

Date: 16 June 2024 | Speaker: Elder Lee Ee Yang | Topic: Spiritual Authority in the Family | Scripture: Assorted

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Grasp the idea of spiritual authority within the family.
2. Submit to the head of the family as ordained by God.

SERMON SUMMARY

The family is under attack. The enemy is seeking to redefine “family” under God’s creation order. As God’s appointed authority over the household, the role of the father is absolutely critical.

SERMON RECAP

1) The Family is under attack.

- The enemy is seeking to redefine God’s design of the “family”.
- For every 10 marriages in Singapore, roughly 1-2 end in divorce. (CNA Article, 2022)
- Increase in mental health issues amongst youth, such as depression, anxiety and suicide cases.

2) God has given man spiritual authority over his household (Ephesians 5:22-24).

- Man has been given a unique responsibility.
 - i. To ensure the family is moving in a God-glorifying direction.
 - ii. Secure the well-being of everyone in the family (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:15-17).
 - iii. After Adam and Eve sinned, God approached Adam first, signifying Adam’s accountability for the sin as head of the family.
- God has appointed man to be the provider and protector of the family.
- Woman is given a divine role as man’s equal helper (Genesis 2:18).
 - i. The Hebrew word “Kenegdo”, translated as “suitable for him”, gives the meaning that Eve was designed to be a corresponding and equal partner for Adam.
 - ii. Voluntary submission to another person out of humility, compassion, and love.

3) God commands husbands and fathers to exercise their spiritual authority over their household in love.

- Love our wives sacrificially (Ephesians 5:25-30).
- Bring our children up in the ways of God (Ephesians 6:4).
 - i. Nurture “paideia” signifies the actions a father takes to give his children the abilities, skills, and character to live life to the glory of God.
 - ii. “Nurture” (paideia) is the general training of all parts of the child: instructing his mind, shaping his character, bending his will, awakening his conscience, enriching his soul, and building his body. – Joel Beeke, *Parenting by God’s Promises*.
 - iii. “Admonition (“nouthesia”) is defined as to counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct. It has to do with conduct: encouraging children to do what is right, rewarding good conduct, confronting them when they do what is wrong, and punishing their misconduct in an appropriate way.” – Joel Beeke, *Parenting by God’s Promises*.
- Fathers need to lead by example, living a transparent and honest Christian life.

Discussion Questions

1. How can men effectively fulfil their unique responsibility as spiritual leaders, providers, and protectors in their households?

Leader's Notes

- **Understand and embrace the role:** Discuss how men can come to understand their God-given responsibility. What resources (e.g., scripture, mentorship, prayer) can help in this understanding?
- **Practical ways to provide and protect:** Explore practical steps men can take to provide for and protect their families. This might include financial provision, emotional support, physical safety, and spiritual guidance.
- **Role of women as equal helpers:** Reflect on how men can honour and appreciate the role of women as equal helpers. How can men and women work together to support the family unit?
- **Examples from Scripture:** Identify and discuss Biblical examples of men who fulfilled their roles effectively. How did they balance their responsibilities and what can we learn from their experiences?

Transition

The role of the man in the family is absolutely critical in keeping the family together.

2. What does it mean for husbands and fathers to exercise their spiritual authority in love, and how can they practically apply this in their daily lives?

Leader's Notes

There are many ways that the head of the family can exercise their spiritual authority in love.

- Share examples of sacrificial actions that demonstrate love and commitment.
- Consider daily practices, family traditions and special activities that instil godly values to bring their children up in the ways of the Lord.
- Communication and patience are important in exercising spiritual authority as well. How can men foster open, loving and respectful communication in the family?
- Explore the balance between discipline and grace in parenting.

Transition

It is not easy to be the head of the family as it comes with huge responsibilities, but submit to God and let Him lead the way.

3. Are we submissive to the authority that God has placed over us in our family? If we are not, why? What will change in the family if we start being obedient?

Leader's Notes

God's Word has made it clear that we are to be in submission to the authority that He has placed over us. Be it at home or at the workplace. If you are a husband, submit to God's authority. If you are a wife, submit to your husband's leadership. If you are a child, respect and honour your parents.

When we are submitting to authority in the way that God has ordained, then His power can work and flow through the family. There will be transformations and harmony, and He will bless the family powerfully so that the family can bless others.

