

Date: 28 Apr 2024 | Speaker: Josh Yeoh | Topic: The Day After: The True Son | Scripture: Luke 15

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Understand what it means to live as sons and daughters of God
2. Desire to model after Jesus in living out our lives as sons and daughters
3. Desire to see the restoration of families and reconciliation of broken relationships in our lives.

SERMON SUMMARY

We learned from the Parable of the Prodigal Son ([Luke 15:11-32](#)) that both the younger and the elder brother had an orphan spirit. While the younger brother was the prodigal who was lost, the elder brother also had a transactional relationship with both the father and brother, and lived as an orphan in the home. He too was lost.

Sonship is not learned in a day. It is a journey that requires a lifelong relationship with God the Father and with His children.

The Bible tells us from [Malachi 4:5-6](#) that the ministry of reconciliation between fathers and sons will be a key feature before Jesus' return. We live in an hour where it is important for the Church to understand what it means to live as sons to our Heavenly Father.

Jesus is our True Elder Brother, who showed us the way into sonship and right relationship with the Father.

SERMON RECAP

In [Luke 15](#), Jesus outlines 3 parables – (1) the parable of the lost sheep, (2) the parable of the lost coin, and (3) the parable of the lost son. In the first 2 parables, someone goes out in search of the thing that was lost – the shepherd goes to search for the lost sheep, and the woman searches for her lost coin. However, in the third parable, the striking difference is that nobody goes to search for the younger brother. Jesus is inviting the listeners of the parables to ask the question: Who then should have gone to search for the younger brother?

To help answer the question, we need to go back to the first time where brothers are mentioned in the Bible – in [Genesis 4](#). This is the story of Cain and Abel, where God asked Cain (the elder brother) - “Where is your brother?”, to which Cain replied: “Am I my brother’s keeper?”.

Jesus is reminding us (and His listeners) that You are your brother’s keeper. And that it was the elder brother who should have gone to search for the younger brother.

As we think about the prodigals in our lives, God is still asking us the same question today: “What kind of brother or sister are you going to be?” For the younger brother in the parable to be reinstated into the family (who had lost his inheritance), it had to be done at the cost of the older brother.

*“Mercy and forgiveness must be free and unmerited to the wrongdoer. If the wrongdoer has to do something to merit it, then it isn’t mercy. **But forgiveness always comes at a cost to the one granting the forgiveness.**” – Timothy Keller*

Josh shared with us that Jesus (the Son that was telling the parable) is our older brother. While we were dead in our sins, we needed an older brother to come to us and to bring us home. Jesus did that when He gave up everything in order to bring us home. He is our true elder brother. Josh Yeoh highlighted 3 characteristics of Jesus who showed us the way to live in sonship:

#1: The elder brother was angry, proud and unloving. Jesus our true elder brother is gentle, humble and loving.

- In what ways have we been like the elder brother in our dealings with people? Have we been proud and unloving? If we strive to earn God’s love, we are often judging and unloving.
- But Jesus is gentle, humble and loving. And Jesus invites us:
“Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”- Matthew 11:28-29
- Jesus “humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8)

#2: The elder brother is driven by a performance mindset. Jesus, our true elder brother, is rested in His identity as a son.

- In performance-driven Singapore, how have we been driven by this mindset? We often take on a Master-Servant relationship with God. We can unintentionally become transactional with God and others. But Jesus rested in His identity as a son.
- *“But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:43-45)*
- *“We are called to rule with the heart of a servant but serve with the heart of a king.” – Bill Johnson*

#3: The elder brother is selfish. Jesus our true elder brother is selfless.

- When we strive, we are almost always self-centred, and our decisions are often made based on “me” at the centre. But Jesus is selfless.
- *“There was no way for the younger brother to return to the family unless the older brother bore the cost himself. Our true elder brother paid our debt, on the cross, in our place” – Timothy Keller*
- Jesus also invites us to be co-heirs with Him. Everything that Jesus has also belongs to us. We are recipients of Jesus’ inheritance.
- *“...you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:15-17)*

We are living in the days before the great and awesome day of the Lord. The primary sign of the ministry of Elijah going to be the ministry of reconciliation and the restoration of families (Malachi 4: 5-6):

“And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” – Malachi 4:6

In closing, Josh Yeoh challenged (i) those who were Fathers and Mothers to understand what a heart turned towards their children looked like by examining whether their hearts have turned away from their children, and (ii) the younger generation – sons and daughters, to ask God to give them a Father’s heart and learn how to be a son/daughter of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What difference does it make for you to see yourself as a child of God?
2. Josh Yeoh shared the key characteristics of Jesus, the true elder brother, in contrast to the elder brother's characteristics in the parable. Share which of the elder brother's characteristics you identify most with, and how you can model after Jesus to live as children of God and be your brother's keeper.
3. **Malachi 4:5-6** says that we are living in the days where God will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Share if there are relationships in your family that you wish to see restoration.

