luke 11:28](#))
 - Spiritual growth is not what our heads know, but what our hearts treasure - God. We can read a lot of the Bible, and know a lot about it, but exhibit very little Christ-likeness.
 - It is necessary to know the Word of God, but we need to go further and let it transform us and live it out.
 - The Word of God is like the seed, and our heart posture is the soil. If our posture is right when we read the Word of God, it will grow well and bear fruits.
 - The Bible has both clarity and mystery. It is rich with wisdom and information. We will not understand everything in it, so we need to have the humility to accept what we cannot understand.
- Spiritual maturity is living for eternity** ([Matthew 6:19-21](#); [Colossians 3:1-4](#); [Psalms 90:12](#))
 - The spiritually mature has a detachment from the things of this world. Their predominant worldview is of the eternal and their preoccupation is on the Kingdom of God.
 - The more our hopes and desires can find a place in the life and world that is to come, the more in line we are with God and His Kingdom.
 - The more detached we are from the things of this world, the more freedom we have to give our affection and attention to what is eternal.
- Spiritual maturity is not spiritual activism; it is spiritual poverty** ([Matthew 5:3](#))
 - We cannot live out the Christian life on our own strength. We do not have it in ourselves to obey God's Word (Romans 7:19). Spiritual poverty is recognising that.
 - Spiritual maturity happens when it is no longer you, but Christ in you that is flowing out of your life ([Romans 8:2, 9](#)).
 - Spiritual maturity does not begin with strength, it begins with weakness ([2 Corinthians 12:9](#)).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*** [Philippians 2:3-4](#).

If you have been serving God and others, reflect on your service. Are there hints of a personal agenda in your serving? [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

Perhaps when we first began serving, it is as much for God and for a personal agenda. We hoped that through our service to others, we will reap some benefits as well. Maybe we hoped that God would honour our serving and fulfil our heart's desires. However, as we mature in Christ, we naturally start to think of others more. As our hearts get more aligned with Christ, our lives increasingly become about others. That is when our serving becomes more aligned towards [Philippians 2:3-4](#) as the focus is fully on others and God. Remember that when we serve others, we are serving God and being salt and light of the world.

Transition

The heart to serve others comes from God. On our own, we are selfish and dictated by our fleshly desires and instincts. It is only through God that we can put others before ourselves and to serve wholeheartedly.

2. How is spiritual poverty a blessing? What hinders us from acknowledging our spiritual poverty? [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

Being aware of our spiritual poverty means to be conscious of our constant need of God. Due to our sinful nature and tendencies towards the things of this world, we constantly need to remind ourselves of our need for God – for His grace, His love, His mercies. Spiritual poverty demands constant and continuous fellowship and communion with God. It demands daily worship, quietness, and meditation. Spiritual poverty is a blessing because happiness comes from admitting that we are lacking, and then asking God to come into our lives.

Some of the attitudes that can prevent us from acknowledging spiritual poverty:

- Independence and self-sufficiency
- Pride
- Spiritual immaturity – the belief that doing the bare minimum means that we have God with us, or ‘enough’ of God

Transition

When we acknowledge our spiritual poverty – our constant need for God – that is when we are blessed, for we have the kingdom of heaven ([Matthew 5:3](#)). Dependence on God means that our spiritual growth is dependent on Him and that is how we spiritually mature too.

3. Bible knowledge must lead to Bible living. It is not enough to only read the Word of God; we must live it out. How do we live out God's Word? [15 Mins]

Leader's Notes

“But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” – Matthew 13:23

Hearing God's Word, understanding it, submitting to it, and allowing His Word to transform us – is what Matthew 13:23 is referring to. This leads us to live out His Word. When we do that, we bear fruit. To allow God's Word to transform us, we must depend on the Holy Spirit to convict us and guide us.

Here is an article on how to live out God's Word: [7 Truths about Walking Out God's Word - Bible Study \(crosswalk.com\)](#)

Closing

In everything that we do, we need God. We are powerless on our own. He wants us to depend on Him. Rely on Him to transform us with His Word and then obey – that is the start to Bible living.



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

1. Sermon Application

- For each individual in our families to mature as disciples of Christ.
- That each member of our families would spur each other on towards maturity in Christ.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- God's intervention as we experience a sharp increase in the number of community cases.
- God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities.

3. 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. **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. **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>
5. **The Behold Devotional.** As part of our anniversary celebrations, we have produced a devotional in conjunction with our recently released RiverLife album, Behold. This devotional contains stories, poems and photographs written and taken by RiverLifers from different congregations and walks of life. We hope that this devotional will inspire you to greater intimacy with Him. The devotional is available for collection over the next few weeks at our in-person services. If you'd like to have a copy of this devotional, simply join us at our in-person services.
6. **Water Baptism Class.** The in-person class will be held on 9 Oct at Faith Chapel from 9AM - 3.30PM. Do note that Class capacity is limited to 15 registered participants; and a waiting list will be opened for those who register after class capacity has been reached. You may register for the class at <rlc.sg/baptism-class>. Registration closes on Sun, 2 Oct. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

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