

Date: 5 May 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Lionel Goh | **Topic:** We are Deeply Loved and Highly Favoured | **Scripture:** Various

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Reflect on the godly truths and ungodly beliefs we may have
2. Consider how living these truths would have an impact on our walk with God and interactions with others.

SERMON SUMMARY

God has loved and favored us:

1. At Creation
 - a. We are made in God's image (**Genesis 1:26 – 27**)
 - b. We were crowned with glory, honour and dominion (**Psalm 8:4-6**)
2. In Our Redemption
 - a. We are precious enough for Jesus to die in our place (**John 3:16, Romans 5:6-8**)
 - b. We are given unlimited grace and mercy (**1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:8-12**)
 - c. We are adopted into God's family (**Ephesians 1:4-5**)
 - d. We are appointed as co-heirs with Christ (**Romans 8:16-17, Ephesians 1:3**)
3. In Our Glorification
 - a. We are destined to reign with Christ (**Revelation 5:9-10**)
 - b. We will judge the world and angels (**1 Corinthians 6:1-3**)

We can only enjoy deep intimacy with our Father when we allow the Holy Spirit to reveal what *sonship* really means! (**Romans 8:15-17**)

SERMON RECAP

What matters is what God thinks of us.

God has loved and favored us:

1. At Creation
 - a. We are made in God's image (**Genesis 1:26 – 27**)
 - Moses repeated thrice that we are made in God's image – we are made compatible to Him
 - Personality: we have unique personalities, none of us are the same
 - Morality: We can distinguish between good and evil
 - Spirituality: We are able to engage with God and worship Him
 - We are precious as we are made in His image
 - b. We were crowned with glory, honour and dominion (**Psalm 8:4-6**)
 - We are the crown of God's creation and given dominion over this earth
 - God has a high regard over humanity
 - The evil one has tried to destroy mankind and man fell as a result
 - However, God deems us precious to redeem us through the death of Jesus Christ.
2. In Our Redemption
 - a. We are precious enough for Jesus to die in our place (**John 3:16, Romans 5:6-8**)
 - CT Studd wrote this in response to a revelation of his worth - "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." He gave up everything and went to serve God in the mission field where he died.

- b. We are given unlimited grace and mercy (1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:8-12)
 - God has lavished us great mercy and grace by sending Jesus to die for our sins
 - c. We are adopted into God's family (Ephesians 1:4-5)
 - God loved us in Christ even before He made the world – He knew that we would have sinned against Him, but He still chose for us to come into being.
 - d. We are appointed as co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:16-17, Ephesians 1:3)
 - We are made to also inherit all that will be given to Jesus – glory, honour, power and authority to rule the world.
 - We have been blessed with different spiritual blessings e.g.
 - Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - Intimacy with God
 - Knowing Our Life purpose
 - Receiving Answered Prayers
 - Ability to understand God's Word and spiritual truths
 - Fruit of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control
 - Authority to pray for others with the Spirit's power
3. In Our Glorification
- a. We are destined to reign with Christ (Revelation 5:9-10)
 - b. We will judge the world and angels (1 Corinthians 6:1-3)
 - In the end times, we will be under God's leading and given the right to judge the world and angels.

We can only enjoy deep intimacy with our Father when we allow the Holy Spirit to reveal what *sonship* really means! (Romans 8:15-17).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What are some beliefs you hold on to that may hinder you from living as a son/daughter of God, and in the fullness of God's love?**

Leader's Notes

This is a question for members to reflect if there are common ungodly beliefs about God or about our identity in Christ that prevent us from walking in the fullness of God's love. Members can also share with each other about how they worked or are working through these beliefs. How would believing these ungodly beliefs impact our view of ourselves, others and God and our relationships with others and God?

Transition

In God, we are reminded of our Sonship in Christ.

2. **Pastor Lionel provided 8 truths about our sonship in Christ. How much do each of these truths do you believe in your mind, heart and spirit?**

Leader's Notes

This question aims for members to reflect upon God's Word and to internalise what it means to be sons/daughters through Christ – our inheritance as sons/daughters of God. Members may also wish to look at different truths and share if they believe these truths to varying degrees; and to consider and share how believing these truths bring assurance and comfort to their situations.

Transition

God desires for us to live in His truth and not base our worth on our circumstances.

3. **How would living these truths help us in our walk with God? What would others also observe about us as we live out these truths? Would it make a difference in our daily lives and interactions with others?**

Leader's Notes

This is a question for members to consider how similar or different life would be as we continue to live out these truths. Members can also choose to use this time to pray for each other as we continue to grow in intimacy with others and to be His light in the world.

