

DATE: 21 MAY 2023 | SPEAKER: PASTOR WANG TIAK KWENG
TOPIC: JUST AN INVITATION | SCRIPTURE: [JOHN 1: 35-42](#)

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Appreciate the significance of the good news of Jesus Christ
2. Desire to experience more of Jesus and invite their unchurched friends and family to hear about Jesus, experience Him, and enter into God's plan for them

SERMON SUMMARY

Not all of us can be gifted evangelists, but all of us can make a life-changing impact on the lives of others simply by extending an invitation to them to (i) hear the greatest news ever, (ii) experience Jesus for themselves and (iii) enter into God's plan for them.

SERMON RECAP

Learning from the example of Andrew in [John 1:35-42](#), Pastor Tiak shared 3 reasons why a simple invitation to our friends to know Jesus can change their lives forever. He exhorted us to **invite our friends to:**

1. **Hear the greatest news ever** – When we hear any good or great news, we cannot help but share it with others. We read from [John 1:41](#) that the first thing Andrew did was to share with his brother the news that they had found the Messiah (Jesus Christ). This was great news to Andrew as the Jews had been waiting for the Messiah, as prophesied in the Old Testament, and John the Baptist had proclaimed that Jesus was the “lamb of God”, the sacrificial lamb that would pay for their sins. Similarly, in [John 1:44-46](#), the first thing Philip did was to tell his friend Nathanael the news about Jesus. Many of us who have been Christians may be so familiar with this news that we tend to lose sight of its greatness. But the news of Jesus Christ is actually the greatest news of all time – Let us invite our friends to hear this great news that they desperately need.
2. **Experience Jesus for themselves** – In [John 1:42](#), Andrew “brought him (Simon) to Jesus”. Similarly, Philip simply invited Nathanael to “come and see” Jesus for himself ([John 1:46](#)). We invite others to church to meet the person of Jesus. When the people of God gather, Jesus manifests His presence in an especially powerful way. In [Matthew 18:20](#), Jesus says tells us that “where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”.

When people experience Jesus for themselves, it begins a process of radical transformation:

- a. In [Acts 4:13](#), we see how Simon (Peter) and John – “unschooled, ordinary men” were transformed into apostles who preached the gospel with boldness and did many miracles. The more people experience Jesus, the more transformed they will be.

- b. [John 4:28-29](#) shows us how the Samaritan woman was transformed after encountering Jesus – she was no longer ashamed of herself, nor concerned about the water that she had come to draw from the well.
3. **Enter into God’s plan for them** – When Simon accepted Andrew’s invitation, Jesus also declared prophetically who Simon would become ([John 1:42](#)) – Cephas (which translated, is Peter) which means “rock”. Jesus told Simon that he would become a rock– solid, immovable foundation. Jesus made this clearer later in [Matthew 16:17-18](#) when he said: “I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church”. Peter entered into God’s plan for him the day Andrew brought him to meet Jesus – the trajectory of his life was changed forever. And this is the same for all of us, as well as the friends that we invite to meet Jesus.

Pastor Tiak shared his own personal testimony that it was Elder Tat Seng’s invitation to him many years ago to attend a gospel rally when he was a 13-year-old boy, that enabled him to enter God’s plan for his life. We can extend an invitation to our friends to meet Jesus so that they can start entering into God’s plan for their lives.

In closing, Pastor Tiak said that God wants to continue using RiverLife church to win souls and make disciples, to be the River flowing out to the rest of Singapore and the nations. All of us are able to take the little step to invite our loved ones and friends to come and hear the greatest news ever, experience Jesus for themselves, and enter God’s plan for their lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **The story of Jesus Christ is the greatest news ever. Since the time that you first became a Christian, have you become more excited or indifferent to this story?**

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and relate question. Pastor Tiak shared that as Christians, many of us might have become so familiar with the story of Jesus and we tend to lose sight of its greatness. Have we forgotten how awesome and amazing the gift of salvation offered through Jesus Christ is, and how we ourselves have been changed through knowing Jesus?

Leaders can ask members to reflect on whether they are still as excited or have grown indifferent to the gospel. For those who are still as excited, leaders can invite them to share what has kept them excited since becoming a Christian. The cell could also dig deeper to discuss some possible reasons why we become indifferent or less excited about the gospel message, and ways to overcome such indifference.

Resource

[*“Why Don’t I Care? Steps to Overcoming Spiritual Apathy”*](#)

Transition

May we not forget how great the story of Jesus Christ is. Let us remember how Jesus saved us, and transformed our own lives, so that we cannot help but share this good news with others.

2. When was the last time you shared with someone about Jesus or invited them to church? How eager or excited are you to share this good news to your friends or family?

Leader's Notes

Leaders can ask members to share:

- Their past experiences sharing the gospel or inviting someone to church – how did their invitation lead to their friends/loved ones' transformation or change to their lives?
- Struggles or challenges they face when sharing the gospel or inviting their friends and loved ones to church

Transition

Just like how Elder Tat Seng's invitation to Pastor Tiak enabled him to know Jesus and enter into God's plan for this life, God has a divine plan for each one of our unchurched friends and family members. Our invitation can bring them to the starting point of God's plan for them, and change their entire life trajectory.