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 for God to help us relate rightly to Him, and live our lives as sons and daughters of God
- Pray for the restoration of families and reconciliation of broken and strained relationships in our lives.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, that as we enter into a season of prayer and fasting, that God will align all of our hearts and do what He needs to do so that we can live in a new normal that glorifies Him.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
 - a. Russia and Ukraine
 - b. Myanmar (Civil War) – Pray for the situation where military service was made compulsory for man and woman between the ages of 18 and 35.
 - c. Israel & Hamas
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
 - a. Japan, China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
 - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
 - a. Taiwan (Earthquake)
 - b. Indonesia (Volcanic Eruption)
- Pray for Singapore
 - a. Pray for the family of the 2 victims that were killed in a road accident at Tampines
 - b. Pray for a smooth transition from PM Lee to incoming PM Lawrence Wong
 - c. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
- Other Global Issues
 - a. Pray for the at Columbia University where pro-Palestinian demonstrations are turning violent.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- 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. **RCS Family Movie Date 2024.** You can play your part in extending God's love into the community through RCS. Your giving ensures continuity in our initiatives to help and support beneficiaries and families in need. For every \$100 donated between 28 Apr to 26 May, donors will receive two complimentary movie tickets* as a token of our gratitude.

*Movie tickets have an open date and are valid at Golden Village cinemas until 31 May 2025. For more information: rlc.sg/rcsmovie24

2. **RiverLife Missions.** Mission trip schedule for 2024 is out now on our Missions website! Discover how you can sow into the nations this year: rlc.sg/missions
3. **RiverLife Kindergarten Open House & Exhibition 2024.** Sat, 18 May 10am-12pm RiverLife Church. You're invited to view the artworks of our students and find out more about RiverLife Kindergarten.
4. **Found: A Journey in Sonship (New Sermon Series). 14 Apr-26 May.** As disciples of Christ, God calls us His sons and daughters – loved, accepted, and provided for. We sometimes wander from the presence of our Father, choosing to live apart from Him. As we process what God has spoken to us during our recent season of prayer & fasting, we want to respond by returning to the Father's love once again.

Post-Service Sessions (11.30am-1pm in Worship Centre)

- **Sun, 12 May How Can I Hear My Heavenly Father?**
Facilitated by Rev Pat Owyang No registration is required for the post-service sessions.

Restoring The Foundations (RTF)

- The RTF ministry in RiverLife undergirds the prayer ministry of our church.
- Its approach for healing and restoration aims to help the receiver walk out his/her freedom and restoration through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and in partnership with the Holy Spirit. More information can be found at www.RestoringTheFoundations.org.
- Find out more at Atrium RTF booth on Sunday, 5 May.

5. **SuperLife Camp 2024: Wisdom for Living (P1-P6).** Thu-Sat, 30 May-1 Jun. RiverLife Church
 - Camp Schedule
 - Thu & Fri, 30 & 31 May | 9am-6pm | Children Only
 - Sat, 1 Jun | 9am-2pm | Children & Parents
 - Parents are invited to join us on Sat, 1 Jun.
 - 9am to 12pm: Session with The Treasure Box
 - Parents and their children will hear a special message for families, and work together to create their very own Family Mosaic Coaster.
 - 12pm to 2pm: Lunch Celebration
 - Cost
 - 7-21 Apr (Early Bird): \$60 per child (22 Apr onwards: \$70)
 - Additional Costs for Family Session on Sat, 1 Jun: \$15/parent (for lunch); and \$10/family (for family mosaic coaster) or \$4.50/child (for individual mosaic coaster if parents are not coming)
 - Registration & More Details: rlc.sg/slcamp2024

6. MegaLife Camp 2024. Thu-Sun, 13-16 Jun. Thistle Hotel, Johor Bahru. For Youths Aged 13-18. If you are a parent of a teen or know someone who's a teen, invite them for our annual Youth camp! Registration opens first week of April and more details will be shared.

- Early Bird (6-15 Apr): \$280
- Regular (16-22 Apr): \$320

Registration: rlc.sg/mlcamp2024

7. Young Adults Camp 2024 - Commune: As One (For Young Adults in their 20s). Join us this year at Commune: As One, where we will discover what Jesus meant when he prayed for us to be "One". Let us come together to encounter God's love in the context of family as we build deeper relationships with one another!