Closing

God desires for us to be anchored in the truth that we are deeply loved and highly favoured.

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 grow in a deeper understanding of the extent of God's love for us
- Pray that God will continue to reveal to us any ungodly beliefs and to submit it to the Lordship of Christ
- Pray that God will empower us to live an abundant life that will glorify Him.

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 – Pray for the truce talks between Israel and Palestine in Cairo, that a peaceful resolution can be reached.
- Continue to pray for countries that have an escalated conflict situation:
 - a. Japan, China and the Philippines in the South China Sea
 - b. North & South Korea
- Continue to pray for countries recovering from recent natural disasters:
 - a. Taiwan (Earthquake)
 - b. Indonesia (Volcanic Eruption)
 - c. South East Asia – Heatwave across various countries
- Pray for Singapore
 - a. Pray for the family of the 2 victims that were killed in a road accident at Tampines
 - b. Pray for a smooth transition from PM Lee to incoming PM Lawrence Wong
 - c. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
- Other Global Issues
 - a. Pray for the at Columbia University where pro-Palestinian demonstrations are turning violent.

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. **MegaLife: Service with Parents.** Sat, 25 May, 1pm-4pm. Worship Centre. If you have child attending MegaLife, come and be a part of your child's journey in realising their identity as a son & daughter of God through various segments during the service.
 - 1-2pm: Parents Session
 - 2-2.30pm: Coffee Break
 - 2.30-4pm: MegaLife Service

Registration: rlc.sg/25mayml

2. **RCS Family Movie Date 2024.** You can play your part in extending God's love into the community through RCS. Your giving ensures continuity in our initiatives to help and support beneficiaries and families in need. For every \$100 donated between 28 Apr to 26 May, donors will receive two complimentary movie tickets* as a token of our gratitude.

**Movie tickets have an open date and are valid at Golden Village cinemas until 31 May 2025. For more information: rlc.sg/rcsmovie24*

3. **RiverLife Missions.** Mission trip schedule for 2024 is out now on our Missions website! Discover how you can sow into the nations this year: rlc.sg/missions
4. **RiverLife Kindergarten Open House & Exhibition 2024.** Sat, 18 May 10am-12pm RiverLife Church. You're invited to view the artworks of our students and find out more about RiverLife Kindergarten.
5. **Found: A Journey in Sonship (New Sermon Series). 14 Apr-26 May.** As disciples of Christ, God calls us His sons and daughters – loved, accepted, and provided for. We sometimes wander from the presence of our Father, choosing to live apart from Him. As we process what God has spoken to us during our recent season of prayer & fasting, we want to respond by returning to the Father's love once again.

Post-Service Sessions (11.30am-1pm in Worship Centre)

- **Sun, 12 May How Can I Hear My Heavenly Father?**
Facilitated by Rev Pat Owyang No registration is required for the post-service sessions.

Restoring The Foundations (RTF)

- The RTF ministry in RiverLife undergirds the prayer ministry of our church.
- Its approach for healing and restoration aims to help the receiver walk out his/her freedom and restoration through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and in partnership with the Holy Spirit. More information can be found at www.RestoringTheFoundations.org.

6. **Sustaining the Fire.** As our 21-day season of prayer & fasting comes to a close, we thank God for reviving us individually and collectively. It is needful for us to go on walking closely with the Lord and be faithful stewards of the work that has been done in us. We can continue this journey by spending time with God daily using this recommended 21-day devotional:
 - 21 Days to Overflow takes readers on a 3-week journey of emptying themselves of self, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and living out an overflowing spirit-filled life. 21-Day Devotional: [YouVersion Bible App](#) | [PDF](#)



Announcements

Our Revive Us, Lord website has been updated with resources to help you grow in these four aspects – spiritually, relationally, physically & missionally.

For more information: rlc.sg/21days

7. 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)

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: 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)
- *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.

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 2	Quarter 3
<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 (New) <p><u>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 04 May – YA Gathering ● 17 to 18 May – Leaders Advance (Non-Stay In) ● 30 May to 01 Jun – SuperLife Camp <p><u>June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 01 Jun – YA Gathering ● 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 	<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 – SPYces ● 06 to 15 Sep – Equipping #2: Deuteronomy ● 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering ● 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach

Quarter 4

October

- 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)


November

- 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
- 23-25 Nov – Marriage Retreat

December

- 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-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

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 the 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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