

Date: 6 October 2024 | Speaker: Ps Ernie Song | Topic: God of the Generations | Scripture: Various

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Own their children's spiritual journey and disciple them.
2. Model a beautiful and rewarding Christian life to inspire the next generation.

SERMON SUMMARY

It is the responsibility of each generation to pass down faith and godly values to the next. Psalm 71:17-18 highlights the importance of parents being the primary spiritual disciplers of their children (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), showing them God's ways so that they can live in His blessings.

There is also a critical need for the older generation to live authentic Christian lives. Many youths today are disconnected from their faith due to the lack of role models and authentic community. Fathers, mothers, and singles should rise up and reclaim the younger generation from worldly influences, modelling lives that demonstrate the fullness of God's love and purpose.

Ultimately, there is hope for the next generation. This is a clarion call to be faithful stewards of our time and influence, creating a legacy that leads the next generation into a robust relationship with Christ.

SERMON RECAP

Introduction

Psalm 71:16-18 – God is a God of generations and every generation has the responsibility to pass on the faith to the next generation.

1) Parents are the primary disciplers of their children's spirituality.

- Parents have the responsibility, the sacred task, of passing on your faith to the next generation (**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**). One unique feature of human beings is that we have parents. Parents don't leave their children but has the responsibility to take care of them.
- Parents want what is best for their children and there is no better gift than the gift of faith. **Ephesians 6:1** – God commands children to obey their parents in all things because parents are to teach them God's ways.
- In order for the horizontal relationships in your family to be strong, the vertical relationship must first be strong. You cannot cultivate faith in your children if you do not have faith. If you want your children to have a strong relationship with God, you first must have a strong relationship with God.
- Parents must own the spiritual journey of their children and not leave it to chance or to the church. The church complements the parent's efforts; not replace it.

2) The next generation need role models of the Christian life.

- Less than 50% of all marriages in Singapore are categorised as strong. This affected the next generation's view of marriage where only 60% of youths believe in marriage while 40% believe that marriage is not necessary/are against the idea of marriage (*statistics taken from "The Emerging Family" Survey by Focus on the Family, 2024*).
- Why youths/young adults leave the faith?
 - a. They do not see the beauty of the Christian life demonstrated through the lives of believers around them.
 - b. They do not see deep authentic community demonstrated within the church (*taken from the "State of the Church in Singapore" Survey by Salt&Light, 2022 & 2023*).

- They do not see the beauty of our faith - there is no difference between a Christian and a non-Christian in their eyes.
- Therefore, we must rise up and model to the younger generation how a strong marriage looks like and to show them how beautiful the Christian life is (**1 Corinthians 11:1**). The early church in Acts grew because people outside the church saw how beautiful the Christian life was and wanted it for themselves.

3) There is a clarion call from God for men and women in the church to rise up as fathers and mothers and reclaim the generation to come.

- There is an urgency for spiritual fathers and mothers to rise up and be present for the younger generation.
- The enemy is attacking families today. Marriages are falling apart and being redefined. Couples are choosing not to get married. The enemy aims to break up families, break up the church, and break up society.
- God wants us to focus on building strong families so that we can build strong churches. God is bringing a revival for families in the church and in the world today (**Malachi 4:5-6**). We will not allow the enemy to take away our families and relationship.
- But there is hope! The desired priority of youths today is still the family as opposed to friends (taken from *State of the Family* by Focus on the Family, 2024).
- Let us rise up to show the next generation how beautiful and rewarding it is to live according to God's ways. Show them how beautiful a marriage and a good family life can be.



Discussion Questions

1. How can parents actively disciple their children in today's world?
2. Why do you think the enemy is attacking the family now? How can we protect and strengthen our family?
3. What are some practical ways the older generation can model the Christian life to the younger generation?

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 us to rise up and reclaim the younger generation for Christ.
- Pray that we will imitate Jesus and model a Christ-like life to those around us.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, as we navigate through this season of transition. Pray for our leaders (pastors, elders, senior leadership team, etc.) to abide in Christ as they work together as one to move the church forward to fulfil our vision and mission.

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, Hezbollah & Lebanon – For the conflict to end quickly.
- 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 –Typhoon Krathon
 - b. Indonesia – Landslide at Illegal mine
- Pray for Singapore
 - a. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
- Other Global Issues
 - a. Pray for the resurgence of the mpox virus in Africa.
 - b. Clashes with police in Pakistan

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. **Discipleship @ Home (Organised by SuperLife Children's Ministry). For Parents of Primary & Preschool Children.**
 - Primary
 - a. Sun, 3 Nov, 9am-11am. Grace Chapel.
 - b. Cultivating Godly Habits As A Family
 - c. Speaker: Dr Morgan Zhou (Vice Principal of ACS Primary and Chairperson, TRAC Board of Children Ministry, Methodist Church in Singapore)
 - Preschool
 - a. Sun, 17 Nov, 9am-11am. Faith Chapel.
 - b. Building Godly Character In Our Children
 - c. Speaker: Pastor Elaine Kwok (Children's Pastor, Queensway Baptist Church)
 - Sign up to attend: rlc.sg/dah

2. **RiverLife Kindergarten Annual Graduation Concert Sat, 9 Nov, 9am to 12pm.**
 - RiverLife Kindergarten will be holding their Annual Graduation Concert this year-end. They're looking for volunteers to serve as:
 - a. Classroom Helpers: Touch up children's hair, take care of them before and after their performances
 - b. Greeters & Ushers: Welcome guests and usher them to their seats
 - c. Stage Helpers: Help in moving children up and down the stairs. Volunteers are highly encouraged to be available for a pre-concert rehearsal.
 - Combined Full-dress Rehearsal: Thu, 7 Nov | 8.30am to 12pm | Worship Centre
 - Actual Concert Day: Sat, 9 Nov | 9am to 12pm | Worship Centre
 - **Sign up to serve:**
 - a. Email Oi Leng at oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg
 - b. Call Linda Chong at 6511 4103

3. **Marriage Retreat. 23-25 Nov.** Do note that the retreat has been cancelled due to poor signup rate. Stay tuned for the upcoming runs of the Marriage Retreat.

4. **Volunteering with RCS.**
 - a. *Maths Tutor for Primary 1 to 4. Serve from now until end Oct*

Come alongside and provide academic support for our beneficiaries as they prepare for their year-end exams. Sessions will be online via Zoom for 1.5 hours, once a week. Day and time can be discussed and confirmed between volunteer and student as per their schedules.
 - b. *BLESS Family Volunteer. Serve for a minimum of 6 months.*

Journey with a family in need through building friendship and supplying month groceries and necessities. You will serve once a month and an hour each time. Specific time and date to be arranged at your convenience.

Registration: rlc.sg/rcs-serve24

5. **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

1. **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: 2 Nov, 14 Dec (Christmas Outreach)

2. **Caleb Ministry (For Seniors).** Caleb Ministry is part of our ongoing churchwide discipleship efforts, and aims to encourage, equip, and empower our seniors to live an abundant life (John 10:10) in their autumn years. The Caleb Ministry gathers on a bi-monthly frequency.

Gathering Dates: 12 Oct, 9 Nov, 14 Dec

3. **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.

4. **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 4
<u>October</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth)
<u>November</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 02 Nov – YA Gathering• 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s• 9 Nov – Caleb Ministry Gathering• 10 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Primary School Parents (Parents Equipping)• 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3
<u>December</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering• 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference• 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend

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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