

**DATE: 24 SEP 2023 | SPEAKER: JOSH YEOH**  
**TOPIC: TIMES, SEASONS AND FESTIVALS | SCRIPTURE: VARIOUS**

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Understand the significance and symbolism of the spring feasts.
2. Remember what God has done for us and what is to come.

### SERMON SUMMARY

The first three feasts of the Jewish calendar pointed to the coming of Christ and the fulfilment of the feasts through His work on the cross. These spring feasts remind us that God is indeed “Emmanuel” – God with us.

### SERMON RECAP

The Hebrew word for feast (*moed*) literally means “the appointed time”. The annual feasts that are celebrated by the Jews are set times appointed by God. Through the lens of the New Testament, we believe that the first three feasts (which occurred during the springtime) have been fulfilled by Jesus’s first coming. Let us behold Jesus through the Jewish Spring Feasts.

#### 1. The Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread ([Exodus 12:1-3, 5-13](#), [Leviticus 23:5-7](#))

- This first Passover and Unleavened Bread happened in Exodus – to remember how God freed Israel from captivity in Egypt.
- It pointed to Jesus as our Passover Lamb whose blood has been shed for our sins ([1 Corinthians 5:7](#)). The same day the Jews slaughtered the lambs in preparation for the Passover was the same day Jesus was crucified.
- This feast pointed to Jesus’ sinless life (yeast/leaven is the symbol of sin), making Him the only one who qualifies to pay the penalty for our sins.
- Today, the Passover signifies our deliverance from bondage to sin and death. The Passover and the Feast of the Unleavened Bread point to a life free from the effects of sin and compromise.

#### 2. The Feast of First Fruits ([Leviticus 23:9-14](#))

- This feast is celebrated the day after the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Passover. The first sheaf of the harvest is to be presented before the Lord. They would not be able to harvest or eat the rest before they presented the first sheaf.
- There is a significance to the first. God calls Israel His firstborn son ([Exodus 4:22](#)). The first fruit is the best, and it is a giving back of the best from what we have as a thanks offering to the Lord as a declaration of our faith in Him.
- Jesus was resurrected on the Feast of First Fruits. This points to Jesus’ resurrection as the first fruit of the righteous ([1 Corinthians 15:20](#)). We live with the confidence that Jesus’

resurrection guarantees ours. Because He rose, we too will rise. Because He lives, we also will live.

### **3. The Feast of Weeks (Shavuot/Pentecost) (Leviticus 23:16)**

- This feast occurs 50 days after the feast of First Fruits. It was the end of the grain harvest, and the Israelites would take two loaves of the finest wheat and offer it to God.
- Shavuot happened on Mount Sinai – giving the law to the people of Israel. Pentecost happened on Mount Zion – giving of the Holy Spirit to believers.
- This feast pointed to the gift of the Holy Spirit for both the Jew as well as the Gentile. It is also a prophetic promise of a great harvest that is coming.

All these feasts point us to the blood of the lamb. That without the blood of Jesus, there will be no salvation for us. It also points us to the second coming of Christ, when He returns to save us again and make permanent His victory and glory.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **1. Why is it important for us, as believers, to know about the feasts that the Jews celebrate yearly?**

#### Leader's Notes

These feasts are God-ordained for the Jews, to remember what God has done for His people, to celebrate His love and faithfulness to them, and to point to the future when we would be reunited with the Bridegroom and be part of His family for eternity.

#### Transition

As we are part of the family of God, what He has ordained we should know. We are concerned with the things He is concerned about.

### **2. Why are we tempted to rebel against God and seek help apart from Him?**

#### Leader's Notes

This question calls us to reflect on why we repeatedly rebel against God.

Like the Israelites, we tend to forget about God and His goodness and faithfulness towards us. We rebel against Him and in times of trouble, we look elsewhere for help. When God allows us to face the consequences of our sinful actions, we repent and reunite with Him. Then, the whole cycle of rebellion begins again. The Israelites constantly ran from God because they chose to place their faith in other things such as idols.

