

Date: 28 Jan 2024 | Speaker: Ps Lionel Goh | Topic: New Courage for a New Season | Scripture: Joshua 1:1-9

## SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Trust and believe in God, knowing that He is always faithful in fulfilling His promises.
2. Exercise faith, courage and obedience to bring these promises to pass.

## SERMON SUMMARY

We are embarking on a new series – the Book of Joshua. The Book of Joshua recounts Israel’s journey to possess the Promised Land (Canaan). The book begins with God exhorting Joshua to be strong and courageous because Joshua had a lot of apprehensions (assumed) - He had a new appointment and a new assignment.

As we step into 2024, we are all apprehensive about a new year and what it may bring. God encourages us in Joshua 1 to stay strong and courageous in facing our new season. Ps. Lionel shared the following points regarding courage:

- a) Courage must be anchored in Faith (**Mark 5:36**)
- b) Faith must be anchored in Truth – God’s Word (**John 17:17, Romans 10:17**)
- c) Trust is anchored on God’s trustworthiness (**Numbers 23:19, Joshua 21:45, 23:14**)

God promises that if we were to meditate on His Word, believe in His Promises and boldly obey His promptings, we will prosper in life.

## SERMON RECAP

### a) Introduction

1. *Joshua is a Historical Book (approximately 1400 BC)*
  - A narrative of a special people (Israel) possessing the Promised Land (Canaan).
  - A simple division of book
    - i. **1:1-5:12** – Entering the Promised Land
    - ii. **5:13-12:24** – Conquering the Promised Land
    - iii. **13:1-24:33** – Dividing the Promised Land
2. *Joshua is an Inspiring Book for Believers*
  - God is the main actor in this narrative.
  - God proved Himself faithful as He fulfilled His promises to Abraham 700 years ago (**Genesis 15:18-21**).
  - Even with God’s promises, Israel had to fight hard for her prize.
  - Keywords: Prayer, revelation, faith, courage, obedience, and victory
3. *Reasons for Studying Joshua*
  - Two important truths from the book of Joshua:
    - i. God is always faithful in fulfilling His promises.
    - ii. Yet, we must exercise courage, faith, and obedience to bring these promises to pass.
  - Individually, God has made personal promises to us. We need to pray and contend for them.
  - Corporately, God has also promised to revive and make us His radiant Church. Let us contend for them come to pass.

## b) Message

### 1. *The Apprehension of Joshua*

- A New Appointment (**Numbers 27:22-23**) – Joshua was commissioned to be the next leader, and it was not easy as Moses left behind big shoes to fill.
- A New Assignment (**Joshua 1:1-2**) – Joshua was assigned to lead the new generation of Israel into the Promised Land. He would also have to fight the big and powerful inhabitants that were currently living in that land.

### 2. *God's Exhortation to Joshua*

- Be strong and courageous... (v6)
- Only be strong and very courageous... (v7)
- Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous (v9)

## c) How Does Courage Come to Us?

### 1. *What is Courage?*

- It is the strength of mind to carry on despite fear, danger or difficulty.
- Courage is the antidote to fear.
- True courage is not anchored on wishful thinking, mental conditioning, or medical stimulants.
- In Scripture, true courage is anchored in faith.

### 2. *Three Components Involved in Building Courage:*

- Courage must be anchored in faith – **Mark 5:35-36**
- Faith must be anchored in truth (God's Promises) – **John 17:17, Romans 10:17**
- Truth is anchored in God's trustworthiness – **Numbers 23:19, Joshua 21:45**

### 3. *Summary: Courage comes from believing in God and His Word*

## d) How Can We Grow in Faith and Courage?

In God's wisdom to Joshua (**Joshua 1:7-8**), we see that to grow in faith and courage, we need to do three things:

### 1. *Meditate on God's Word day and night (Joshua 1:8)*

- Make time and space to read God's Word daily
- Chew on the word and wait on God
- Ask two questions - Lord, what are you saying to me from this passage? Lord, what do you want me to do?
- Hear God's prompting and journal it down
- Thank God for speaking to you

### 2. *Believe in God's Promises (Joshua 1:2-5)*

- Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you (v3).
- No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life (v5).
- Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you (v5).
- The Lord your God is with you wherever you go (v9).
- God has also given us similar promises today – **Joshua 1:5, Romans 8:31, Matthew 28:20**

### 3. *Obey God's promptings (Joshua 1:7-8)*

## e) God's Wisdom for a Successful Life

- Read God's Word (Logos)
- Wait on Him and let Him speak (Rhema)
- Believe His promises (Rhema)
- Boldly obey His promptings (Rhema)
- Result: We will see prosperity and success in life

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1. What is the Bible verse/passage that you are meditating on for this season? What is God saying to you? What does God want you to do?

#### Leader's Notes

When meditating on God's Word, try to discern what God is saying to you:

- Lord, what are you saying to me from this passage?
- Lord, what do you want me to do?

Share with your cell members what you think God is saying to you and discuss. Then pray together to thank God for the message and to act upon it courageously.

#### Transition

Meditating on God's Word brings you closer to knowing Him, helping you to strengthen your faith.

### 2. How do we get the courage to go forth into a new season that God is calling us to?

#### Leader's Notes

Ps Lionel gave us three pointers to gaining courage:

- Courage must be anchored in Faith
- Faith must be anchored in Truth
- Truth is anchored on God's trustworthiness

The root of courage lies in God's trustworthiness. It has nothing to do with us. Because God is trustworthy, we can courageously step into the new season. When you truly trust that God is unchanging and never breaks His Promises, then you know with absolute confidence that He will help you and be with you every step along the way. He will never abandon you.

The question is, do we truly trust Him?

