

Date: 18 Aug 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Joachim Tan | **Topic:** Caleb and One More Mountain | **Scripture:** Joshua 14:6-15

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Be renewed in their desire to follow God wholeheartedly
2. Know that God is in full control despite challenges in our lives, and amidst the pains of church leadership transition.
3. Desire to hold on to God's promises for our lives and for RiverLife Church.

SERMON SUMMARY

There is much to learn about the faith and life of Caleb. Though Caleb was getting on in age, he was unsatisfied as there were still promises by God that were unfulfilled. God desires to fulfil His promises and he used Caleb to not only win the battle against the Anakites, but it broke the cycle of fear and stigma within the Israelite community.

G. Cambell Morgan:

"In the history of Caleb, three things are illustrated concerning faith.

- *Faith sees and dares in the day of overwhelming difficulty*
- *Faith waits patiently through delays caused by failures in others.*
- *Faith acts with courage in the day of opportunity."*

SERMON RECAP

Ps Joachim shared three spiritual lessons we can learn from Caleb's life and faith, and God's message for us and RiverLife Church.

3 Lessons from Caleb's life and faith

1. Caleb followed the Lord wholeheartedly ([Joshua 14:8-9, 14](#))
2. Caleb saw in his spirit (heart) what God had promised ([Joshua 14:7](#), [Numbers 14:9](#))
3. Caleb did not allow the wanderings to break him ([Joshua 14:10-11](#))

God is looking for His people, to conquer mountains and break the stigma and cycle of wanderings, like Caleb.

Although the Israelites looked unstoppable and was winning many battles with God on their side, the land only had rest from war after Caleb fought and conquered the land filled with giants, the Anakites, and the reproach / stigma of Israel was broken ([Joshua 14:12-15](#))

God's message for RiverLife Church

1. God is in control

- Through the ups and downs of our lives, as well as the ups and downs of organisational life and leadership challenges, God is still fully in control.

2. God keeps his promises and His promises for RiverLife church remains

- Though Caleb had to wait 45 years, God never forgot His promise to Caleb.
- God longs to keep his promise to His people; it may take time, but He remembers. He is a promise keeping God.
- God's promises to RiverLife church all these years still remain true. It may take time and we may have to wait patiently, but God is a promise keeper.

3. We are called to follow the Lord wholeheartedly, like Caleb

- Caleb's life demonstrated what it looked like to follow the Lord wholeheartedly.

4. We are exhorted not to lose heart and not allow the wanderings to break us.

- Caleb's determination showed that his faith did not break in the 45 years of wandering, despite having done no wrong.
- Caleb could have been a bitter man, a man that broke ranks and left to set up a new family, new people and nation. But he chose to remain and he did not allow the wanderings to break him.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Was there a time or situation where you had to trust God's promises despite many challenges? How does Caleb's story inspire you in your own spiritual life and journey?**

Leader's Notes

Caleb followed the Lord wholeheartedly and did not allow the 40 years of wandering in the desert to break him. Leaders can invite the cell to share their personal reflections on the life and faith of Caleb. Leaders can also invite members to share if they had encountered trials and challenging situations/seasons of "wilderness" with no answers, and how they overcame or walk through those situation(s).

Transition

Caleb's story illustrates the relationship between human obedience, and God's promises and faithfulness. Although he had done nothing to deserve the 40 years of wandering, he did not give up and continued to follow God wholeheartedly and believed that God would fulfil His promise.

- 2. Ps Joachim exhorted us not to allow the wanderings, including the pains of church leadership transitions, to break us. What are your thoughts concerning RiverLife church's leadership transition? Like Caleb, how can we respond?**

Leader's Notes

Ps Joachim shared his personal journey of how he grew up in and with the RiverLife family to become the Missions Pastor today, despite going through earlier church leadership transitions and crisis. Leaders can invite members to share their own spiritual journey and experience being part of the RiverLife family and how they feel about the leadership transition.

Leaders can encourage the cell to remember that despite these moments of uncertainty, questions and hurts/disappointments, we have the assurance of an unfailing God – He is a promise keeper and His promises for RiverLife remain.

- 3. In what areas of your life do you need to demonstrate Caleb-like faith and obedience? How can you cultivate a faith like Caleb in your daily life?**

Leader's Notes

Leaders can consider going deeper into specific areas and ask follow-up questions:

- Obedience – Are you following God wholeheartedly like Caleb in every area of your life? Are there areas where you need to surrender to God and turn from your own ways?
- Faith – Caleb waited 40 years before seeing God's promise fulfilled. What might God have waited so long to fulfil His promise? How long are you willing to wait to receive God's answer / see God's promise fulfilled in your life or in the church? Can you trust Him even if you do not receive immediate answers? What does Caleb's experience teach us about waiting for God's promises?
- Church – Despite the church leadership transition, can we trust that God is in full control and His promises to RiverLife Church remain true?

Closing

Just as how Caleb did not allow the wandering in the desert to break him, may we not allow the wanderings in our lives, and the pains of leadership transitions (or heartfelt disappointments) break us. May we be like Caleb who wholeheartedly followed the Lord and continued to stay within his community (with his fellow Israelites).

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 help to trust that God is in full control despite the challenges and trials we face in our personal life, and the pains of church leadership transition.
- Pray that God will give us faith to believe and hold on to His promises even in difficult times, and to help us follow Him wholeheartedly.

2. RiverLife

Let us continue to pray for God's hand to be upon our church, its leaders and that all its members will grow in maturity.

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 – For any retaliation from Hamas and Iran as a result of the killing of Hamas' leader
- 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. North Korea – Flooding
 - e. Japan – Typhoon Ampil
 - f. Hong Kong – 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 resurgence of the mpox virus in Africa.
 - b. Pray for Bangladesh as the country recovers after the ousting of its Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

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. Volunteering with RCS.

a. *Maths Tutor for Primary 1 to 4. Serve from now until end Oct*

Come alongside and provide academic support for our beneficiaries as they prepare for their year-end exams. Sessions will be online via Zoom for 1.5 hours, once a week. Day and time can be discussed and confirmed between volunteer and student as per their schedules.

b. *BLESS Family Volunteer. Serve for a minimum of 6 months.*

Journey with a family in need through building friendship and supplying month groceries and necessities. You will serve once a month and an hour each time. Specific time and date to be arranged at your convenience.

Registration: rlc.sg/rcs-serve24

2. **Marriage Retreat. 23-25 Nov.** Forest City Marina Hotel. Cost: \$600 per couple. A meaningful weekend retreat for married couples to spend unhurried and uninterrupted time with each other to learn together, and evaluate and strengthen their marriage. Registration: rlc.sg/mr (Capacity: 40 couples. Closing Date: 30 September)

3. **Alpha At RiverLife (Chinese Run).** 24 Aug – 26 Oct 2024, 9 In-Person Sessions. Alpha brings you on a journey to explore life's biggest questions - Who are you and why are you here on earth? If there's a God, what would you ask Him? All your questions about life, faith and God are welcomed at Alpha. Join us at our next run!

- Find out more: rlc.sg/alpha-chi
- Sign up online: rlc.sg/join-alphachi

4. **Current 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

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. **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: 7 Sep, 5 Oct, 2 Nov

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>August</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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 (TBC)



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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