



28 AUG 2022 | ELDER LEE EE YANG
WE ARE FAMILY | 2 CHRONICLES 30:1-27, PSALMS 133:1-3

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

- Recognise that the unity of RiverLife as a church family will release the manifest presence of God and blessings in our midst
- Commit to be family for each other
- Commit to seek God earnestly individually, and as a cell and church family

SERMON SUMMARY

God's manifest presence leads to restoration and blessing. We are already seeing the first fruits of God's blessings in RiverLife Church. How can we continue to experience God's manifest presence in our midst, as a family? We can:

1. Celebrate the finished work of Jesus on the cross as a family
2. Seek God earnestly as a family
3. Receive the full blessings of God as a family

Our oneness as a church family will release the manifest presence of God in our midst.

SERMON RECAP

Megan and her two daughters shared their family's testimony about how God worked miraculously in their lives to transform them and their family. When Megan put her trust in God, He restored her marriage and her relationship with her daughters. We see from Megan's testimony that God's manifest presence is already breaking out in RiverLife church, leading to restoration of lives, marriages, and families.

Our oneness as a church family will release the manifest presence of God in our midst ([Psalm 133:1-3](#)).

Church is family – Paul uses the familial term “brethren” which includes both brothers and sisters more than 130 times in his epistles.

Preaching from [2 Chronicles 30:1-27](#), Elder Ee Yang shared 3 key points from the life of Hezekiah on how we can continue to experience the manifest presence of God as a RiverLife church family:



1) Celebrate the finished work of Jesus on the cross as a family

- [2 Chronicles 30:1-5](#): Hezekiah made a call to the whole of Israel to celebrate the Passover. The Passover is a feast to celebrate Israel's deliverance from Egypt – from bondage to freedom, from slavery to sonship. It is an ordinance to remember the Lord's grace and mercy ([Exodus 12:24-27](#)).
- For Christians, the Passover points prophetically to a greater reality – Jesus is our Passover ([1 Corinthians 5:7](#)). The Passover is a prophetic type of Jesus, who would eventually be the ultimate sacrifice, paying the penalty for our sins ([John 1:29](#)).
- It is Jesus who has redeemed us from the kingdom of darkness. **Jesus is the reason for our celebration.**
- Christians celebrate "Passover" regularly now as the Holy communion. The Holy Communion has multiple significance:
 - It commemorates the death of Jesus
 - Its points to His return
 - It also signifies that his body was broken so that a new Body (the church) may be birthed – Jesus has made us whole as one church

2) Seek God earnestly as a family

- [2 Chronicles 30:15-20](#) – Many of the people who attended the Passover were not familiar with the ceremonial rituals of cleansing required before partaking the Passover. They were not ceremonially clean, but they ate the Passover, and Hezekiah prayed for the Lord's pardon – in his prayer he revealed that the people's hearts were set on seeking God.
 - This shows that we are made clean not by rituals, but by the blood of Christ – our Passover Lamb. The blood of the lamb must be appropriated by a sincere heart set on seeking God.
- We can seek God on our own but God promises that He will release a greater measure of His manifest presence when we seek Him with a united heart.
- Everything we do in this church, if not done with a heart of seeking God, are mere rituals. Rituals by themselves will not help us encounter the presence of God. But a heart set on seeking God will. This is what a church on fire is about. When all our hearts are set on seeking God, when we are all aligned to His heart, He answers with His manifest presence, healing, restoration.
- Application for RiverLife – As a church, how can we set our hearts on seeking God?

3) Receive the full blessings of God as a family

- [2 Chronicles 30:25-27](#) – As we celebrate the finished work of Jesus in our lives and seek God with a sincere heart, we come to receive the full blessings of God in Christ Jesus
 - The first blessing is joy. Joy is independent of your circumstances – it is the feeling of happiness that is dependent on who Jesus is rather than what is happening around us.
 - The second blessing is answered prayer ([2 Chronicles 30:27](#)). "Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock, and the door will be opened." ([Matthew 7:7](#)). We come to church with needs. God knows all our needs. When the manifest presence of God fills this church, our prayers get answered.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Ephesians 2:18-19 tells us that we are members of God's family. What does being a member of the RiverLife Church family mean to you? Share your own experience of being part of the church family.**

Leader's Notes

This a reflect question for members to share. Leaders can invite members to share about their own experience of being part of the RiverLife Church family, and what the church means to them.

- For example, members can share the blessings they have experienced through being part of RiverLife Church, a cell or the church community.
- For those who do not feel like RiverLife Church is family to them, leaders can also invite them to share the reasons and struggles they face. Is it due to a disconnect from the cell community, past hurts, or grievances? Leaders can consider discussing how the cell can help them feel more connected or more a part of God's family at RLC.

Transition

Church is family, not just a building or organisation. As members of the RiverLife Church family and this cell, let us be family to one another.

2. **A church on fire is one where all its members have hearts that are seeking God. How can we set our hearts to seek God earnestly together, both individually and as a cell community?**

Leader's Notes

This is a response question. We can seek God on our own but God promises that He will release a greater measure of His manifest presence when we seek Him with a united heart together as a community. Leaders can invite the cell to share what are some ways the cell can come together to seek God (e.g. devoting time for prayer as a cell, partaking of the Holy Communion together etc.).

Closing

Let us seek to become a church on fire, so that we can experience a greater measure of God's manifest presence and receive His full blessings.

3. **As we celebrate the finished work of Christ and seek God with a sincere heart, we come to receive the full blessings of God. Elder Ee Yang shared that two of these blessings are joy and answered prayer. Are there areas in your life where you are lacking joy or waiting for an answered prayer? As a cell family, share how you can support one another in these area(s).**

Leader's Notes

Leaders can refer to Megan's testimony about how God answered her prayers and redeemed her family out of sin and darkness, to experience the blessings and joys of family. Like Megan, we may have areas in our lives that need God's healing or restoration. Leaders can invite members to share their needs and pray for each other.



Closing

We all come to church with needs. God knows all our needs. When the manifest presence of God fills this church, God grants us joy and hears our prayers. His manifest presence leads to healing, restoration and blessings.

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 be united as a church, and be family for one another
- For us to set our hearts to seek God earnestly
- Pray for RiverLife Church to experience more of God's manifest presence in our midst

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

- 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
 - 21 Aug – Presence-Centred Worship
 - 28 Aug – We Are Family
 - 04 Sep – Putting God First
- 2. 31st Anniversary Celebration Calendar.**
 - *Sat, 03 Sep.*
 - RCS Run for Families. \$65 per pax. Link: rlc.sg/run2022.
- 3. Water Baptism Class.** 1 Oct, 9am – 3.30pm. Faith Chapel. Register at rlc.sg/baptism-class by 25 Sep.

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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.
 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.
 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.
 - **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. 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. 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 and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

13. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is 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. 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 to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



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Kindly indicate "Missions" in your transaction reference.



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