

Date: 21 January 2024 | **Speaker:** Pastor Lionel Goh | **Topic:** Our Journey with God | **Scripture:** Deuteronomy 1:1-3

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Know and understand the journey that God has brought RiverLife through and the church that He intends to mould us into.
2. Re-align ourselves so that we are open to what God wants to do in our midst in this season.

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Lionel preached a Vision Casting message for the 2024 year of our church. For the past 32 years, God has been shaping RiverLife Church into a unique people with certain prominent characteristics. He had also given us 4 Prophetic Words as signposts and guardrails to lead us forward. It is important for us to understand our past journey and our future destination so that we can grow into the Church that Jesus has desired us to become.

1. Recall: We need to recall God's Journey of Shaping RiverLife Church.

- There are 6 milestones of our 32 years journey with God that show us how God has already shaped RiverLife Church into the kind of Church that He desires us to be.

2. Reaffirm: We need to reaffirm God's vision for us as a church.

- Over the past 8 years, God had revealed 4 prophetic pictures to us as signposts and guardrails to lead us forward.
- He wants us to become A Radiant Church with 4 prominent features.
- When each individual embraces these features in their lives, the Church naturally will become A Radiant Church with these 4 characteristics.

3. Realign: We need to realign our lives to His vision for us as a church.

- We have 3 ministry emphases for 2024/25 as part of our journey towards our desired vision: Presence Centredness, Disciple Making and Outreach.
- The top priority we want to do in 1H 2024 is Presence Centredness where our people can
 - cultivate a life of prayer and total dependence on God
 - hear God's prompting and walk in step with Him
 - pray for individual and corporate revival

SERMON RECAP

Ps. Lionel began his Vision Casting message by sharing with us why Moses recounted Israel's journey:

- a) To recall Israel's folly and God's faithfulness in the wilderness ([Deuteronomy 1-3](#))
- b) To remind Israel of God's Promised Land ([Deuteronomy 3:12-20](#))
- c) To realign Israel's heart for the mission ahead ([Deuteronomy 4](#))

It is for these reasons that he felt it important to recount what God has done in our church thus far. Ps. Lionel's message was broken down into 3 parts.

1. **Recall:** How has God been shaping RiverLife Church over the past 32 years? What are the milestones in our Spiritual journey?
 - Milestone #1: In 1991, Bartley Christian Church planted RiverLife church to be a light in the east. RiverLife then was a traditional Word-based church with orthodox doctrines and pluralistic leadership.

- **Milestone #2:** In 1993, RiverLife transitioned into a cell church in order to retain newcomers and to provide fellowship and pastoral care at the grass root level. Discipleship in cells was not emphasised at that time.
 - **Milestone #3:** After a leadership crisis in 1997, RiverLife experienced a powerful revival in 1999. This revival saw lives transformed and hearts aligned to God's agenda. There was rapid growth in evangelism, missions and church attendance. RiverLife then became a Word and Spirit church.
 - **Milestone #4:** After another leadership crisis in 2010, RiverLife began to learn to walk by revelation. God released in our midst another round of refreshment in the Holy Spirit.
 - There were 4 key prophetic words that have been released over RiverLife Church over the years (and these have been prayed through and examined by the leadership of the church).
 - **Milestone #5:** After Senior Pastor Ben KC Lee took over the church in 2018, there was a growing desire for us to grow in discipleship. RiverLife started to focus on being a "side door church" with a new vision, mission and core values. We also started to be end-times sensitive.
 - New Vision Statement: A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.
 - New Mission Statement: We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.
 - **Milestone #6:** From 2022 onwards, God began to open the doors for us as a church to reach out to our community. God has provided abundant resources for our outreaches, and we have seen fruitful and positive impact in our community. This is evident especially from the number of salvations we have seen from our community outreaches.
 - In summary, this is how God has shaped us as a church thus far:
 - A Word and Spirit Church, led by revelation.
 - A cell church – vehicle for discipleship
 - A church with passionate worship and persistent prayer
 - A church with healing and restorative gifting
 - An aspiring discipleship making church
 - A light in the East impacting our community and mission fields.
2. **Reaffirm.** Prophetic words have been released over our church. These prophetic words (after careful examination and deliberation) serve as a light for us on how to move forward.
- There are 4 key prophetic words given that Ps. Lionel shared - RiverLife will be:
 - A house of radical worship and prayer
 - A house for healing and restoration
 - A house for discipleship and leadership training
 - A pillar of light and fire in the East, touching our communities and nations.
 - Ps. Lionel encouraged the church not to despise prophecies ([1 Thessalonians 5:19-22](#)) because God's Rhema word through His Holy Spirit shows us how to journey on as a church. ([Matthew 4:4](#))
3. **Realign.** We need to realign our lives to His vision for us as a church.
- We have 3 ministry emphases for 2024/25 as part of our journey towards our desired vision: Presence Centredness, Disciple Making and Outreach.
 - The top priority we want to do as a church in the 1st half of 2024 is Presence Centredness where our people can
 - cultivate a life of prayer and total dependence on God
 - hear God's prompting and walk in step with Him
 - pray for individual and corporate revival