Closing

Let us align our perspectives and will with God's plan for the family.

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 men will live out their God-given responsibilities with spiritual authority.
- Pray that we will obey and respect the authorities that God has placed over us.
- 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, 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 – 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
 - d. Canada (Wildfire)
- Pray for Singapore
 - a. Pray for PM Lawrence Wong and his cabinet as they begin a new chapter for Singapore
 - b. Pray for a stability in the cost of living in Singapore
 - c. Pray for the oil spill that is affecting the shores of Singapore
- Other Global Issues
 - a. Pray for the United States of America as they gear up for this year end's election
 - b. Continue to pray for the medical strike in South Korea
 - c. Pray for the situation in various parts of Indonesia where 58 people are killed by cold lava and flash floods

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.

- Sermon Series: Spiritual Authority.** 2-30 June 2024 One of the biggest truths that Christians tend to forget is this – we are in the midst of a spiritual war. For many Christians, the enemy seems to render them completely ineffective in this spiritual war – they are never a threat to the kingdom of darkness. As a result, many live as prisoners of this war – bounded by addictions, sinful patterns, demonic manifestations and strongholds. This is not the victorious life that Jesus, our Saviour, bought for us on the cross. When we live as sons of the Most High, the authority that was lost in the Garden of Eden is being restored to us. This authority is given so that the church can be the salt and light that flows into our communities and into the nations. In this sermon series, we will explore the believer’s rightful authority, how to exercise this authority where we are planted, and the benefits of coming under the spiritual authority of the shepherds in RiverLife. Our prayer is that through this series, believers will start to exercise their God-given authority, and live victorious lives in their families, workplaces, and in the world.
- The RiverLife Welcome Lunch. 21 Jul, 11.30am-1pm Faith Chapel (Level 2).** Relationships matter to us because church is family. Our Welcome Lunch is specially organised for those who started joining us at service or cell this year. You'll get to meet fellow RiverLifers as well as our staff team members too! Invite up to two family members or friends (including your host) – just let us know when you register. Sign up online by Sun, 14 Jul: rlc.sg/welcomelunch
- The Parents Gathering. Sat, 29 Jun, 2.30pm-6pm Grace Chapel.** The Parents Gathering is held once a quarter for parents to come together to connect with and support one another through the journey of parenting. As we discover more about ourselves and our children, may we grow to become parents that God intended us to be. Register by Sun, 23 Jun: rlc.sg/pg
- A School Holiday Guide for Parents of Primary School Children.** Parents - The June school holidays are upon us. When it comes to this season, most of us may be too preoccupied with juggling a packed schedule to see the opportunity this provides for us - there are some things in regard to parenting that we can only do during the holidays that we cannot do during the school term. Our FamilyLife Department has prepared a resource aimed at helping you steward the holiday season well as parents.
 - Access it here: rlc.sg/flnl
- Outing to Singapore Garden Festival by Caleb Ministry.** This seeker-friendly outreach outing is specially organised for seniors aged 55 and above, as well as their family members. It is suitable for pre-believers or unchurched believers you are currently reaching out to. We will be having lunch together at Olive Vine before attending the Singapore Garden Festival. There will be a short sharing of the gospel over lunch.

Sat, 10 Aug 10.45am-2pm
10.45am: Fellowship & Lunch (Olive Vine Pasta Fusion, #B1-17 Marina Square)
12.30pm: Singapore Garden Festival (Suntec City Convention & Exhibition Centre, Levels 4 7 6)

Specially Discounted Rates
Include lunch & admission to Singapore Garden Festival
Eligible for local residents based on age in NRIC

 - Seniors above 60 & Children below 12: \$35 per pax
 - Those above 12 & below 60: \$40 per pax
- 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

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: 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>May</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 to 7 Jul – YA Camp • 13 Jul – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 14 Jul – Leaders Equipping • 21 Jul – EA Welcome Lunch • 28 Jul – Baptism Service #2, Dating Couples Course <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 – Leaders Equipping • 10 Aug – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 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 • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry 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)
- 9 Nov – Caleb Ministry Gathering
- 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: rlc.sg/rtf

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)

ONLINE GIVING TO MISSIONS

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806DTNO.

Interbank Transfer

UOB Account 450-309634-4

Kindly indicate "Missions" in your transaction reference.



ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806DSCB.

Interbank Transfer

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

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200711586WDON

Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.

