



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

7 NOV 2021 | THE CALLED-OUT ONES | EPHESIANS 1:22-23

Series: Rediscovering Church (Part 1/4) | Speaker : Elder Lee Ee Yang



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. Great is the Lord (Hillsong)
 2. Jesus I Come (Awaken Generation)
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WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Understand the importance of the Church as a redemptive community
2. Recognise what is required of us as disciples as we play our part in being His Church

SERMON SUMMARY

Church is a redemptive community – God desires to first bring His people into a personal relationship with Him, and then to make the redeemed into His own possession. Paul uses seven pictures to describe the Church, and Elder Ee Yang shared two of the seven pictures – the Church as the governmental assembly and as the body of Christ. He also shared what is required of us as disciples - to submit to spiritual authority, to be accountable and to acknowledge our interdependence as a faith community.

SERMON RECAP

1. This series seeks to explore afresh what it means to be God’s Church.
2. Church is a redemptive community:
 - a. The Church was born at Pentecost to be the Bride of the returning Christ. The Church will continually be sanctified and renewed to become the spotless and set apart Bride of Christ.
 - b. God will use His Church as His redemptive agent in the world.
3. God reveals His purpose in redeeming His people to Himself ([Exodus 19:3-5](#)).
 - a. His first purpose is to bring His redeemed people into a direct, personal relationship with Him.
 - b. His second purpose is to make the redeemed into His own possession.
4. Paul used seven pictures to describe different aspects of the Church in the Book of Ephesians, two of which appear in [Ephesians 1:22-23](#). Elder Ee Yang brings us through two things from each picture – 1) the essential, distinctive feature, and 2) the particular responsibility placed on us individually and corporately.

	Picture	Essential feature	What is required of us
1	The Governmental Assembly (Ekklesia) (1:22)	God’s governmental authority	Respect for order
2	The Body of Christ (1:23)	Agent of God’s will	Acknowledge our interdependence

a. Picture #1: The Governmental Assembly

Ekklesia: “To call out” – a group of people being called out from a larger group, for a special purpose.

Essential feature:

The governmental authority of God is released when God’s people assemble ([Matthew 18:18-20](#)). There is a corporate anointing in meeting together. We represent His authority in whatever sphere we operate ([Matthew 28:20](#)).

What is required of us:

Respect for order: We are to learn to submit to spiritual authority and to be accountable. The work of those in spiritual authority is to bring encouragement, admonishment and correction to the sheep.

b. Picture #2: The Body of Christ

Essential feature:

- The function of the body is to be the instrument used to accomplish God’s will ([Hebrews 10:5-7](#)). The physical body of Jesus became the sacrifice for our sins on the cross. The body of God’s collective people continues and completes His ministry on earth.
- We belong to one another, not a group of separate isolated individuals ([Romans 12:4-5](#))
- The unity of the Body is important ([1 Corinthians 12:21-26](#))

What is required of us:

Acknowledge our interdependence: Every member needs all the other members. We cannot do without each other. We are to look for the weakest members amongst us, not to ignore or despise any member, but for us to choose covenantal commitment: a deep, permanent and individual commitment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Church is a redemptive community. What is your view of the Church prior to listening to this sermon? Is it similar or different?** (*Another question leaders can ask members to consider is how they would describe the Church to a new believer.*) [15 min]

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question. Leaders may wish to ask members to reflect on what it means to be a “redemptive community”. A redemptive community has two aspects – 1) we all have a common starting point (sinners redeemed by the grace of God), and 2) we are the redemptive agent of God in this world. When we understand what being a redemptive community means, we can then see the true meaning and potential of the Church in the world. It is more than just a service or a program. It is who we are and what we are meant to do in this world.

For further reading: 7 Wonderful Aspects of the Church in Ephesians

<https://blog.biblesforamerica.org/7-wonderful-aspects-of-the-church-in-ephesians/>

Transition

The church is God’s redemptive community. One aspect of being God’s redemptive community is that within this community, He moulds us so that we can mature into Christlikeness. The way He does this is through spiritual authority, accountability and interdependence within the church.