Ps. Lionel ended his sermon by giving the church a challenge for 2024:

- Spend time with God daily in worship, prayer and Bible reading
- Ask God for spiritual ears to hear His voice ([John 10:2-4](#)), and to walk in obedience to His prompting ([Gal. 5:16](#))
- When faced with a problem, we need to ask these 2 questions:
 - Lord, what do you want me to know about this situation?
 - Lord, what do you want me to do?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Read Matthew 4:4. Why is it important to live by God's Rhema? How have you been doing so? Share your experience.**

Leader's Notes

This question aims to help members to embrace the fact that God speaks to us through His Word and through His Spirit. When God releases a Rhema Word to us, and if it aligns with what Scripture teaches, we should align our lives towards God's Rhema. Then, we will be able to live in a state of blessedness – in relational peace with God.

Transition

The ability to hear and obey God's voice is one of the inheritances of being a child of God. Let's take some time to reflect your journey on hearing God's voice.

- 2. How should we keep the balance of Word and Spirit? Read Romans 8:14 and Colossians 3:16.**

Leader's Notes

It is abundantly clear from Scripture that God speaks to His children via both the Holy Spirit and the written Word. The key is to be open to both and not elevate one over the other. Having said that however, God's Rhema word will never contradict God's written Word. While we welcome prophetic words, Scripture does command us to examine prophetic words to see if it aligns with God's character as portrayed in the written Word. We must remember that the vessel that communicates the prophetic word is human. Therefore, the examination of Rhema words is extremely necessary.

"We need to address the silent divorce that has happened between Word people and Spirit people. It's like we are children in a family going through divorce. Some children go with one parent, others go with the second parent. But when you keep a balance with BOTH, it is honouring God in Spirit and in Truth." – R.T. Kendall

Transition

Both the Written Word and the Rhema Word is necessary for the life of a believer. We must learn approach both Words correctly and with the right posture.

- 3. Read John 10:1-3. As God's sheep, have you been able to hear the Shepherd's voice and follow His leading? What are some of your struggles in hearing God's voice.**

Leader's Notes

This question aims to help members to reflect on their "hearing" journey. Encourage your members to share about the struggles they face when trying to listen to the voice of God. A few points to note:

- a) The fundamental condition to hearing the voice of God is a relationship with God. Without a strong relationship with God, the voice of God will be drowned out by other voices.
- b) Other voices in our lives compete with the voice of God – our flesh and carnal nature (desires, lust, envy, pride, etc.), the voice of the evil one in disguise as good, the voice of people.

The way to hear God's voice accurately is to starve out all the other voices in our lives. This can be done through fasting (not necessarily food) and an extended time of prayer.



Discussion Questions

Closing

As we continue to journey on as a church, let us be open to hearing God's voice together as a church. And, let us learn to obey His voice and to do all that He directs us to do in our lives.

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

1. Sermon Application

- For us to be able to hear God's voice clearly.
- For us to learn how to starve out all the other voices in our lives.
- For us to learn how to balance between Spirit and Word and not to lean to either extreme.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, that as we enter into 2024, we will determine to grow into Christlikeness.
- Pray that we will position ourselves for God to mould us into the church He desires us to be.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
 - a. Russia and Ukraine
 - b. Myanmar (Civil War)
 - c. Israel & Hamas
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
 - a. China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
 - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
 - a. Japan (Earthquake)
 - b. Iceland (Volcanic Eruption)
- Pray for the situation at the Red Sea where militants from Yemen are attacking various ships
- Pray for Indonesia as it approaches its elections.

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.

1. Calendar: Key Dates

- Our 2024 RiverLife Calendar is out and you can view the key events in the Calendar section of this guide. For more information, you can refer to our digital bulletin online via the link above.

2. Discipleship @ Home by SuperLife Ministry for Parents of Pre-School and Primary Children

- Sun, 28 Jan | 9am to 10.30am
- We invite parents to come and learn about Biblical Worldview and the new worldview curriculum that SuperLife will be embarking on in 2024.
- 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.
- Reporting Venues for Parents & Children:
 - Nursery: Room 207/208 (Level 2)*
 - Kindy: Room 214/215 (Level 2)*
 - Primary: Grace Chapel (Level 1)
 - *Parents of Nursery & Kindy children will proceed to Grace Chapel for the Parents-Only session at 9.40am.

