

26 MAR 2023 | SPEAKER: JOANNA KOH-HOE | JUST FAMILY
SCRIPTURE: [JEREMIAH 6:16](#)

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Seek God's direction on how we can serve the poor and the disadvantaged in the community.
2. Be intentional and purposeful when embarking on the work or task that He has called us to do.

SERMON SUMMARY

One of the key approaches for the church towards Biblical social justice is to uphold God's holy design for creation. God's just and loving nature is demonstrated in His creation of mankind. However, injustices mark many relationships that have gone wrong, starting with the family unit. As believers with both a natural and a spiritual family, we have a Biblical mandate and responsibility to address these injustices.

- In the area of family, recognise the "crossroads" we are at as a nation, understand the "ancient paths", and accept the "good way"
- **Stand** on God's unchanging and timeless precepts for marriage and family
- **Speak** the whole truth about family life, relationships and values in love
- **Sow** into a "just" family by daily living out husband-wife and parent-child relationships according to God's design

SERMON RECAP

1. **Introduction ([Deuteronomy 32:3-7](#))**
 - God is a God of justice.
 - If we want to look at what justice looks like, we just need to look at God.
 - We are at the crossroads as a nation because it is up to the future generations on how they want to define family and traditional values.
2. **Stand on God's unchanging design for families.**
 - We need to return to the ancient paths:
 - God designed only 2 sexes ([Genesis 1:27](#)).
 - God designed marriages to be between a husband and a wife ([Matthew 19:5](#))
 - God designed marriages to bear forth fruit – parents and children ([Genesis 9:7](#))
 - When we follow the ancient paths / God's design, we will enjoy God's blessings. ([Leviticus 18:5](#))
 - When we deviate from God's design, we suffer undesirable consequences. ([Jeremiah 6:17-21](#))
3. **Stand. ([Ephesians 6:14-15](#), [Luke 18:7-8](#))**

- The definition of a neutral stand on family will continue to shift as those with liberal views become more liberal and those with conservative views do not move in their stand.
- We need to stand on God's definitions and not move.

4. **Speak. (Romans 10:13-14)**

- Standing sometimes might not be sufficient. Sometimes, we are called to speak.
- Persecution in the world is very real especially cancel culture.
- But we need to still speak out the truth so that God's truth will go out there.
- Sometimes, "speaking" need not be in public but in the home.

5. **Sow. (James 2:14)**

- Apart from our verbal testimony, the testimony of our lives is just as loud.
- Sometimes, the best thing we can do is to invest in our marriages, our families and our children. This is a loud testimony to the world.
- Sow into the values and design of God for the families.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **In your observation of the Singapore society, in what ways have we as a nation departed from God's original design for marriage and family?**

Leader's Notes

In this questions, you can draw out your member's observations of society. The following are some of the areas where society has departed from God's design:

- a) The re-definition of marriage due to the acceptance of the LGBTQ+ ideology.
- b) The devaluing of purity and sex within a marital relationship
- c) The reluctance for men to lead their households
- d) The reliance on pornography to satisfy one's physical desires
- e) Marriages not reflecting the glory of God as God designed it to be
- f) Children not submitting to the authority of their parents

Transition

All of these areas are departure from God's original design for marriages and the family unit. Therefore, it is critical for the church to shine it's light in such a time as this!

2. **How can the church (you!) play it's role to move families and marriages back to God's original design?**

Leader's Notes

This question is designed to help members examine their lives – "what can I do to play my part in God's kingdom for such a time as this?"

- Invest my time, energy and resources to make my marriage a thriving one.
- Strengthen my relationship with my children and to guide them in the ways of the Lord
- Seek help if I am addicted to pornography
- For singles to find their fulfilment in Christ
- To journey together with another couple so that together, God's glory can be made manifest in our marriages.
- To not remain silent on matters regarding the family, sexuality and marriages when the Singapore government requires input from its citizens.

3. After hearing this message, what is one practical thing you can do to “speak out” God’s truth to the world out there – to your pre-believing friends, families and colleagues?

