

Date: 10 Mar 2024 | **Speaker:** Josh Yeoh | **Topic:** I go to prepare a place for you | **Scripture:** John 14:1-3

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Be reminded of the Church's call as His bride and to be ready for His return
2. Be reminded of the comfort we can find in Jesus in the midst of our troubles.

SERMON SUMMARY

Josh preached from John 14.

In John 14, we see how Jesus reassures His disciples and reminds them that He will come for them again. Drawing from Jewish tradition of betrothal and wedding, Josh explains to us that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us in the Father's house. He will then return for His bride (the church) and bring His bride into the Father's house, where we will be with Him for all eternity. Josh encourages us to have the same posture as the disciples while we are waiting for the return of Christ – to believe in God as the Way, the Truth and the Light; and to behold Christ.

As we embark on the 21 days of prayer, may we come together and seek His face and purposes together!

SERMON RECAP

Josh preached from John 14 and about the idea of a home.

"Home is the place that when you arrive at, they have to take in you." – **Robert Frost**

Josh shares about how Jesus telling his disciples 3 things right after the washing of the disciples' feet.

1. One of them would betray him
2. He was leaving
3. Peter would disown him three times

In John 13, Jesus was deeply troubled; "Tarasso – to shake back and forth, to agitate and stir up; unsettle, throw into disorder". Jesus was also deeply troubled in John 11 (due to the death of Lazarus) and 12 (as He was contemplating the cross and what he would need to endure).

In the midst of the ongoing confusion in John 13, Jesus tells his disciples not to be troubled. In the same way, Jesus assures us not to let our hearts be troubled in the midst of our difficulties. Jesus' solution to a troubled heart is a relationship with him – "Believe in Me".

Josh also brings us back to the past where he shared about the similarities of our waiting for His second coming to the ancient Jewish weddings. Marriages were arranged and the process often took several years. Should the prospective bride accept the betrothal, the bride would wait in her family home for the bridegroom while he prepared a place for her at his father's place. They would have limited interactions during this time. The groom would also not touch wine until they met again. The groom's father would give the call for the groom to bring his bride when he observed that the preparations are sufficient. When the groom is ready to come for his bride, the bride and her attendants would need to buy oil enough for two weeks and to keep watch with oil lamps for his coming. If the lamps are not burning when the groom comes, he will see it as the bride not wanting to keep to the marriage and leave.

Note: The word Mansion in the Bible when translated means "dwelling place".

In the midst of our troubles, Jesus reminds us that he is the bridegroom and we are his. We can take comfort in the second coming of Christ ([1 Thess 4:13 – 18 \[NKJV\]](#)). He will come again. Will we respond to the promise of the Bridegroom?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with the cell concerning the concept of “eternal home”. What does “eternal home” mean for you?

Leader’s Notes

This question aims to help the members to reflect concerning that life that we will receive when Christ returns. It also challenges members to live for eternity rather than for our temporary home.

Transition

This world is not our eternal home. We are just passing through. Let us not build our homes here. We have a far greater inheritance in heaven when Christ returns. So, let us live for eternity and not for the temporary.

2. Jesus is our bridegroom and He assured us that He is coming again. How does this shape the way we live?

Leader’s Notes

This question aims to let members reflect on how Jesus is our bridegroom – how does having this perspective shape the way we live – be it in our interactions, through delayed answers and in the way we live? Leaders can also get members to think about how disciples would live now while yearning and hungering for Him, and how this would look like in our everyday life.

Transition

We can find assurance knowing that Jesus is faithful and always with us.

3. In small groups, share an area of your life you are feeling troubled over and would like to commit to God.

Leader’s Notes

This is a response question for members to share in small groups about their concerns or worries that they would like to commit to God. Leaders can also choose to tweak the question, asking members about times where they experienced trouble and how God met them then at their point of need.

Closing

Jesus is our bridegroom and we are His bride. May we continue to respond to His promise even as the church embarks on 21 days of prayer and fasting.

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 God will enable us to live in faith and obedience even as we seek and pursue Him
- Pray that we will continue to find delight in God even as we devote ourselves to the 21 days of Prayer and Fasting.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, that as we enter into a season of prayer and fasting, that God will align all of our hearts and do what He needs to do so that we can live in a new normal that glorifies Him.

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 Singapore
 - a. Pray against the rise of young drug abusers
 - b. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
 - c. Pray for the Zika cluster in Boon Lay Place
- Pray for Indonesia as a new president has just been appointed.
- Pray for the situation in Korea where there is a strike by the medical professionals which is affecting the sick.

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. **21 Days of Prayer & Fasting - Revive Us, Lord, Align our hearts to Yours. 11-31 Mar.** The days we live in hold many distractions, alluring pathways, and enticing agendas which can cause our hearts to wander. Once again, we need to remember that we are God's beloved children, called to share His love in our broken world, and we must never slip into spiritual apathy and forget our calling. This is why we're setting apart 21 days leading up to Easter to deepen our fellowship with Christ – meditating on His word, enjoying His presence and hearing Him speak to us. We will fix our gaze on the Lord and give Him our full attention – putting away everything else that would distract or distance us from the simple act of sitting at His feet. As we pursue Him together and collectively desire to be in communion with Him, we know that God's heart will not only be filled with delight, but also be moved to fulfil His purposes through us.
 - For 21 days from 11-31 Mar, we are committing ourselves to:
 - Daily Devotion
 - Daily Fasting
 - Nightly Worship & Prayer
 - Sermon Series based on John 13-16
 - Join us on this shared journey: rlc.sg/21days

2. **MegaLife Camp 2024. Thu-Sun, 13-16 Jun. Thistle Hotel, Johor Bahru. For Youths Aged 13-18.** If you are a parent of a teen or know someone who's a teen, invite them for our annual Youth camp! Registration opens first week of April and more details will be shared.
 - Camp Fees:
 - a. Early Bird (6-15 Apr): \$280
 - b. Regular (16-22 Apr): \$320

3. **The Parents Gathering. 27 Apr, 2pm-6pm. Grace Chapel.** This platform is designed to help parents of various life-stages to grow in their roles as parents, as well as support one another in their parenting journey. Each quarterly gathering will include short teachings, group connection time, refreshments, as well as parents processing time.
 - No fees required.
 - Closing Date: 21 Apr 2024.
 - Registration: rlc.sg/pg

4. **Family Life 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.
 - Access the portal: rlc.sg/familylife or www.riverlife.org.sg (Under the "Resources" tab)

5. **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: 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>March</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3, 17, 24 Mar – Marriage Preparation Course #1 • 8 to 10 Mar – FOPx Conference (Youth) • 17 Mar – Water Baptism Service #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 • 27 Apr – The Parent’s Gathering <p><u>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04 May – YA Gathering • 17 to 18 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) <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. RiverLife Community Services

Sign up: rlc.sg/servercs

5. 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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