3. We believe that this is the year of "the River flowing outwards" for RiverLife Church. How can you contribute to this vision by actively inviting your unchurched friends?

Leader's Notes

This is a response question. As His church and disciples, Jesus has given us the great commission to "make disciples of all nations" ([Matthew 28:19](#)).

- Who are the individuals or communities that God has put in your life to extend an invitation to? Leaders can invite members to share if there are unchurched individuals (in their families, workplace, schools etc.) that come to mind, whom they can invite or reach out to.
- As a cell group, what can we do to actively reach out and invite our unchurched friends?

Closing

All of us can make a life-changing impact on the lives of others simply by extending an invitation to them.

In closing, the cell can spend some time praying for the pre-believing/unchurched friends or family members that come to mind, and for us to have the courage to invite them.

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 God to help us appreciate the significance of the good news and be excited by it
- Pray for God to give us a greater desire to see our unchurched friends/family come to know Jesus
- Pray for God to give us courage to share the gospel or invite unchurched friends / family

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- 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

- Pray for good weather in Singapore during this hot season.
- Pray for the tense situation along the straits of Taiwan.
- Pray for peace in the Russia-Ukraine war and in the US-China conflict.
- Pray for peace in the Gaza strip (Israel) as violence erupts between Israel and Islamic Jihad.

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. Serve with RCS Children's Camp.

- Tue-Wed, 13-14 Jun 2023 9am to 4pm, RCS Centre 102 Rivervale Walk #01-54 Singapore 540102
- As a camp volunteer, you will:
 - Befriend children (aged 7-12) from the community
 - Facilitate small group discussion and activities
 - Affirm child for growth in relationship, participation and good behaviour.
- Sign up to serve here: tinyurl.com/kiperkidsvol

2. An Invitation for Parents with Youths in MegaLife.

Parents of MegaLifers are invited to join their children on *Sat, 17 Jun from 9.30am to 12.30pm* at MegaLife Camp to worship and pray with your child / children as a family. Kindly RSVP online at rlc.sg/mlc-parents by Wed, 31 May.

3. Marriage Preparation Course Run 2. 4 & 25 June & 2 July (3 Sessions). Cost: \$50. Register: rlc.sg/mpc.

4. Water Baptism Class. Sat, 3 Jun | 9am-3.30pm | Faith Chapel (Level 2). Please register by Sunday, 28 May at rlc.sg/baptism-class

5. Bible Equipping Sessions (Book of Acts): The Advance of the Gospel - Relentless and Unstoppable

- Taught by David Lim (Academic Dean of ACTS Bible College Singapore)
- Pre-order your lunch for the Sunday sessions: rlc.sg/acts-lunch
- **Session 1 Fri, 26 May | 8-10 pm | Victory Chapel**
 - Introduction: Background for the Book of Acts
 - Part 1: The Church Emerges in Power (Acts 1:1-6:7)
- **Session 2 Sun, 28 May | 11am-3.30pm | Victory Chapel** *With lunch break in-between*
 - Part 2: The Church Breaks through Barriers (Acts 6:8-12:25)
- **Session 3 Fri, 2 June, 8-10 pm | Victory Chapel**
 - Part 3: The Church Reaches New Frontiers (Acts 13:1-20:38)
- **Session 4 | Victory Chapel Sun, 4 Jun | 11 am-3.30 pm | Victory Chapel** *With lunch break in-between*
 - Part 4: The Church Stands under Pressure (Acts 21:1-28:31)
 - Epilogue: Beyond the Book of Acts

6. Restoring the Foundations. A 2-Part Equipping Seminar. Register online: rlc.sg/rtf_rl

- *PART 2 – ISSUE-FOCUSED MINISTRY TRAINING & ACTIVATION (21 HOURS)*

- Sat, 24 Jun | 9am to 6pm • Sun, 25 Jun | 11am to 6pm • Sat, 1 Jul | 9am to 6pm
Grace Chapel (Level 1)
- Fees: \$220 (inclusive of meals and materials)
- If you have a heart to help people heal, and find deep and lasting freedom, come join us for this Issue-Focused Ministry (IFM) Training and Activation.
- *Perquisites: Attended the Hope, Healing, and Freedom Seminar; Read the 'Healing and Freedom' Booklet by RTF; Submitted a copy of the RTF Issue-Focused Ministry Personal Questionnaire for himself/herself; Submitted the Application Form to be trained as IFM minister.*

7. RiverLife Prayer Room: May Schedule

- In support of the Isaiah 62 Fast, the RiverLife Prayer Room will be anchoring sessions at Burning Hearts Singapore in the month of May.
- **Tue, 30 May:** The RiverLife Prayer Room will be closed.

8. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 2*
 - 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

9. 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.

10. **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

11. **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.

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

13. **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.)
14. **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.
 15. **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)
 16. **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.
 17. **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.
 18. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
 19. **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.
 20. **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](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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