Leader’s Notes

The world will never hear about God’s truth and His design for families and marriages if the church does not proclaim the truth out there. Proclaiming the truth out there does not necessarily mean to preach the gospel. Sometimes, it may mean for us to show our pre-believing friends and family the beauty of God’s design through our lives. Sometimes, it is standing up for what we believe are God’s truth for the family and marriages.

Closing

These are indeed dark times that we live in. But the church is meant to thrive in the dark because we are the light of the world. May we let our light shine so brightly in this day and age so that God’s glory can be revealed through us to the world!

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 all our marriages to be strong and to reflect God’s glory to the world.
- Pray for parents to bring up their children in the ways of the Lord
- Pray that Singapore will continue to hold on to the traditional values of the family

2. World

- Pray for those affected by the aftermath of the Turkey-Syria earthquake.
- Pray for the flood situation in Turkey
- 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 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.



“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” – John 15:13 (NIV)

Reflection

Sacrifice is almost a bad word in the church today! We all love teachings on blessings and victory. But the truth is this – we serve a God who was willing to sacrifice His all for us. All of His disciples subsequently sacrificed their all as well – they all died as martyrs. As we reflect towards Good Friday, may we never forget that just like Christ, we too must learn to sacrifice of ourselves, our resources and our time for the sake of Christ. May we never be afraid to love others, especially those in need, beyond ourselves, because that is what Christ did for us on the cross!

Prayer Pointers

1. Ask the Lord to show you areas of your life that you are unwilling to sacrifice to Him. Commit these areas to Him once again.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you someone that you can bless through sacrifice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Easter @ RiverLife.**
 - **Evangelistic Service Sun. 9 Apr, 9am. Worship Centre.** Speaker - Pastor David Peters. There will be prayer for those who need healing.
 - **Preparing Our Hearts Through Prayer. Wednesdays, 22 & 29 Mar & 5 Apr. Access via www.riverlife.org.sg** (Resources). Use prayer pointers provided in our weekly cell guide for your time with God.
 - **Combined Cell Gathering. Fri, 31 Mar, 8pm to 10pm, Worship Centre.** A combined gathering of cell groups for a time of contemplation, worship and prayer during this season of Lent.
 - **Hosting Our First-Time Guests.** Invite your family and friends who are new to RiverLife to join our Welcome Lunch on Sun, 23 Apr.
2. **A Gathering For Young Adults In Their 20s. First Saturday Every Month Starting Sat, 1 Apr, 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. We're inviting young adults in their 20s to join us at our very first gathering on Sat, 1 Apr from 5pm to 8.30pm in Victory Chapel.
 - If you are currently in a cell, register your attendance with your cell leader.
 - If you are currently not in a cell, do register online: rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg.
3. **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

4. **A River Flowing Outwards: Our Community & The Nations.** As a continuation of our Vision Series, we will spend five weekends exploring how God can bring about Kingdom transformation in our city and the world through each of us living out our call as change agents. Join us on this journey to expand our hearts for people who matter to God and be available to serve as He leads.

26 Mar Events

- **Conversations on Fostering After Service at Faith Chapel (Level 2).** Learn more about fostering in Singapore from RiverLifers who are foster parents and find out how you can get involved or support foster families around you.
- **Book Table by Focus on The Family After Service at Atrium (Level 1).** Pick up family-life related resources and find out more about Focus On The Family.

2 Apr Events

Community Fair & Movie Day Registration After Service at Atrium (Level 1) Highlights:

- Meet our RiverLife Community Services (RCS) team
- Learn more about how we're serving the community through RCS
- Sign up and donate to this year's Family Movie Day
- Celebrate what God has done in the community with activities and popcorn

5. **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

6. **Israel Messianic Encounter. 20 Nov – 1 Dec.** Cost: \$4,950 (30 pax trip), \$4,850 (40 pax trip). More details to follow.

7. **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.

8. **Church Calendar Highlights**

- **Quarter 1**
 - Equipping – “Engaging the Holy Spirit” Workshop: 17 & 19 Mar, 24 & 26 Mar
 - Cells Prayer Night #1: 31 Mar
- **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
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. **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.
11. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcares>
12. **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.)
13. **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.
14. **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)
15. **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.

16. **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.
17. **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>
18. **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.
19. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
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