



## 21 AUG 2022 | LAM ZHENGXIN PRESENCE CENTRED WORSHIP | 2 CHRONICLES 29:20-36

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

- Be reminded that we can enter into God's presence because of Jesus' sacrifice.
- Recognise the importance of both personal and communal worship.
- Commit to rebuilding our corporate altar.

### SERMON SUMMARY

King Hezekiah re-established the temple when he became King. In the same way, the re-building of the corporate altar begins with consecration.

- 1) We can enter into God's presence because Jesus died for us – Because Christ died for us, we are cleansed of our sins and are able to come before God with purity and cleanliness. We must be careful not to treat the Cross with casualness.
- 2) We enter into God's presence as a community, not just as individuals – Biblical worship is both personal and corporate.
- 3) Worship is presence-centred – the focus is not meant to be human-centric - on the worship team. The entire congregation is the worship team and the focus is on God's presence and giving Him the praise due.

Rebuilding our corporate altar is a Biblical mandate and no less important than rebuilding our personal altars.

### SERMON RECAP

Zheng Xin preached from 2 Chronicles 29-31 regarding the life of Hezekiah.

Our identity as Christians is intimately connected to our rootedness in a local Christian community. Rebuilding our corporate altar is a biblical mandate and no less important than rebuilding our personal altars.

The first thing Hezekiah did when he became King was to re-establish the temple. The rebuilding of the corporate altar begins with consecration.



**1) We can enter into God's presence because Jesus died for us (2 Chronicles 29:20-24)**

When we look at the Old Testament, we are reminded of our own sin and sinful nature and how the basis of worship is about purity and cleanliness. It shows us how Jesus' sacrifice has redeemed us and there is a danger when we treat the Cross with casualness. Zheng Xin led us in the Holy Communion to remember the sacredness of His death for us (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

**2) We enter into God's presence as a community, not just as individuals.**

Worship to God has two dimensions – as individuals and together as the people of God. Biblical worship is both personal and communal. We cannot isolate worship to simply a personal act (2 Chronicles 29:28-29, Hebrews 10:24-25). Zheng Xin also shared about the horizontal component to corporate worship where we encourage one another through our songs and devotion. (Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:18-20)

**3) Worship is presence centred**

Hezekiah also took reference from David's tabernacle when he reformed the temple (1 Chronicles 16:4, 1 Chronicles 25:6-7, 1 Chronicles 23:5). Everyone came ready to bring a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. The entire assembly orientated themselves around the presence of God. Worship is meant to be centred around God, not our needs or preferences. We need to change our perspective of worship from one that is human-centric to God-centric.

Christian growth and maturity are not measured by how much we receive, but by how much we give and offer to His kingdom.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**


- 1. Worship is Presence-Centred. We can enter into God's presence because Jesus died for us. Share your own experience of worship – were there times when you were focused on self or the worship team vs focused on God? What were the differences?**

Leader's Notes

Members can share a personal lesson from a moment where they focused on God. The question aims to let members identify times when we may be focused on ourselves or what is around us vs coming before God to worship Him and make Him our focus. Though we may be affected by many things, we find safety and peace that transcends all understanding as well as the fullness of joy in spite of our circumstances when we look to Him. We are reminded of His greatness and goodness, and are convicted to change to live for Him.

Transition

We are reminded that the focus of worship is God, why then do we need both personal and communal worship?



**2. Imagine a pre-believing friend asking you about the reasons for the need for both personal and communal worship. What answer would you give?**

Leader's Notes

This question aims for members to ponder on the importance of both personal and communal worship, and what better way than to reflect on our own experiences and to imagine sharing it with someone who has yet to know God! Leaders can also ask members to consider how they would describe worship – personal and communal – and to share how these two have contributed to their growth in God. Members can also share how they may be encouraged by communal worship.

Transition

We have recognised the importance of both personal and corporate worship. Let us consider how we can support one another as a community.

**3. Biblical worship is both personal and corporate. How can we as a community encourage one another to worship God together as we rebuild our personal altars?**

Leader's Notes

Leaders can invite members to share on reasons people may struggle with coming to worship God together and corporately. What are the hindrances? Is it due to distance or tiredness? Or is it due to a disconnect from community, past hurts, or grievances we have had in our interactions with one another? Or is it due to a disconnect from God? Is it a perspective of the church that we will need to review?

Leaders can share the benefits of corporate worship:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-benefits-of-corporate-worship>

Closing

Worship is a great privilege. As we come before Him and rebuild our altars, may we be open to be living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to Him. May we see how we can pour out our love to Him and worship Him in how we live our lives and love one another.

## PRAYER

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 us to rebuild our personal and corporate altars before God – to come before God for forgiveness for our sins, submit to Him our burdens and failings, and to enthrone Him as King
- Pray for RiverLife Church as we come together to build our corporate altar to God.

**2. COVID-19 in Singapore**

- Pray for God's protection especially from the Omicron variant.
- Pray that the community cases will be low.

