

Date: 07 July 2024 | **Speaker:** Elder Lee Ee Yang | **Topic:** Stepping into Our Spiritual Destiny | **Scripture:** Joshua 5:1-11

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Remember that our identity is rooted in who we are in Christ and not on what we can do for Him.
2. Put our complete trust in God as we step into our spiritual destiny even when the journey is hard.

SERMON SUMMARY

The people of Israel had a God-given destiny – to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, and to fulfil this call, God gave them the promised land. Today, God has a spiritual destiny for every son and daughter who follow Christ. Joshua 5 provides three key lessons for us in taking hold of our spiritual destiny in the same way the children of God did in possessing the promised land.

SERMON RECAP

Spiritual destiny is God's divine purpose for our lives – as seen in Psalm 139:13, 16 and in the example of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). God promised Abraham and his descendants the possession of the promised land. God's promises to Abraham also apply to us today (Galatians 3:14, 29).

How can we fulfil our spiritual destiny and possess our promised land? Joshua 5 provides **three key lessons** for us:

1. Remember Who We Belong To (Joshua 5:2, 1 Peter 2:9-10)

Like the mark of circumcision for the Israelites in the Old Testament, we are marked to manifest God's glorious presence in our lives today. Believers today share the same identity as God's covenant people. We called to belong to Him. Our *being* comes before our *doing*. Our being is the part of us that is connected to God, but our doing is connected to the world at large. Our encounter with God must cradle our endeavours for God.

Are we having a fulfilled, dynamic moment-by-moment relationship with God through our union with Jesus? Are we encountering God daily through communion with Him in worship and prayer, and reading His word?

2. Reaffirm Our Trust And Obedience In The Lord (Joshua 5:3, Deuteronomy 6:11, Isaiah 55:8-9)

What God commanded Israel to do in the promised land made no sense militarily (see Joshua 3–6). But God's ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. There will be times when we find ourselves in situations where God will tell us to do things that are against conventional wisdom or our natural tendencies. It is in those times that we need to trust God.

Are we following God wholeheartedly in trust and obedience to fulfil our spiritual destiny? Are we willing to die to our flesh and abide by the still small voice of the Holy Spirit?

3. Rest In God's Faithfulness And His Work In Our Lives (Joshua 5:10-11, 2 Peter 1:3-4)

The basis for our trust in God is His faithfulness. Passover reminded Israel of God's faithfulness in delivering His chosen people from bondage in Egypt. It also prophetically points to Christ's finished work on the cross to free us from the power of sin and death. Because of Christ's finished work on the cross, we can be assured that God will take us to our spiritual destiny.

Are we resting in the faithfulness of God to free us from the sins and distractions that keep us in bondage, and trust Him to help us to fulfil our spiritual destiny?

Discussion Questions

1. Sunday's sermon is called "Stepping into Our Spiritual Destiny". What comes to your mind when you hear the word "destiny"? What do you think is your "destiny" as far as you understand – both before you became a Christian and after?

Leader's Notes

This is an ice-breaker question to start the discussion. There is no right or wrong answer as most of us do not use the word "destiny" in a normal conversation. We may use words like "purpose" or "fate" but "destiny" may sound too other-worldly to some. Another follow-up question to ask if someone mentions "fate" would be, "What's the difference between destiny and fate?"

From a Christian perspective, destiny refers to a purposeful path designed by God for everyone, while fate represents predetermined events beyond human control.

Resources for more reflection:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/fate-destiny.html>
- <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-destiny-or-fate-a-christian-study/>

Transition

In **Isaiah 55:11** God says His Word will not return to Him empty and He will fulfil His purpose and destiny for His covenant people – the Israelites in the Old Testament and the Body of Christ today.

2. In **Joshua 5:2**, God instructed Joshua to renew the covenant with the Israelites through circumcision. Why was circumcision necessary to renew the covenant and to enter the promised land?

Leader's Notes

These are some of the reasons for circumcision drawn from the Biblical text. You may also discuss with the cell the scripture references at the end of each point.

1. **Context:** After crossing the Jordan River, the Israelites arrived at Gilgal. This generation had not been circumcised during their wilderness journey. So, this act symbolised their commitment to God as they entered the promised land (**Genesis 17:10-11**).
2. **Sanctification and Readiness:** Circumcision signified sanctification and readiness. By circumcising the Israelite males, they were set apart for God's purposes and prepared to inherit the land (**Exodus 12:25-27**).
3. **Removing Reproach:** Circumcision also removed the reproach of Egypt. It marked them as God's chosen people, bearing the seal of the covenant (**Matthew 3:7-9, Romans 2:28-29**).

Transition

God's covenant with Israel included the land of Canaan, which later became the promised land. This land represents God's covenantal commitment and fulfilment of His promises to His people.

Discussion Questions

3. What is the ultimate Promised Land for Christians? (Revelation 22:1-4) How does this hope enable you to live a courageous life in a sinful and troubled world?

Leader's Notes

The ultimate Promised Land for Christians is found in [Revelation 22:1-4](#). You may discuss these truths with the cell.

1. **New Heaven and Earth:** John sees a new heaven and a new earth, where the old order has passed away. There is no more sea, symbolising stability and peace.
2. **New Jerusalem:** The holy city, New Jerusalem, descends from heaven. It is adorned like a bride for her husband. This city represents the ultimate Promised Land—a restored creation where God dwells with His people.
3. **Healing and No Curse:** In this new reality, the leaves of the tree bring healing to the nations. There is no more curses. God's throne is there, and His servants serve Him directly. We even see His face and bear His name on our foreheads.