#### Transition

Let us learn from the Israelites and not repeat their mistakes.

### **3. Since we do not celebrate/observe these Jewish feasts, how do we remind ourselves of what God has done for us and will do for us in future?**

#### Leader's Notes

This is an application question. The Jews observe these feasts as an act of celebration of remembrance for what God has done for them and what is to come. So, what can we do practically to remember all that He has done for us? One practical application is to read through the relevant passages during these feasts/festivals and to reflect on how Christ is found in these festivals/feasts.

## Closing

We can remember what God has done for us in our own ways and keep the hope of what is to come.

## **PRAYER**

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

### **1. Sermon Application**

- Take some time to thank God for sending Christ to be the sacrificial sinless lamb in our place.
- Ask the Lord to help you not to lose the wonder of this amazing love of God – He is forever with us.

### **2. RiverLife**

- Pray for our church that as we have concluded the 21 days of prayer and fasting, we will determine to live in a new normal – one that follows after the example of Christ.
- Pray for our mission teams that are heading to the nations in this season.

### **3. World**

- Pray for Morocco that just experienced a devastating earthquake with more than 2000+ fatalities and almost 2.8 million people affected.
- Pray for our new President – that the Lord will bestow upon him wisdom to lead the country in alignment with the ways of God.
- Pray for Hong Kong and Southern China as they battle Super Typhoon Saola, Black Rain and flooding.
- Continue to pray for the Russia-Ukraine war and the avoidance of using nuclear weapons.

### **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.
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: [rlc.sg/bulletin](http://rlc.sg/bulletin)

1. **Serve in SuperLife.** Serve in SuperLife as a Teacher or Tech Support Crew!
  - Teacher's role:
    - Support the running of weekly SuperLife services for preschool children
    - Care for and manage the children during service
  - Tech support crew role:
    - Serve at our children's services for Kindy (aged 5-6) and Nursery (aged 3-4) levels
    - Operate the Pro-Presenter software on a laptop for videos and slides support
    - Operate the sound panel and microphones for audio support No prior experience needed as training will be provided.
  - Sign up to serve: [rlc.sg/serve](http://rlc.sg/serve)

2. **Discipleship@Home - Our Bodies, God's Story (For Parents of Primary & Preschool Children)**
  - Preschool Session: Sun, 8 Oct | 9am-11am | Faith Chapel
  - Primary Session: Sun, 5 Nov | 9am-11am | Grace Chapel
  - Content: What is God's design for our bodies that are made in the image of God? How can we love God through knowing how to take care of ourselves as male and female image-bearers?

The sessions will discuss biblical sexuality with children and parents, providing age-specific handles so that we can be effective ambassadors of Christ in His grand story. *More in-depth discussion on pressing issues such as purity and the influence of media will be covered at the Primary session.* If you have children in both preschool & primary levels, we encourage you to attend both sessions as content will differ.

Speaker: **Carol Loi** is the International Director of *Generations of Virtue*, a ministry committed to teaching sexual wholeness and integrity, building family relationships & transforming culture. As a mom to two young adults, Carol is also a certified digital wellness educator and a Fellow of the Center for Media Literacy. She has served in the Singapore public service for over two decades, including EDB, MOE and IMDA.

- Sign up to attend: [rlc.sg/dah](http://rlc.sg/dah)
3. **The Parents Gathering.** The Parents Gathering is held once a quarter for parents to come together to connect with and support one another through the journey of parenting. As we discover more about ourselves and our children, may we grow to become the parents that God intended us to be. Our time together will comprise:
    - A short 30-min video teaching segment
    - Group connection time
    - Personal / couple processing time
    - Light refreshments

Our first gathering: Sat, 28 Oct. 2-6pm. Victory Chapel.