3. Complimentary Shuttle Bus Service

- In view of our Filipino Service returning to RiverLife premises on Sundays, there is a shuttle bus service for Filipino congregants at 10.20am and 10.50am. This is to help them ease in as they transit from the previous service venue at Bible House.
- As such, we have a shuttle bus slot at 11am from RiverLife to Pasir Ris MRT.
- From RiverLife to Pasir Ris MRT: 11am at our Level 1 Drop Off Point
- Do note this is a provisional arrangement and subject to change following the transition period.

4. Our Weekly Prayer Gatherings Have Resumed

- As we settle into new routines & rhythms this new year, it is our desire to posture our hearts rightly before the Lord and let Him take first place in our lives. Our weekly prayer gatherings have resumed, and we invite you to make space in your weekly schedule to join us.
 - **RiverLife Prayer Room** Tuesdays at 8pm, 2E
 - **Revive Nights** Wednesdays at 8pm, Victory Chapel

5. RiverLife Filipino Service.

- Sundays | 11.30am Grace Chapel (Level 1)

- 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 interested in joining the gatherings and would like to find out more, connect with us on our Telegram Channel: [rlc.sg/ya](https://t.me/rlc.sg/ya).

Gathering Dates: 24 Feb, 6 Apr, 4 May, 1 Jun, 3 Aug, 7 Sep, 5 Oct, 2 Nov

YA Camp: 5-7 Jul

Christmas Outreach: 14 Dec

- RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

- Quarterly Calendar for Key English Adult Congregation Events**

**Some dates are tentative and subjected to change. Stay updated via our digital bulletin and our social media channels for the latest information.*

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<p><u>January</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 Jan – Water Baptism Class #1 <p><u>February</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Feb – YA Gathering, Caleb Ministry • 25 Feb – Q1 Leaders Huddle <p><u>March</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 to 3 Mar – MegaLife Leader’s Camp (Youth) • 3, 17, 24 Mar – Marriage Preparation Course #1 • 8 to 10 Mar – FOPx Conference (Youth) • 17 Mar – Water Baptism Service #1 • 23 Mar – Parents Gathering #1 • 29 to 31 Mar – Good Friday / Easter Weekend 	<p><u>April</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06 Apr to 22 Jun – YA Gathering, Alpha #1 • 07 Apr – Dating Couples Briefing #1 • 13 Apr – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 20 Apr – RTF (Hope, Healing, Freedom) <p><u>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04 May – YA Gathering • 10 to 11 May – Leaders Advance • 24 to 31 May – Equipping #1: Numbers • 30 May to 01 Jun – SuperLife Camp <p><u>June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2, 23, 30 Jun – Marriage Preparation Course #2 • 08 Jun – Caleb Ministry Gathering, Water Baptism Class #2 • 09 Jun – RiverLife AGM • 13 to 16 Jun – Youth Camp • 27 Jun – Fun Day (Youth) • 29 Jun – Parents Gathering #2

Calendar

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 to 7 Jul – YA Camp • 13 Jul – Caleb Ministry • 14 Jul – Dating Couples Briefing #2 • 20 to 21 Jul – RTF 1B • 21 Jul – EA Welcome Lunch • 28 Jul – Baptism Service #2 <p><u>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03 Aug – YA Gathering • 03 Aug to 3 Oct – Alpha Run #2 • 04 Aug – Q3 Leaders Huddle • 17 Aug – Parents Gathering #3 • 24 to 25 Aug – RLC 33rd Anniversary Weekend, RTF (Round Robin) <p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07 Sep – YA Gathering • 01 to 15 Sep – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 01 to 29 Sep – SPYCs • 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2: Deuteronomy • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach 	<p><u>October</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05 Oct – YA Gathering, Water Baptism Class #3 • 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3 • 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 13 Oct – Discipleship @ Home for Pre-School Parents (Parents Equipping) • 16 to 23 Oct – Feast of the Tabernacles • 19 Oct – Fun Day (Youth) • 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth) • 27 Oct – RTF (Essential Teachings) <p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02 Nov – YA Gathering • 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s (Youth) • 10 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Primary School Parents (Parents Equipping) • 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3 • 15-24 Nov – Equipping #4 • 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat <p><u>December</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering • 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference • 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend • 28 Dec – Parents Gathering #4

Ministry & Opportunities



1. The 9M Ministry.

This 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.

Enquiries/Registration: rlc.sg/serve-rlcares

4. Prayer Ministry.

If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RiverLife's RTF ministry: bit.ly/rlcrtf

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: rlc.sg/wachannelinvite

Telegram Channel: t.me/RiverLifeChurch

Facebook & Instagram: [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.instagram.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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