

DATE: 8 OCTOBER 2023 | SPEAKER: ELDER LEE EE YANG | TOPIC: FROM CAPTIVITY TO CONQUEST | SCRIPTURE: [1 SAMUEL 11:1-15](#)

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. To learn from Israel's example and desire to walk in God's victory
2. To desire to remain in covenantal faithfulness to God.

SERMON SUMMARY

Taking reference from how Israel entered the Promised Land, God is also bringing RiverLife into the Promised Land and into spiritual revival. We need to pay attention and to respond to God's call and return to covenantal faithfulness before the Lord.

1. The place of weeping: The people of Jabesh Gilead were taken captive ([v1-4](#))
They were stuck in 400 years of spiritual decline and oppression by their enemies and they cried out for help.
2. The place of deliverance: A reversal of the cycle of sin and oppression ([v5-11](#))
Saul heard the cry of the people and the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul to unite Israel to deliver Jabesh Gilead from oppression.
3. The place of revival: Gilgal, the launchpad of Israel's conquest ([v14-15](#))
Gilgal was where their identity as sons and daughters of the Most High was re-established

As we continue to seek after God, may we learn from the lessons Israel went through as important reminders to keep our zeal and to serve the Lord with all our hearts ([1 Samuel 12:20-25](#))

SERMON RECAP

Elder Ee Yang shared about how God has been doing an ongoing work in RiverLife and exhorted us to continue pursuing after God.

He preached from 1 Samuel 11 on how Israel moved from captivity to conquest, from defeat to victory.

1. The place of weeping: The people of Jabesh Gilead were taken captive ([v1-4](#))

In 1 Samuel 11:1-4, the Israelites wept for the predicament of the people of Jabesh Gilead as they were under sieged by Nahash the Ammonite. Prior to this, In Judges 2:1-5, The Israelites also wandered away from Gilgal to a place called Bochim where they were reminded of God's covenant and sacrificed to the Lord. The Israelites had been caught in a "downward spiral" of rebellion / disobedience, oppression, petition and deliverance. As there had also been no king during the day of Judges, anarchy and civil war had also broken out.

2. The place of deliverance: A reversal of the cycle of sin and oppression (v5-11)

Saul then heard the cry of the people and the plight of Jabesh Gilead. He was filled with the Spirit of God and rallied the 12 tribes of Israel to fight the Ammonites. Elder Ee Yang brought above the comparisons between Judges 19 – 21 and 1 Samuel 11. Israel’s deliverance came when they identified the real enemy.

Judges 19-21	1 Samuel 11
Benjamites raped and killed Levite’s concubine and Israel almost wiped out tribe of Benjamin	Saul, a Benjamite, united the whole of Israel to deliver a group of Israelites
Israel killed the men of Jabesh Gilead and stole 400 virgins to be wives of the Benjamites	The whole city of Jabesh Gilead was delivered by the Israelites from the real enemy, the Ammonites
There was no king and everyone did what was right in their own eyes	Saul, the appointed king, was filled by the Spirit to deliver his kindred
Civil war and internal strife	Unity and victory over the real enemies

3. The place of revival: Gilgal, the launchpad of Israel’s conquest (v14-15)

Gilgal has great significant to Israel. It was the first place in the Promised land the Israelites set foot on after wandering in the wilderness. It represented their identity as slaves being extinguished (“rolled away”) and their identity as sons and daughters of God being established.

It was at Gilgal that the sons of Israel first tasted of the goodness, promises and blessings of the Promised Land. It is the place where the sons of Israel circumcised and consecrated themselves to God and trusted God to heal them in enemy territory. It was also a military base for the Israelites’ past conquests ([Joshua 10:12 – 15, 40 – 43](#))

Elder Ee Yang also shared the shifts Israel experienced as she moved from captivity to conquest.