#### Transition

Sometimes courage requires us to surrender ourselves to God and let Him call the shots.

### 3. Whenever we encounter issues or speed bumps in our walk with God, what is our response? What do you think is the appropriate response?

#### Leader's Notes

When the Israelites heard a bad report about the giants in Canaan, their immediate response was fear. They were disheartened and discouraged and even blamed God for bringing them out of Egypt. Because of that fear-filled response, no one from that generation entered the Promised Land and perished in the wilderness instead.

Whenever we face a discouraging situation that sends fear tingling down our spine, we should remember how Joshua and Caleb responded. They were faith-filled – fully confident that they would defeat the Canaanites. Why? Because God says so. When God promises, He will fulfil. And they are convinced that God will see them through. Also, remember the response of young David in contrast to the Israelite army. He is fully convinced that he will defeat Goliath, not on his own strength, but because of God. Let's learn from these faithful characters and adjust our responses and perspectives.

#### Closing

Let's respond to obstacles with faith and conviction, not fear.

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 step into our new seasons with strength and courage.
- Pray that RiverLifers will continue to meditate on His Word to draw strength and courage.
- Pray for our family members and friends, especially for those who have yet to know Him.
- To commit 2024 to God and allow Him to work in us and through us as we continue to seek Him.

## 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 those affected by the landslide in Cameron Highlands, Malaysia.
- 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. New Sermon Series: The Book of Joshua: A Life of Faith & Obedience

- Spread over two parts, this sermon series based on the book of Joshua will help us cultivate a life of faith and obedience, and realise how different life can be when we love the Lord our God, walk in all His ways, obey His commands, hold firmly to Him and serve Him with all our heart and soul (Joshua 22:5).
- Part 1: 28 Jan to 25 Feb, Part 2: 2 Jun to 25 Aug

## 2. Lunar New Year 2024

- Sat, 10 Feb Chinese | MegaLife (Youth) NO SERVICE
- Sun, 11 Feb English | Chinese | SuperLife | Filipino SERVICE AS USUAL
- Tue, 13 Feb RiverLife Prayer Room will be closed.
- Wed, 14 Feb No Revive Night for the week.

## 3. Chinese New Year Lo Hei Party Organised by Caleb Ministry for Seniors Aged 55 & Above

- Sat, 24 Feb | 9am to 12.30pm Grace Chapel (Level 1)
- A special Chinese New Year gathering for seniors that is suitable for family and friends who are unchurched or pre-believers.
- Speaker: Ms Kwan Poh San. Ms Kwan was one of the first Singaporean pioneers to embark on cross-cultural missionary work. Her journey started in 1977 in Papua New Guinea and continued for 25 years. Subsequently, she served in several other countries for another 20 years. Though retired and turning 80 soon, she is still actively and faithfully serving the Lord and others.
- Register by Sun, 18 Feb: [rlc.sg/lohei](http://rlc.sg/lohei)
- Note: Participants have to be registered to attend this session. Due to limited seating capacity, registration will close when seats are filled. There is no fee for this session. A freewill offering (suggested giving is \$12) will be collected to defray costs.
- For enquiries, please contact Christine Tan at [christinetan@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:christinetan@riverlife.org.sg).

## 4. Marriage Preparation Course Run #1

- 3, 17 & 24 Mar (3 sessions) Sundays, 11am to 3pm
- This course will help couples lay the foundation for a God-centred marriage.
- Sign up online by Sun, 25 Feb: [rlc.sg/mpc](http://rlc.sg/mpc)
- Fees: \$50 per couple (Excludes US\$35 for PREPARE-ENRICH)

## 5. 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.

## 6. 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.

## 7. RiverLife Filipino Service.

- Sundays | 11.30am Grace Chapel (Level 1)



**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

**2. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**

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

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

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

# Calendar

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 to 7 Jul – YA Camp</li> <li>• 13 Jul – Caleb Ministry</li> <li>• 14 Jul – Dating Couples Briefing #2</li> <li>• 20 to 21 Jul – RTF 1B</li> <li>• 21 Jul – EA Welcome Lunch</li> <li>• 28 Jul – Baptism Service #2</li> </ul> <p><u>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 03 Aug – YA Gathering</li> <li>• 03 Aug to 3 Oct – Alpha Run #2</li> <li>• 04 Aug – Q3 Leaders Huddle</li> <li>• 17 Aug – Parents Gathering #3</li> <li>• 24 to 25 Aug – RTF (Round Robin)</li> </ul> <p><u>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 07 Sep – YA Gathering</li> <li>• 01 to 15 Sep – Marriage Preparation Course #3</li> <li>• 01 to 29 Sep – SPYces</li> <li>• 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2</li> <li>• 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering</li> <li>• 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach</li> </ul>	<p><u>October</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 05 Oct – YA Gathering, Water Baptism Class #3</li> <li>• 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3</li> <li>• 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering</li> <li>• 27 Oct – RTF (Essential Teachings)</li> </ul> <p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 02 Nov – YA Gathering, Joining the Family #3</li> <li>• 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3</li> <li>• 15-24 Nov – Equipping #4</li> <li>• 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat</li> </ul> <p><u>December</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering</li> <li>• 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend</li> <li>• 28 Dec – Parents Gathering #4</li> </ul>

# 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](https://rlc.sg/9m)
- Provide Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/serve](https://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](https://rlc.sg/missions).

## 3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: [rlc.sg/serve-rlcar](https://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 RiverLife's RTF ministry: [bit.ly/rlcrtf](https://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](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: [rlc.sg/wachannelinvite](http://rlc.sg/wachannelinvite)

Telegram Channel: [t.me/RiverLifeChurch](https://t.me/RiverLifeChurch)

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

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### Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: DBS Autosave 029-902431-0

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



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