Register by Sun, 22 Oct to join us at our first meetup: [rlc.sg/pg](http://rlc.sg/pg)

Workbooks can be purchased at \$16 each. Details to be released at a later date.

### About the Curriculum Used

'The Art of Parenting' is designed to help parents make faith the core of their parenting with intentional, Biblical teaching and Christ-centered plans. Parents will gain renewed confidence, fresh insights on raising children at different ages, and a parenting plan unique to each child's

personality and gifting. Inspired by Psalm 127:4, this eight-session study is video based and covers the following topics:

The Goal of Parenting • Forming Character • Applying Discipline • Building Relationships • Understanding Identity • Nurturing Identity • Preparing for Mission • The Power of Family

Preview the Curriculum here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7ZJ31DbGag>

- 4. Missions Carnival.** Thank you for your support at our Missions Carnival (10 Sep) which was organised by SuperLife Children's Ministry in partnership with RiverLife Missions.
  - 139 of our children rallied together
  - A total of \$17,125.87 was raised
  - Proceeds will cover construction and start-up costs of a student care centre in Sarangani, as well as one year of operational expenses including meals for children at the centre and salaries for teachers.
- 5. Water Baptism Class. Sat, 7 Oct. 9am – 3.30pm. Room 205 (Level 2).** Water baptism is a public declaration of a believer's union and new identity in Christ and an outward expression of our commitment in receiving Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. If you desire to take the step of faith to be water-baptised, do join our baptism class to understand the significance and importance of baptism.

Registration: [rlc.sg/baptism-class](http://rlc.sg/baptism-class) (Closing Date: 1 Oct). Enquiries: [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).

**Note:**

- Participants will have a one-hour lunch break at own expense.
  - Our upcoming Water Baptism Service will be held on Sun, 12 Nov at 2pm.
- 6. Call for a Suitable Liver Donor.** Father of RiverLifer Beverly Lim is calling for suitable donors for his son, Ryan, who is in need of a liver transplant. Ryan was diagnosed with Autoimmune Hepatitis (AIH) that affected his liver and bile duct. On 22 May 2023, Ryan was brought in to see the doctor due to his bloated stomach and the doctor concluded that a liver transplant was needed for Ryan as his liver was failing. The donor needs to be of blood type A+ or O+, with no prior illness and someone with a healthy diet. Read more about their story in this salt and light article here. Should anyone wish to enquire or volunteer, do contact Ryan's dad, Lim Cheng Kwan, directly at +65 9768 4748.
  - 7. Marriage Retreat.** We had a powerful time with 27 married couples in March as we piloted our first Marriage Retreat. It was a powerful time of learning, rejuvenation, healing and restoration for our couples. No couple left unimpacted. We would like to encourage married couples to join us at this retreat and experience God's hand on your marriage.
    - For more information, download the eBrochure here: [rlc.sg/mrBrochure](http://rlc.sg/mrBrochure)
    - Highlights from previous retreat: <https://youtu.be/csHrCtBsuWg>
    - Link to signup: [rlc.sg/mr](http://rlc.sg/mr)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### 1. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 4*
  - Baptism Class – 7 Oct
  - Parents Gatherings – 28 Oct
  - Leaders Huddle – 5 Nov



- Baptism Service – 12 Nov
  - Equipping Series - Leviticus: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
  - Marriage Retreat – 24 to 26 Nov
2. **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 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](http://rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg).
  3. **RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**
    - *RiverLife Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel.
    - *RiverLife Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel (livestream: [rlc.sg/revivenights](http://rlc.sg/revivenights))

## CHURCH MINISTRIES & OPPORTUNITIES

1. **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](http://rlc.sg/9m)
  - Provide Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/serve](http://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](http://rlc.sg/missions).
3. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://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 RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

## RESOURCES & CONNECTING WITH US

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
  - **Telegram Channel:** [t.me/RiverLifeChurch](https://t.me/RiverLifeChurch)
  - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/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.