Closing

As Christians, we live courageously, anchored in the hope of the ultimate Promised Land, and being assured that:

- The power of God redeems us, and with Christ abiding in us, He matures us ([Colossians 1:27-28](#)).
- The promise of healing and restoration motivates us to persevere in our trials.
- The presence of God sustains us, even in a sinful and troubled world.

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 for God to work in our hearts and to search the areas in our lives that are not in submission to Him or in alignment to His destiny for His Bride.
- Pray for God to give us a deeper desire to align our hearts and lives to His destiny for us and commit to walk in ways that reveal to the world our identity in Christ and our discipleship to Him.

2. RiverLife

Pray for our mission teams going into the nations:

- **9-17 Jul | Pangasinan, Philippines**
Our Missions staff and Elder Ee Yang will be ministering at a retreat for 180 youth pastors and leaders in Pangasinan.
- **10-14 Jul | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**
This team comprises RiverLifers from our Chinese congregation. They will run an encounter weekend for leaders & core teams in a local Chinese Vietnamese church as well as spend time equipping their worship ministry.

Let's pray for:

- a. An outpouring of God's Spirit upon the land and the people that we are going to minister to.
- b. The Lord to water the land and soften the ground.
- c. Every heart to become a well-watered garden flowing with living water.
- d. Ps Betty, Ruyan and team (total 10 persons) for good health and effective ministry.
- e. Participants to have obstacles in their heart removed so that they will be open and teachable to receive the Father's love and healing, and be filled and baptised by the Holy Spirit.

- **14-18 Jul | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**
Staff from our Technical & Production and Media teams will be serving the local churches by training media teams at Christian Broadcasting Network Vietnam.

Let's pray for:

- a. The team to catch the Lord's heart for the nations.
- b. CBN Vietnam team to continue having the joy of the Lord as their strength, as they build their ministry.
- c. Unity so that the teams may join in one heart to further the kingdom through media efforts.

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. 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)
 - e. Guangdong, China – Flash floods
 - f. India – Heatwave
- 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
- Other Global Issues
 - a. Pray for the United States of America as they gear up for this year end's election
 - b. Pray for the UK as a new Prime Minister and Cabinet governs the nation
 - c. Pray for Thailand as it goes through a case seeking the dismissal of its Prime Minister
 - d. Pray for the political situation in France

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 (7 July – 25 August): The Book of Joshua: Walking with God in Faith & Obedience.** As we continue to trek the Israelites' journey after entering the Promised Land, we realise we are far from the end of their story. There were still battles to fight, enemies to defeat and above all – there was a choice to be made. A choice to obey God fully and walk with Him daily. A choice to believe the Promise Keeper would not fail them. This series of messages will help us recognise that we're presented with the same choice today. In Joshua's last words to the people he led, he urges them to cling tightly to the Lord and be very careful to love Him. Perhaps he knew it would be a choice they had to make every day to see God's promises fulfilled. Every day, we have a choice to make. Would we choose to love God, trust in Him and walk in His ways? When we do so as His people, our lives will testify of who God is. This second part of our series based on the book of Joshua covers chapters 5 to 24.

Catch up on Part 1 here: rlc.sg/joshuapart1

2. **The Courtship Journey. Sun, 28 Jul | 11.30am-1pm Victory Chapel (Level 1)** This initiative helps you to identify what to look for in a future spouse, as well as to understand the different stages of a courtship. Through this initiative, we hope couples will have a better starting point in their future marriages. There is no cost to join the gatherings. Register: rlc.sg/courtshipjourney
3. **Restoring The Foundations (RTF).** RTF is one of the ministry approaches RiverLife adopts for healing and restoration. Ministry receivers experience freedom through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and in partnership with the Holy Spirit. Members who sign up for RTF ministry will get to:
 - Understand the biblical basis of RTF
 - Learn how to identify hinderances and ungodly beliefs in their lives
 - Receive freedom to live victoriously
 - Receive personal restoration through the integrated approach to healing

Registration: rlc.sg/rtf_sam

4. **40.Day 2024.** 1 Jul - 9 Aug. For 40 days starting 1 Jul until Singapore's National Day, all believers in Singapore, regardless of church or denomination, are invited to unite in prayer for our nation. We encourage those who are committing to pray and convicted to fast, to also fast a meal a day for the 40-day period. This year's three prayer emphases are:
 - Turning Singapore Godward
 - Winning the Youth
 - Blessing the Nations

Subscribe to the following for daily updates starting Mon, 1 Jul:

- Website: lovesingapore.org.sg
- YouTube: youtube.com/lovesingaporeonline
- Facebook: facebook.com/lovesingapore.org.sg
- Instagram: instagram.com/lovesingaporeonline

5. **SPYCES (Spiritual Parenting of Young Couples). 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Sep 2pm-5pm. Online via Zoom Fees: \$10 per participant.** SPYCES is a series of five workshop sessions where participants will connect with fellow parents in the same season, and learn biblical and practical ways of relating to their children and grandchildren.

For more info: rlc.sg/spyces-info

6. **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

7. **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

**Our Caleb Ministry staff have kindly set up a booth outside Victory Chapel (Level 1) this Sun, 2 Jun should you need assistance in signing up for the event.*

8. **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

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 3	Quarter 4
<p><u>July</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 to 7 Jul – YA Camp • 13 Jul – Caleb Ministry Gathering: Self-Care • 14 Jul – Leaders Equipping with David & Greta Peters • 21 Jul – EA Welcome Lunch • 28 Jul – The Courtship Journey <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: Outing • 11 Aug – Water Baptism Service #2 • 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: Numbers • 14 Sep – Caleb Ministry Gathering • 22 Sep – EA Mid-Autumn Lunch Outreach • 21, 22, 28 & 29 Sep - RTF Activation 	<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) • 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 <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-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)

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