CAPTIVITY	CONQUEST
SLAVERY	FREEDOM
ORPHANHOOD	SONSHIP
DEFEAT	VICTORY
LACK	PROVISION
CURSES	BLESSINGS
OPPRESSION	DELIVERANCE
HUMAN STRENGTH	SUPERNATURAL EMPOWERMENT

Lastly, Elder Ee Yang exhorted the Church to walk in covenantal faithfulness ([1 Samuel 12:20-24](#)).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Elder Ee Yang shared about the places of weeping, of deliverance and of revival. Share with your cell about your experience about being in similar places, be it now or in the past. What was your experience and how did you turn to God for a breakthrough?**

Leader's Notes

This is a relate and reflect question. Leaders can invite members to reflect on their spiritual journey and to share with the cell their own experience of the faith. Celebrate with members who are seeing breakthroughs and encourage the members who are also authentic in sharing about their struggles in the faith as they pursue Jesus.

Transition

We are all in different seasons in our walk with God. However, we can be assured that God desires for us to know Him and be known by Him.

- 2. From Israel's example in Judges, we can see how they were stuck in a vicious cycle of rebellion / disobedience, oppression, petition and deliverance. As a cell, consider what Israel did well and what may have been some reasons they continued in this cycle. Is this example also mirrored in our lives? Share with the cell.**

Leader's Notes

This is a relate and reflect question. Leaders can invite members to consider what lessons they have learnt from Israel's example. While it may look foolish, we often find ourselves caught in similar patterns. Invite members to share on the reasons we get caught in similar cycles and what we could do differently to walk in God's victory.

Transition

Through the example of Israel, we are reminded of the need to walk in obedience and yet find assurance that God is faithful to deliver us when we call upon Him.

- 3. What is an area you are believing God for victory over?**

Leader's Notes

This is a response question for members to share and pray for one another. As members share, the cell can also give inputs and encouragement on how the member can respond to the situation i.e. believing for salvation for loved ones, situations at home or work or school.

Closing

As we continue to desire revivals and spiritual resets, may we find assurance in God's faithfulness and remain tender-hearted before Him. He will provide the victory!

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

- Pray that we will continue to remain faithful in God even as we seek, obey and pursue Him
- For wisdom to walk away from compromising situations and distractions.
- For God to continually revive our hearts and lead our Church to where He wants us to be

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.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the Russia-Ukraine war and the avoidance of using nuclear weapons.
- Pray for Hawaii as catastrophic wild fires are sweeping through the various islands.

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.
- 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. **RiverLife Kindergarten Annual Concert and K2 Graduation 2023. Sat, 4 Nov, 9-12pm.**
RiverLife Kindergarten will be holding their Annual Graduation Concert this year-end. They're looking for volunteers to serve as:

- Classroom Helpers: Touch up children's hair, take care of them before and after their performances
- Greeters & Ushers: Welcome guests and usher them to their seats
- Stage Helpers: Assist in moving children up and down the stairs

You will need to serve on the following dates:

- Combined Full-dress Rehearsal: Thu, 2 Nov | 8am to 12pm | Worship Centre
- Actual Concert Day: Sat, 4 Nov | 9am to 12pm | Worship Centre

Sign up to serve:

- Email Oi Leng at oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg
- Call Linda Chong at 6511 4168

2. **The Parents Gathering.** The Parents Gathering is held once a quarter for parents to come together to learn, 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. This platform is suitable for parents of all ages, including grandparents. 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

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>

3. **Discipleship@Home - Our Bodies, God's Story (For Parents of Primary & Preschool Children)**
 - 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
4. **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
5. **Current Pulpit Series – In the Wake of Awakening.**
- Part 2 – Revivals (15 Oct – 26 Nov). We survey seasons of awakening in Israel's history throughout the Old Covenant. From restorations of relationships to spiritual warfare, we will glean from Israel's obedience and failures following seasons of renewal.

CHURCH CALENDAR

1. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 4*
 - Parents Gatherings – 28 Oct
 - Leaders Huddle – 5 Nov
 - Water 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.

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)

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

GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

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