2. **In this sermon, Elder Ee Yang shares two pictures of the Church and what is required of us. What is the value of submission to spiritual authority, accountability and interdependence? Share your struggles and experiences.** [15 min]

Leader's Notes

A reflect and response question. Leaders can ask members to reflect on the two pointers Elder Ee Yang shared. Members can share their past experiences concerning spiritual authority, accountability and interdependence.

- *Spiritual Authority* – God can use the spiritual authorities above us (e.g., cell leaders, pastors, ministry leaders, etc.) within the church to mould us into the image of His son through correction and encouragement.
- *Accountability* – Accountability ensures that we are progressing towards maturity in Christ. Without accountability, we may be in danger of “progress illusion”. This is why accountability among fellow brothers and sisters is so important for one’s spiritual growth.
- *Interdependence* – There is an anointing in meeting together and we as a Body of Christ need each other as we grow in Him and serve Him. The journey of discipleship is not a solo journey but one that is interdependent.

For further reflection: Help in Overcoming Church Hurt

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/help-in-overcoming-church-hurt>

Transition

As we take time to revisit the importance of the Church, may our hearts find renewed passion and zeal as we are reminded of how we are redeemed to be a redemptive community and to be the Bride of Christ, ready for His return.

3. **Share a step you would like to take or have been doing as part of the redemptive community of God. It could be taking practical steps to becoming committed to a community, being vulnerable, looking out for others or reaching out to the lost in small and big ways. Share what led you to this decision you have and how you hope the cell can support you more in this step.** [15 min]

Leader's Notes

This is a response question. If leaders wish, they may ask members to share how they felt or what thoughts were sparked after hearing Clara’s testimony – how did it minister to them, or encourage them? While there is a call for members to seriously commit to RiverLife, there will be members who still struggle with commitment

due to past experiences or struggles in their walk with God. It may be difficult for them to answer this question. Leaders may then choose to tweak the question and ask the cell what else we could do to be a redemptive community, and encourage each other to take action steps and play a part in making RiverLife a place of accountability and interdependence. Leaders can invite members to share if there are areas of their lives they are being challenged (to grow in faith or to move in obedience to love the lost). Leaders may also choose to let members break into smaller groups to share deeper and pray with each other.

Closing

While God's work of redemption is finished on the Cross, He is still not finished with us. As disciples, we are continually refined and moulded to be like Him – because He loves us and is passionate for us in becoming the beautiful Bride of Christ we are meant to be. As we go through life's ups and downs, may we recognise that we are never out of His reach. May we also take comfort in knowing that He will take our weaknesses and vulnerabilities to encourage others in the faith as we all grow together in Christlikeness.



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

1. Sermon Application

- We will have an open heart and a spirit of gratitude as we rediscover church.
- We will have a renewed passion and commitment for God and for His Church.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- God's continual intervention as we extend the Stabilisation Phase.
- God's protection as we learn to live with COVID and begin to open up our borders.
- God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities, especially the old and the vulnerable.

3. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- 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.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

- 1. Current Pulpit Series - Rediscovering Church (Ephesians).** As we enter the month of November, we are embarking on a 4-part sermon series entitled Rediscovering Church. The pandemic has disrupted the way we worship, relate and serve in church, and changed how our cells and ministries function. We hope that this sermon series, based on Ephesians 1 to 4, will help us realise the importance of belonging to community and receive fresh revelation on what it truly means to be the Church especially during such a time.
- 2. November Midweek Equipping - The Will of God vs. The Will of Man (The Calvinist-Arminian Debate).** Our midweek equipping series is a 3-part session starting this Wednesday on 10 November. The guest speaker will be David Lim, Academic Dean of ACTS College.
- 3. In-Person Worship Services From 1-30 Nov.** In view of the extension made to the Stabilisation Phase, our existing service timings will continue for another month until the end of Nov. There will only be one in-person service at 9am for English Adults on Sundays. The capacity remains at 300 congregants. Our Youth service will increase its capacity to 150 pax in-person.
- 4. 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
- 5. Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (e.g., unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc.), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
- 6. Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
- 7. Water Baptism Class.** Sat, 20 Nov | 9am to 3.30pm. In-person session at RiverLife Church | Room 214 & 215. Register for this class at rlc.sg/baptism-class by Sun, 14 Nov. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg. Our upcoming Water Baptism Service will be held on Sun, 5 Dec at 4pm.

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:

PayNow

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

Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.

