

Date: 18 Feb 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Lam Zheng Xin

Topic: Crossing the Jordan River: Following God's Leadership | **Scripture:** Joshua 3

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Consecrate themselves and learn to align themselves with RiverLife's leadership.
2. Seek and surrender to God's leadership in their lives.

SERMON SUMMARY

Context

We are continuing our series on the Book of Joshua. In this sermon, Ps. Zheng Xin shares from **Joshua 3**. **Joshua 3** gives an account of God's command and Israel's subsequent obedience to be circumcised just before they entered the promised land. Circumcision was a sign of Israel's consecration before the Lord.

The taking of the Promised Land (Canaan) is the fulfilment of God's promise to Israel through the Abrahamic covenant. In this covenant, God gave Abraham three promises:

- a) God will make them into a great nation (**Genesis 12:2**)
- b) They will be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth (**Genesis 12:3**)
- c) God will give them the land of the Canaanites (**Genesis 12:7**)

Therefore, the Promised Land was also Israel's calling (**Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7**). For Israel to fulfil their calling, they needed to be consecrated first (**Joshua 3:5**). Similarly, all disciples of Christ have a calling on our lives (**Ephesians 4:1**). We too need to be consecrated before we live out our calling.

Application

Ps. Zheng Xin shares three application points from Joshua 3.

- 1) Consecration is the preparation for the wonders of tomorrow (**Joshua 3:5**)
- 2) Followership (**Joshua 3:2-4**)
- 3) Seek God's leadership (**Joshua 3:11**)

SERMON RECAP

Introduction

- The Abrahamic covenant does not just contain the promises of God; it also contains the calling of God.
- The significance of Israel entering the Promised Land is that it is a fulfilment of their calling.
- In **Ephesians 4:1** Paul is referring to the calling God has for us in the ordinary context of life:
 - Calling as a husband/wife (**5:22-23**)
 - Calling as a father/mother (**6:4**)
 - Calling in the marketplace (**6:5-9**)
 - Calling as a son or daughter to our earthly parents (**6:1-3**)
 - Calling to the body of Christ (**4:11-16**)
 - Calling to holiness (**4:17-32**)
 - Calling for full spiritual maturity and Christlikeness (**4:13**)
- The Greek word for "worthy" is Axois.
 - It is the root word for axis – for weighing. When we weigh something to find its worth.
 - Are we living our lives worthy of God's calling on our lives?
- We should not just focus on the context of the calling, but the person who is calling.
 - This gives us a sense of direction, life, and relationship.

- Our calling then would not be legalistic or performance-based, it would be based on our life-giving relationship with God.

Application: We have to respond to the call that God has on our lives and live our lives in response to it. You cannot choose to be a believer who does not have a calling. You can only be a believer who ignores God's calling.

Application #1: Consecration is the preparation for the wonders of tomorrow ([Joshua 3:5](#))

- Israel's consecration does not trigger the wonders of God. Rather, Israel consecrated themselves *because* God would do wonders for them. Similarly, we do not consecrate ourselves so that God does what we want Him to do.
- We all have a calling from God, and we need to consecrate ourselves to walk in His calling for us ([Ephesians 2:10](#)).
- Consecration begins with an examination of our hearts. It is a partnership between our surrender and submission to the Lord and His leadership and ministry in the Holy Spirit.

Application #2: Followership ([Joshua 3:2-4](#))

- God's ultimate design is that we follow His leadership ([Joshua 3:7](#)). But within this context, God has placed leaders over us.
- Followership is about how well we are following our leaders. Have I aligned myself with the leadership of RiverLife? We want good leaders, but are we good followers? The condition of our followership should not depend on our preferences or likings.
- Joshua 3 is as much about Israel's followership as it is about Joshua's leadership. There can be no leadership without followership.
- The application for us today is this: Am I a good follower? How can I be a better follower of the leaders God has placed over me?

Application #3: Seek God's leadership ([Joshua 3:11](#))

- Ultimately it is God who led Israel across the Jordan, not Joshua.
- The problem with us today is that we do not seek God's leadership in our lives. We live our lives independent of His leadership.
- We need to learn to seek God and listen to His prompts and nudging. We can feel His leadership through the Holy Spirit in us. We may interpret certain things wrongly, but we can always check against His Word. God's leadership will never contradict His Word.
- God's Word and His Spirit need to have leadership over our lives. Man's leadership will never hold the same weight as God's leadership.

Conclusion

What will we do now? Will we passively wait and see what happens?

- Or will we align ourselves with the church leadership? Will we seek God's leadership?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is there a specific area of your life that you feel the nudging of the Holy Spirit to consecrate unto the Lord?

Leader's Notes

Reflect and share with the cell if you've felt the nudging of the Holy Spirit in any area of your life. Perhaps it is a stirring for repentance or consecration. Perhaps it is a relationship with a loved one. God's call on our lives is all-encompassing, not just within the confines of church ministry. Will you listen to the nudging and follow God's leadership?

Transition

We need to be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

2. What are some of the pitfalls of having an independent spirit? How does it affect your relationship with God?

Leader's Notes

Having an independent spirit promotes pride, self-sufficiency, and selfishness. It also distances us from God because we feel like we don't need Him since we achieve everything on our own. In the same vein, we don't listen to the leaders God placed before us, confident that we "know best". We will also feel that being part of a community might burden us and stymie our progress and independence.

However, the Bible says that this is not the right mindset. In all things, we should depend on God. In truth, everything that we achieved, was given by God. It is not through the works of our hands, but God's. The Bible also says that we need community, for it helps us to grow and pushes us into spiritual maturity. Man was not designed to be alone.

Resources

- Glory Not in Your Independence (<https://openthebible.org/article/glory-not-in-your-independence/>)
- Independence vs Dependence on God (<https://www.gcu.edu/blog/spiritual-life/weekly-devotional-independence-vs-dependence-god>)
- What does the Bible Say About Interdependence? (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-interdependence.html>)

Transition

Although independence is celebrated and encouraged in today's culture, it is not biblical. We are to follow the leadership of God and His leaders.

3. What does living a life worthy of God's calling look like to you?

Leader's Notes

All of us have our journey with God. No two journeys are the same. We cannot compare our journey with a fellow believer and think that we are more/less spiritual.

Therefore, think about how your life would look like if you lived out God's calling for you. What are the changes that you need to make? What do you need to sacrifice?

Closing

Let us strive to not be the believers who ignore God's calling.

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 heed the leading of the Holy Spirit and God's leadership.
- Pray that God will break the spirit of independence in us so that we will lean on Him completely.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, that as we enter into 2024, we will determine to grow into Christlikeness.

3. World

- Continue to pray for the various nations that are at war:
 - a. Russia and Ukraine
 - b. Myanmar (Civil War) – Pray for the situation where military service was made compulsory for man and woman between the ages of 18 and 35..
 - 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 Indonesia as a new president has just been appointed.

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. FamilyLife Portal

- Our Family Life ministry strengthens relationships within the family so that they are reflective of who God is – married couples loving and serving each other, parents discipling their children in the ways of God, grandparents inspiring the generations by their faith and actions, and the singles living secure and fruitful lives for God’s kingdom!
- RiverLife's Family Life portal is an online platform that contains this year's calendar of Family Life initiatives as well as a wide range of resources for various life stages.
- You can access the portal via:
 - rlc.sg/familylife
 - Resources/Family Life Portal on RLC’s website – www.riverlife.org.sg

2. 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

3. 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
- Fees: \$50 per couple (Excludes US\$35 for PREPARE-ENRICH)

4. 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.

- 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>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 <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 • 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 <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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