



# WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

**26 DEC 2021 | SAMSON: A LIFE WELL WASTED | JUDGES 13-16**

**Speaker : Pastor Ernie Song**



## 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. Build My Life
2. Reward



## WORD

[45 MINS]

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Constantly reflect on our spiritual growth to prevent a slow fade.
2. Be vigilant against allowing the values of the world to shape us.
3. Be focused on building up our spiritual community and commit to invest time and effort in it.

## SERMON SUMMARY

As we end another year, it is important to reflect spiritually on this year – have our lives been an impact for God’s Kingdom in 2021, or has it been a wasted year? In Judges 13-16, we see that Samson’s was a life that was filled with such a great potential at the start. However, in the end, it was a life that was well wasted and mattered little to the kingdom of God (Israel). The key problem with Samson as well as Israel is ignorance because of a lack of reflection. Likewise, if we don’t reflect on our lives, we will be ignorant of the idols, wrong priorities, and sinful ways in our lives. Samson’s downfall was due to two key reasons: Friendship with the world; and a lack of spiritual community.

Pastor Ernie exhorted us to reflect constantly to prevent a slow fade. Such constant examination of one’s life through the counsel of the Holy Spirit and our spiritual community is critical so that we stay on the straight and narrow path – see [Matthew 7:13-14](#).

## SERMON RECAP

As we end another year, it is important to reflect spiritually on the year – have our lives been an impact for God’s Kingdom in 2021, or has it been a wasted year?

The Book of Judges is an account of individuals that God raised to preserve Israel from the hands of the Philistines. The spiritual condition of Samson is a representation of the spiritual condition of Israel as a whole. In Judges 13-16, we see that Samson’s was a life that was filled with such a great potential at the start. However, in the end, it was a life that was well wasted and mattered little to the kingdom of God (Israel). The key problem with Samson as well as Israel is ignorance because of a lack of reflection. Likewise, if we don’t reflect on our lives, we will be ignorant of the idols, wrong priorities, and sinful ways in our lives.

**Samson’s life was pumped with potential right from the start** – see [Judges 13:5](#). Like Samson, every disciple of Christ is pumped with potential from the day of his salvation. But prophetic words spoken over our lives must be merged with our desire to honour God.

**Samson’s downfall was due to two key reasons:**

a. Friendship with the world

Samson was constantly in enemy territory and was being attracted to the ways of the Philistines. Friendship with the world means allowing the values of the world to shape us. We should ask ourselves whether we are a friend of the world or a light in the darkness. [Deuteronomy 10:12-13](#) speaks of God’s command to follow Him wholeheartedly. Pastor Ernie exhorted us to examine the following areas of our lives to see if the values of the world have shaped us in 2021:

- Management of finances
- Lifestyle
- Career/Ambitions
- Parenting
- Retirement.

b. A lack of spiritual community

Although Samson was gifted with supernatural strength, his strength was largely used for himself, not for Kingdom purposes. The reason for this? He was constantly alone – no accountability and no spiritual guidance. Samson was not even aware when the Lord had left him – see [Judges 16:20](#). [Proverbs 11:14](#) speaks of the protection from a spiritual community. An immature disciple’s focus is always on oneself. A mature disciple will also be concerned with the Kingdom of God, the church, and the well-being of others (i.e., Christlikeness).

Pastor Ernie exhorted us to **reflect constantly to prevent a slow fade**. Such constant examination of one’s life through the counsel of the Holy Spirit and our spiritual community is critical so that we stay on the straight and narrow path – see [Matthew 7:13-14](#).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1. What is one blessing I have seen Jesus do in my personal life this year? [10 Mins]

#### Leader's Notes

This is an ice-breaking question. Leaders can ask members to have a moment of silence to reflect on the past one year. Leaders may also pass out pieces of paper for each member to write down one blessing that the Holy Spirit is putting on their heart to share with the cell. Members can consider an event that has happened to them personally or to a loved one close to them. Such an annual reflection helps us to focus on God's presence in our lives and on His goodness. (Even for those who had a tough year in 2021, leaders can encourage them to reflect on God's goodness in a dark season and pray for perseverance and faithfulness in the midst of pain and difficulty).

#### Transition

We can thank God for all the blessings He has given us in 2021. In turn, we can also reflect on whether and how we can be a blessing to others. Are we investing in God's Kingdom and the well-being of others, as opposed to our own self?

### 2. 2021 is drawing to a close. Spend the discussion time to take turns to reflect on one of these 5 aspects of your life in 2021. [15 Mins]

- a. Character
- b. Lifestyle
- c. Mission
- d. Spiritual Growth
- e. Relationships

#### Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and relate question for members to share how their lives had unfolded in 2021 with these important aspects in our walk with God. The following are guiding questions for each aspect that leaders can use to guide the discussion, if necessary:

- Character: Share with the cell 2 attributes from the fruit of the Spirit – see Galatians 5:22-23 – that you have improved on this year. Share with the cell 2 attributes that you still struggle to grow in.
- Lifestyle: How much of my finances was intentionally used for the extension of God's Kingdom (tithing, giving to missionaries, the poor, etc.) or for the blessing of others (fellow brothers/sisters in need)? Do you think you have done well in this area?
- Mission: Is there someone that you are intentionally reaching out to? If not, reflect on why is that so and how you can improve in this area.
- Spiritual Growth: How has your relationship with God been this year? How have you intentionally tried to strengthen your oneness with the Holy Spirit and the ways of God?
- Relationships: Do you think you have invested enough time and energy into your cell life? What needs to improve in this area?

Leaders can get members to seriously consider and honestly reflect on 2021: Was your 2021 about you or was it intentionally about God? An immature disciple's focus is always on oneself. A mature disciple will also be concerned with the Kingdom of God, the church and the well-being of others (i.e., Christlikeness). Our community shapes us in these areas.

#### Transition

As we examine in greater detail these various key aspects of our lives, we can grow in Christ – not only personally as disciples of Christ, but just as importantly, together with a spiritual community.

**3. What are the three biggest lessons God taught me this past year? How can I continue to apply them in the coming year? [15 Mins]**

Leader's Notes

This is another reflect question for the cell to consider for the year 2021, as well as to respond by committing in prayer for the new year. It is crucial to remember and put into practice all that God has taught us. If we do not, He will often have us repeat the lessons and learn them again, and we do not want to spend next year re-learning lessons He tried to teach us this year. As a cell, pray together with one another for the spiritual commitments made. Our community shapes us to grow and be accountable spiritually for 2022 and beyond!

Closing

God wants us to grow in greater intimacy with Him. He is constantly teaching us to live lives that bring glory to Him and prepare us to eternity in His Kingdom. Having learned these lessons, let us go into 2022 with greater boldness and confidence in Christ Jesus!



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 remember that constant reflection is key to our spiritual growth and maturity.
- God will show us the aspects of our lives that need strengthening in 2022 and for the Holy Spirit to guide us to continue to apply the lessons we have learnt from God in 2021.

**2. COVID-19 in Singapore**

- Praise God for the decrease in community cases.
- Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.

**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.



- 1. No Watchnight Service.** There will be no watchnight service this 31 December.

2. **Resumption of 11am Service.** Our 11am service had resumed on Sunday, 19 Dec to allow more RiverLifers to return to church for worship. Let's free up our car park lots for guests and visitors, our elderly and parents with young children. *If you can, do park your vehicles outside of the vicinity.* Our back gate will be opened for the convenience of those who park outside of church.
3. **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>
4. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

## 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.*

