

DATE: 9 APR 2023 | SPEAKER: DAVID & GRETA PETERS
TOPIC: REDISCOVERING JESUS THE CHRIST | SCRIPTURE: VARIOUS

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Acquaint ourselves with the characteristics of Jesus.
2. Experience the abundant life when we worship God daily.

SERMON SUMMARY

Through this sermon, RiverLifers will discover four aspects of who Jesus is – Saviour, Healer, Provider, and the Coming King – so that we may live life in its fullness, as promised in John 10:10.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” – John 10:10

SERMON RECAP

We worship Jesus Christ. Christ is not a name, but a description. It means Messiah and Deliverer. Jesus is the One who delivers the world from the curse of sin and all its consequences.

To experience the abundant life Jesus purchased for us, we need to look at four aspects of who He is.

1) Jesus is SAVIOUR

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.” – Ephesians 2:1-5

Jesus came to save us and wipe our sins away so that we can be reconciled to God and live an abundant life. Not a life without trials, but even with trials we are overcomers in Jesus' name. We are still sinful, but that is our condition (in this fallen world), not our position. It is our position, as children of God, that we achieve salvation.

2) Jesus is HEALER

Jesus spent 60% of His ministry healing the sick and setting demonised people free. It is God's nature to heal. Jesus still heals today.

3) Jesus is PROVIDER

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:19

There are three keys to His provision: work diligently, give generously, and steward wisely.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd that looks after His sheep. The dire global economic outlook causes fear and anxiety. But let us remember that Jesus is the Provider. Declare over your household that recession is not a friend of mine.

4) Jesus is the COMING KING

“For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him... For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.” – 1 Thessalonians 4:14, 16-18

Jesus will return. The resurrection of Jesus our Messiah is a guarantee that He will. When He returns, we are raised from the dead and given glorious new bodies. All evil is eradicated. God creates a new earth and a new heaven.

Things are tough now, and life on earth is difficult. But how we overcome the troubles of this life will determine our reward in the next.

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” – 2 Corinthians 4:17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Jesus is Saviour, Healer, Provider and the Coming King. Reflect and share one of these aspects of Jesus that seems most distant/abstract to you and that you have difficulty relating to/understanding.**

Leader's Notes

Sometimes we struggle to understand or relate to certain characteristics of Jesus. Share which of these aspects of Jesus that you cannot relate to. Then, try to help each other to understand each aspect better and how they appear in our lives – relating real-life experiences/examples is a good way to make it more concrete.

Further thoughts on who Jesus is (and is not):

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/jesus-christ/who-is-jesus-christ.html>

Transition

Getting to know Jesus and His characteristics is fundamental to living life in its fullness.

2. God rescued us sinners out of His deep love for us by sacrificing Jesus on the cross. How can we express our gratitude to Him daily?

Leader's Notes

God made us, loves us, and rescued us. He is worthy of all praise.

May the Holy Spirit stir us to give Him the honour He deserves through daily worship. Rejoice each day that God has made and gifted to us. Be careful not to complain, but to thank Him for everything. Even all creation praises Him.

Transition

God deserves all worship, praise, and gratitude. When we are thankful to Him, we are naturally contented with what we have.

3. How we overcome the troubles of this life will determine our reward in the next. How do we live this out? How does knowing the characteristics of Christ enable us to overcome our troubles in this life?

Leader's Notes

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Luke 12:32-34

It is often in difficult times that we put down deep roots. Despite what we are facing, we can trust in God. Put your hope in God, fix your eyes on Him and keep trusting and obeying Him. It is counterintuitive to our human nature but persist! Here's how knowing the characteristics of Christ can serve as an encouragement to us during difficult times:

- a) *Saviour* – We have a God who cares for us. He reached out to us and saved us at His expense before we even knew Him and did anything for Him.
- b) *Healer* – Christ's name is more powerful than any disease or circumstance. And because He cares for us, we can go to Him in prayer when we face sicknesses in our bodies and in our souls.
- c) *Provider* – God has provided so much for us as we journeyed through this life, especially through the pandemic season. If He has seen us through in the past, He will see us through in the future because He cares for us.
- d) *Coming King* – Although this life is filled with suffering, pain, and injustice, we can take heart as we go through this journey on earth because there will come a day when Christ returns and remove every consequence of sin and the presence of evil in creation!

Knowing that we have a good Father who cares for us gives us strength and hope as we go through the difficulties of today and tomorrow.

Closing

Remember that Jesus has resurrected and will return. This truth gives us so much hope. Our troubles are temporary and will pass! Look up and look ahead.

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 for us to fix our eyes on Jesus, remembering His resurrection and victory over sin, the consequences of sin, and the kingdom of darkness.

2. World

- Pray for those affected by the aftermath of the Turkey-Syria earthquake.
- Pray for those affected by the school shootings in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Pray for 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 the Russia-Ukraine war and in the US-China conflict.

3. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **The RiverLife Welcome Lunch.** Sun, 23 Apr. 11.00am-12.30pm. Grace Chapel. Specially for those who started joining us at service or cell this year. Due to capacity constraints, each guest may be accompanied by up to two family members or friends (including their host). RSVP online by Sun, 16 Apr: rlc.sg/welcomelunch
2. **RiverLife Community Services.**
 - **RCS Family Movie Day 2023 Sat, 17 Jun. 9am to 12pm. Shaw Theatres Lido Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse.** With every donation of \$100, you will receive 2 complimentary tickets to the movie screening. *You may opt to donate your complimentary tickets to our beneficiaries so that they and their families can join in the movie screening.* Register and donate online: tinyurl.com/rcsmovieday23.
 - **Serve Together as a Family.** Find out more about RiverLife Community Services and how you can play a part in caring for the community! Link: [RCS Serving Opportunities](#)
3. **Upcoming Pulpit Series: Our World Today – Survival Guide.**
 - 16 Apr – Nurturing Mental Wellness
 - 23 Apr – Dealing with Difficult Relationships
 - 30 Apr – Building Resilience in Life
 - 07 May – Navigating in an Age of Deception
4. **Young Adults Camp | Commune. 7 – 9 July 2023. Opero Hotel Southkey, Johor Bahru.** If the end goal of discipleship is transformation unto Christlikeness, then beholding is foundational to the life of every believer. We are called to behold Jesus together—to commune with God within the context of community. So, let's embark on this journey together to gain a fuller understanding of God, a better glimpse of the radiant Church He desires, and the courage to walk faithfully with community until He returns. Come, be part of this journey!

- Early Bird Fees (Until 16 Apr): \$210 (Student/NSF), \$260 (Adult).
 - Regular Fees (17 Apr – 7 May): \$240 (Student/NSF), \$290 (Adult).
 - Register at rlc.sg/yacamp2023.
 - Enquiries: yacamp@riverlife.org.sg
5. **MegaLife Camp (Ages 13-18).** 15-18 Jun (Thu-Sun) RELC International Hotel (30 Orange Grove Rd) & RiverLife Church. Registration details will be released next weekend.
- Early Bird (1-16 Apr): \$200 per pax
 - Normal (17-23 Apr): \$230 per pax
6. **Learning To Love SuperLife Camp 2023 (P1-P6 Children).** Thu-Fri, 8 & 9 Jun: 8.30am to 6pm Sat, 10 Jun: 9.30am to 5pm. *Learning to Love 2023* is an onsite day camp jointly organised by RiverLife Church and Sterling Campus for children in Primary 1 to 6. Through hands-on activities, interactive sessions and Bible-based teaching, participants will learn about God's intended purposes for their studies and see their time in school with fresh eyes!
- **Parents, you're invited! Sat, 10 Jun, 1.30pm to 5pm.** Parents-only Session by Sterling Campus Find out how you can journey with your child beyond what they've learnt at camp and how they can continue integrating faith in your home.
 - 1.30pm to 3pm: Parents-only Session by Sterling Campus
 - 3pm to 5pm: Family Celebration + High Tea
 - **Camp Fees:** \$70 per child (Early Bird Rate until 26 Mar), \$80 per child (27 Mar to 9 Apr), add \$10/pax for each additional parent and sibling coming for the High Tea.
 - **Registration:** rlc.sg/slcamp2023.
 - **Helpers.** We're also looking for RiverLifers who would like to serve at this camp as adult helpers. Sign up to serve here: rlc.sg/slcamp2023serve
7. **Israel Messianic Encounter. 20 Nov – 1 Dec. Cost: \$4,950 (30 pax trip), \$4,850 (40 pax trip).** Join this trip and receive a revelation of the significance of Israel in the end times. You will gain a deeper appreciation of the cultural and geographical background of Scripture, and rediscover your Hebraic spiritual roots. Registration closes on 30 April 2023. For More Information: <https://event.actxplorer.com> (Password: RLKCC2023IME)
8. **Maranatha – Live Album Recording with Josh Yeoh & Friends @ RiverLife Church.** Sun, 23 Apr, 7pm (Doors Open at 6:15pm). Free Admission with Registration. Josh Yeoh and friends are gathering the Body of Christ from the nations for a night of worship and prayer to record 10 original songs at RiverLife Church. Registration Link: maranathalive.eventbrite.com.
9. **Church Calendar Highlights**
- *Quarter 2*
 - Easter Evangelistic Services: 8-9 Apr
 - Bible Equipping – Acts: 26 & 28 May, 2 & 4 Jun
 - Children's Camp: 8-10 Jun
 - Youth Camp: 15-18 Jun
 - Cell Revival Nights (Fridays): 2 – 30 Jun
 - *Quarter 3*
 - Young Adult Camp: 7-9 Jul
 - 32nd Anniversary Weekend: 26-27 Aug
 - Bible Equipping – Leviticus: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
 - Cells Prayer Night #2: 29 Sep
 - *Quarter 4*
 - Equipping Series: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Christmas Outreach: Dec

- Cells Prayer Night #3: 29 Dec

10. **RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**

- **RLC Prayer Room.** Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Online: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- **Wed Night Prayer Meeting.** Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel.

11. **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

12. **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.

13. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcares>

14. **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.)

15. **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.

16. **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)

17. **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.

18. **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.

19. **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>

20. **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.

21. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.

- **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
- **Telegram Channel:** t.me/RiverLifeChurch
- **Facebook & Instagram:** @riverlifechurchsg

GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

ONLINE GIVING TO MISSIONS

Donate digitally:

PayNow

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

Interbank Transfer

UOB Account 450-309634-4

Kindly indicate "Missions" in your transaction reference.



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 DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

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.