- Location: Fri-Sun, 5-7 Jul, Holiday Villa Johor Bahru
- Cost
 - 3 Days 2 Nights: Regular: \$275, Student/NSF: \$225
 - 2 Days 1 Night: Regular: \$210, Student/NSF: \$170
- More Details & Registration: rlc.sg/yacamp2024, Enquiries (Telegram): @YAcommunebot

8. Sustaining the Fire. As our 21-day season of prayer & fasting comes to a close, we thank God for reviving us individually and collectively. It is needful for us to go on walking closely with the Lord and be faithful stewards of the work that has been done in us. We can continue this journey by spending time with God daily using this recommended 21-day devotional:

- 21 Days to Overflow takes readers on a 3-week journey of emptying themselves of self, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and living out an overflowing spirit-filled life. 21-Day Devotional: [YouVersion Bible App](#) | [PDF](#)

Our Revive Us, Lord website has been updated with resources to help you grow in these four aspects – spiritually, relationally, physically & missionally.

For more information: rlc.sg/21days

9. Family Life Portal.

- Our Family Life ministry strengthens relationships within the family so that they are reflective of who God is – married couples loving and serving each other, parents discipling their children in the ways of God, grandparents inspiring the generations by their faith and actions, and the singles living secure and fruitful lives for God's kingdom! RiverLife's Family Life portal is an online platform that contains this year's calendar of Family Life initiatives as well as a wide range of resources for various life stages.
- Access the portal: rlc.sg/familylife or www.riverlife.org.sg (Under the "Resources" tab)

- YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).**
The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are interested in joining the gatherings and would like to find out more, connect with us on our Telegram Channel: [rlc.sg/ya](https://t.me/rlc.sg/ya).

Gathering Dates: 4 May, 1 Jun, 3 Aug, 7 Sep, 5 Oct, 2 Nov

YA Camp: 5-7 Jul

Christmas Outreach: 14 Dec

- RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

- Quarterly Calendar for Key English Adult Congregation Events**

**Some dates are tentative and subjected to change. Stay updated via our digital bulletin and our social media channels for the latest information.*

Quarter 2	Quarter 3
<p><u>April</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06 Apr to 22 Jun – YA Gathering, Alpha #1 • 07 Apr – Dating Couples Briefing #1 • 13 Apr – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 27 Apr – The Parent’s Gathering <p><u>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04 May – YA Gathering • 17 to 18 May – Leaders Advance (Non-Stay In) • 30 May to 01 Jun – SuperLife Camp <p><u>June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2, 23, 30 Jun – Marriage Preparation Course #2 • 08 Jun – Caleb Ministry Gathering, Water Baptism Class #2 • 09 Jun – RiverLife AGM • 13 to 16 Jun – Youth Camp • 27 Jun – Fun Day (Youth) • 29 Jun – Parents Gathering #2 	<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 to 7 Jul – YA Camp • 13 Jul – Caleb Ministry • 14 Jul – Dating Couples Briefing #2 • 21 Jul – EA Welcome Lunch • 28 Jul – Baptism Service #2 <p><u>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03 Aug – YA Gathering • 03 Aug to 3 Oct – Alpha Run #2 • 04 Aug – Q3 Leaders Huddle • 17 Aug – Parents Gathering #3 • 24 to 25 Aug – RLC 33rd Anniversary Weekend, RTF (Round Robin) <p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07 Sep – YA Gathering • 01 to 15 Sep – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 01 to 29 Sep – SPYces • 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2: Deuteronomy • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach

Quarter 4

October

- 05 Oct – YA Gathering, Water Baptism Class #3
- 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3
- 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering
- 13 Oct – Discipleship @ Home for Pre-School Parents (Parents Equipping)
- 16 to 23 Oct – Feast of the Tabernacles
- 19 Oct – Fun Day (Youth)
- 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth)

November

- 02 Nov – YA Gathering
- 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s (Youth)
- 10 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Primary School Parents (Parents Equipping)
- 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3
- 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat

December

- 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering
- 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference
- 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend
- 28 Dec – Parents Gathering #4

Ministry & Opportunities



1. The 9M Ministry.

This 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

2. Missions Microsite.

Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.

3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: rlc.sg/serve-rlcar

4. Prayer Ministry.

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RiverLife's RTF ministry: rlc.sg/rtf

1. Bible Reading Plan.

The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp

- 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
- 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
- Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Stay Connected with RLC.

Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.

WhatsApp Broadcast: rlc.sg/wachannelinvite

Telegram Channel: t.me/RiverLifeChurch

Facebook & Instagram: [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.instagram.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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