### 3. 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.
- Pray for peace especially in areas of conflict (Ukraine) and potential conflict – China & Taiwan.

### 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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS


Digital Bulletin: [rlc.sg/bulletin](http://rlc.sg/bulletin)

1. **Anniversary Sermon Series – Church on Fire. 7 Aug – 4 Sep.** This series will draw lessons from Hezekiah's reforms in 2 Chronicles 29-31.
  - 07 Aug – Positioned to Prosper
  - 14 Aug – Consecrated Leadership (No 2<sup>nd</sup> service & Guest Lounge)
  - 21 Aug – Presence-Centred Worship
  - 28 Aug – We Are Family! (No 2<sup>nd</sup> service & Guest Lounge)
  - 04 Sep – Contribute to God's House
2. **31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration Calendar.**
  - *Sat, 27 Aug.*
    - 10am – 1pm. Chinese Service (Victory Chapel)
    - 2.30pm – 4.00pm. English Service (Worship Centre).
    - 4pm – 6pm. Celebration Carnival (Atrium).
  - *Sun, 28 Aug.*
    - 9am – 11am. Bilingual Anniversary Service (Worship Centre) with concurrent children's services (Pre-School @ Level 2 Classrooms, Primary @ Grace Chapel).
    - 11am – 1pm. Celebration Carnival.
    - **\*Note:** No second service & Guest Lounge
  - *Sat, 03 Sep.*
    - RCS Run for Families. \$65 per pax. Link: [rlc.sg/run2022](http://rlc.sg/run2022).
3. **Water Baptism Class.** 1 Oct, 9am – 3.30pm. Faith Chapel. Register at [rlc.sg/baptism-class](http://rlc.sg/baptism-class) by 25 Sep.
4. **Alpha @ RiverLife. 20 Aug – 29 Oct.** Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to explore the basics of the Christian faith. Each session includes a short video and a discussion at the end where you can ask anything or share your thoughts. Sign up online: [rlc.sg/join-alpha](http://rlc.sg/join-alpha).
5. **Marriage Preparation Course. Sundays, 4 Sep – 2 October, 1.45pm-5pm. \$280 per couple.** This course is specially tailored for couples exploring marriage or planning to get married in the next 2 years. This course covers Biblical



foundations and practical principles needed to build a God-centered Marriage. Register: [rlc.sg/mpc](http://rlc.sg/mpc).

6. **Equip by Peter Tsukahira. 6, 13, 20 & 27 September via Zoom.** This is a seminar organised by the Bartley Family of Churches in order to equip Christians that are called into the marketplace as disciples of God's kingdom. Details can be found in the digital bulletin.
7. **RiverLife Missions Upcoming Trips.** Signup: [rlc.sg/signupformissions](http://rlc.sg/signupformissions).
  - **Medical Mission Trip to Sarangani, South Philippines. 20-24 October. Cost: \$800.** We are looking for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and healthcare professionals to join us for this trip. Team members will help to dispense medication, take basic vital statistics, interact with families, pray for the sick and share the Gospel.
  - **Encounter Camp & Revival Rallies, Asansol, India. 30 Sep – 6 Oct. \$1200.** Serve local churches through studying God's Word and corporate worship.
8. **Call for Musicians and Vocalists.** The Worship & Music ministry is on the lookout for musicians and vocalists – keyboardist, electric guitarist, bassist, drummer and singers. If you are interested, you can sign up at [rlc.sg/serve](http://rlc.sg/serve). Do note that an audition will be required before joining the ministry.
9. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at [rlc.sg/serve](http://rlc.sg/serve). Immediate needs:
  - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
  - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
10. **F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg) and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at [jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg).
11. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at [rlc.sg/serve](http://rlc.sg/serve) or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.
12. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this



season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:

- You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: [rlc.sg/rcs2022](http://rlc.sg/rcs2022).
- You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at [office@rcs.org.sg](mailto:office@rcs.org.sg).
- RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at [volunteer@rcs.org.sg](mailto:volunteer@rcs.org.sg).
- RCS is looking for 20 Food Collection Helper/Driver that is able to help with the loading/unloading of fresh food items at blocks where we are reaching out to. **Commitment:** Minimally once a month for 6 months, Saturdays, 12-4pm. Contact: [rlcares@rcs.org.sg](mailto:rlcares@rcs.org.sg).

13. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is [rlc.sg/podcast](http://rlc.sg/podcast) or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.

14. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at [rlc.sg/resource](http://rlc.sg/resource). This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

15. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*

16. **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>

17. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

18. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at [stories@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:stories@riverlife.org.sg) to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

## ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

### PayNow

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

### Interbank Transfer

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



## ONLINE GIVING TO MISSIONS

Give digitally:

### PayNow

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### Interbank Transfer

UOB Account 450-309634-4  
Kindly indicate "Missions" in your transaction reference.



## ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

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### 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.

