



CHRISTMAS @ RIVERLIFE

Cell Guide (Leaders)

04 DEC 2022 | JUDITH HALIM | AGAINST ALL ODDS

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Reflect on the faithfulness of God's provision in our lives
2. Recognise the power of prayer and surrender.

SUMMARY OF SPEAKER'S TESTIMONY

Judith Halim shared her own testimony of challenges and how God provided a way for her.

Judith's father left her family when she was young, which left her with her own hopes on wanting a happy family she never had. She met a businessman at the young age of 20 and decided to marry him and come to Singapore.

She became pregnant and when she gave birth, they soon realised that her daughter, Joel, had Williams Syndrome (a category under Down Syndrome) and she was a haemophilia carrier. Joel also had three holes in her heart and a thick right ventricle preventing blood circulation to go to the upper part of the body. Her husband soon left her, stating that they were not meant to be together. Judith made attempts to salvage her marriage but realised that her husband had found another woman.

Judith felt defeated, devastated, depressed and lived with emotional and physical pain during that period of time. It led her to contemplate committing suicide together her daughter, as there seemed to be no way out of her situation and she was isolated in Singapore.

She had written a goodbye note to her mother when an insurance agent called to ask if she would like to take up an insurance policy. She rejected and briefly shared her situation. He listened and invited her to church. Judith did not know Jesus then but agreed to go on the condition if he was willing to bring her to Orchard Road before or after the service. He agreed!

The man and his wife brought her to church. She was seated right at the back with her baby in her arms. She did not understand the service at all, but at the end of the session, the preacher singled her out and prayed for her. She saw the auditorium being filled with red colour in a vision and gave her life to Jesus. She had the best sleep she ever had for the first time in months after that day.

Judith woke up the next day realising that Jesus had healed her of her pain! Things looked different and it was the first time she felt that things were beautiful. She decided not to end her life, but to continue living to share the goodness of her Healer, Jesus Christ.

Judith's mother came to Singapore to care for Joel while she went to work. Judith did not speak English nor Chinese at that time but was rejected for employment as she did not speak these languages. Life was difficult and she could hardly make ends meet, managing the medical bills and the daily expenses. However, God sustained her through the hardship as she held on to [Joel 2:25-27](#).

Things began to change after a while - she was able to find employment and subsequently, had a pay increase. She was able to perform well by the grace of God and she was sent for English courses and further studies. Judith later moved into a food and beverage business with the aim of using the proceeds to also help the poor in the other nations. God also provided Judith with her second husband, Jason.

Joel was still very sick and thin, not being able to walk at the age of 4 and too weak to stand. The doctor had informed Judith that she would not live long, nor grow physically like normal children. Judith decided to pray for healing for Joel. One day, she decided to obey God's prompting to bring her to the specialist again. Miraculously, Joel was healed physically! All the three holes in her heart were closed.

Judith decided to pray for another healing, for God to heal Joel of her Williams' Syndrome. She also wanted to put her child in a mainstream school, instead of a special needs school. One day, God challenged Judith through her prayer, asking her if she saw Joel as a burden instead of a blessing. Judith changed and decided to change her prayer as well. She accepted her daughter's condition and moved Joel to a special needs school. She also apologised to her daughter for how she treated her and Joel cried badly hearing her mother's apology. Joel has since been able to perform skills like any other normal child, except in her academics. Now, she is a grown young adult, helping her parents at their food business. Praise the Lord!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Christmas is a time when we remember God's faithfulness to mankind. Share a time in your life where you saw God's faithfulness come through for you. What was a verse or aspect of God's character, or encouragement that kept you going? What are the lessons we can bring to future challenges?**

Note to leaders:

This question is a recap and reflect question for members to share about God's faithfulness. Members can share about the situation and how they pressed on during the difficult times. This could be through prayer, holding on to God's promises or encouragement from other believers. Members can also share about the lessons they had learnt from their experience and what they will bring with them in future challenges. In addition, members can share about their experience hearing Judith's testimony and how it encouraged them – for us to also remember the power of our testimony and to be bold in proclaiming God's goodness.

Transition

In her testimony, Judith shared about seeking God's direction and committing her struggles to God in prayer.

- 2. Judith shared about the power of prayer in how it healed her daughter physically, and how prayer also changed Judith's heart in how she saw her daughter. What is your own experience of prayer? Share a time where God worked through prayer to change your circumstances or change you.**

Note to leaders:

This question is a recap and reflect questions for members to share about their experience of prayer. While we commit our requests to God, we also surrender the outcomes to His will. It is a process of hearing from and trusting in Him, and a process of sanctification where our own beliefs are challenged and shaped by biblical perspectives.

Transition

Prayer is a powerful tool by which we partner with God to pray that His will be done, in our own circumstances or to mould us through the trials.

3. Judith came to know about God through the call and brief hospitality of an insurance agent. How can we partner with God in reaching out to our loved ones and being hospitable to them?

Note to leaders:

This question is a response question for members to consider - How can we as a church be hospitable to those who have yet to know Him? How can we build a lifestyle of being sensitive to the needs of others and to reflect Christ to them? And how can we use these opportunities to be hospitable to reach out to pre-believers?

Closing

Judith's life is one of hardships, but also of the miraculous provision of God. May we also be bold in sharing our testimony to others, partnering with God in the tough times and be hospitable to others.

WORKS

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

1. Sermon Application

- Pray that we will always remember the faithfulness of God in our lives and how He will provide for us
- Pray that we will be a people who will continue to be open to God's leading and moulding
- Pray that we will be hospitable individuals to those around us and to be the salt and light.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Praise the Lord for the removal of the vaccinated-differentiated measures.
- Pray for God's protection in the midst of a high number of community cases.
- Pray for protection against reinfection and the ill effects that it may bring.

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.
- Pray for stability and progress in Malaysia after the new government has been formed.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer this Christmas.
- 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. **Free Shuttle Bus.** Available on Sundays (4-25 Dec). Pasir Ris MRT to RLC @ 8.15am, 8.30am, 8.45am. RLC to Pasir Ris MRT @ 11.15am, 11.30am, 11.45am.
2. **Advent Devotionals.** A four-week daily devotional written by our own RiverLifers to help you reflect on Christ and His presence in your life as we celebrate His birth. Each week will centre around one of the four descriptions of Jesus found in Isaiah 9:6. Link: rlc.sg/advent.
3. **RiverLife Prayer Room.** Closed until next year.

4. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.
 - Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
 - Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve
5. **Nov-Dec Church Calendar**
 - 17 Dec, 2.30pm – RL Cares Community Outreach
 - 04 – 25 Dec – Christmas Evangelistic Services (with concurrent Children’s Services)
6. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC’s mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the [Digital Bulletin](#) for more details.
 - a. **Moo-Ping Pre-Order from now till 1 Dec.** All proceeds from this special pre-order for frozen Moo Ping (Thai-Style Pork Skewers) will go towards our Global Hunger Fund. Collection: 11 Dec, 10.30am-12.30pm. Pre-Order Link: rlc.sg/moopingorder
7. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Sign up to serve at <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcares>
8. **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.)
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **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.*
13. **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>
14. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
15. **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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