

Date: 8 Sept 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps Vincent Lun | **Topic:** Who's the Boss | **Scripture:** Joshua 5:13-15, Ruth 4:1-10

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Commit to be on God's side and let Him be the Boss in all situations
2. Be prepared to give up our rights and submit to God's ways

SERMON SUMMARY

The most important question we must ask during times of transition and uncertainty is "Who's the Boss?" And to make Him the Boss, we need to *be on His side* and *submit to His ways*.

SERMON RECAP

Ps Vincent shared a timely message for us as we grapple with the future direction of RiverLife.

More important than asking what the future holds is asking Who holds the future. More important than asking where we are going is asking Who we are following. The most important question we must ask during times of transition and uncertainty is "Who's the Boss?"

To make God the Boss, we need to:

1. Be on God's side

In **Joshua 5:13-14**, Joshua asked the Commander of the Lord's army, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" Joshua was in fact asking, "Whose side are you on?" But this was the wrong question. Instead of answering him, the Lord said (in paraphrase), "I am not here to take sides. I am here to take over."

Joshua's focus was on the immediate, i.e. to conquer Jericho. But God's eyes are set on His will for Israel, i.e. to be the salt and light to the world. To ask the right questions, we cannot posture ourselves for battle like Joshua did. We must prostrate ourselves in worship. We cannot be in a fight mode; we must be in a worship mode.

2. Submit to His ways

In **Joshua 5: 15**, the Commander of the Lord's army told Joshua to take off his sandals. In **Ruth 4:1-10**, a relative took off his sandals to give to Boaz so he could redeem Naomi and Ruth. And in **Exodus 3:5**, God told Moses to remove his sandals at the burning bush. Removing sandals is a sign of giving up our rights and submitting to God – an act of humility and respect, and a recognition of our own unworthiness in the presence of God.

To submit to God is to give up our own rights. Is God calling us to give up our perceived rights about the situation we are in? Will we give up our rights to be right, to be heard, to be understood? When we do, we are saying to God: "Now You are the Boss of my life and of this church."

When we are willing to take God's side, lay down our rights, and submit to His ways, we will be surprised by what God can do next.

"Most people want Jesus as a consultant rather than a King, and He does not come that way." - Timothy Keller

Discussion Questions

1. Ps Vincent encourages us to “be on God’s side”. What does that practically look like as we go through this transition as a church family?

Leader’s Notes

Seasons of transitions and valleys are unavoidable in the church family life. In times like these, our human nature pushes us to be angry and to take sides. Being on God’s side means surrendering the whole situation to the Lord and to acknowledge that God is still sovereign, and He still loves the church. Therefore, the right response to that is one of worship – recognising that God’s ways are higher.

Note: Cell members may still be grappling with Ps Ben’s transition and may have questions. It is ok to allow them to share their struggles. However, the cell session should not descend into a time of making judgments and airing of frustrations that may stumble other cell members. So, the cell leader should still maintain control over the discussion. While allowing cell members to share openly, place boundaries on the sharing so that it does not descend into a time of gossip and condemnation which may stumble others.

Transition

It is normal for us to go through transitions in life and in the church family. How we respond matters, as that sets the atmosphere within the Body of Christ. Do we want an atmosphere which allows God to work, or an atmosphere that limits God’s work? As Christ’s disciples, not only must we take up a posture of worship, but we are also to die to ourselves and take up His cross.

2. What are some rights you believe you have in this situation (e.g. the right to know, the right to question, the right to get angry, etc.) that you find difficult to give up? What small steps can you take to let them go in His grace, and let God be the Boss?

Leader’s Notes

A response question to put the lessons from the sermon into practice. Again, ensure the cell that what’s shared in the cell remain in the cell. But if anyone wants to speak to a particular pastor or elder in confidence, you may help to make the necessary arrangements.

Leaders Resource: *So, Your Pastor Resigned: 7 Things Your Church Needs To Do Immediately* by Carey Nieuwhof

Transition

It is only when we let go of our rights (removing our sandals) that God is able to do exceedingly and abundantly more than we can ask or think during this difficult season.

3. How can we help the cell community to thrive during this season of transition?

Leader’s Notes

During this season, it is so easy for us to focus on the issues at hand and not on what truly matters. Even though we are going through a season of transition as a church, God still desires to work in our lives and in our cell community. Therefore, we all play a part to help this cell community to move forward and even thrive in the midst of the storm.

Some practical things that your cell can do for each other are: praying regularly with one another, spurring one another on, etc.

Closing

Remind the cell that every person is important, and that every question is important, but the most important question is to ask, Who’s the Boss? The God who loves us through Calvary. The God who is in total control of every situation. And the God who is always good come what may. Let’s continue to be grateful for what God has done and will do through RiverLife.

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Thank God for His goodness in our lives
- Pray that God will reveal to us any resistors of gratitude and work in our lives

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church, as we navigate through this season of transition. Pray for our leaders (pastors, elders, senior leadership team, etc.) to abide in Christ as they work together as one to move the church forward to fulfil our vision and mission.
- Pray for our upcoming mission trips:
 - *19-23 Sep: Medical Mission Trip to Sarangani, Philippines*
 - 25 RiverLifers are involved in this medical mission to Blaan tribal people who have limited access to medical service as they live in remote villages. Beyond physical health, the team will also care for the mental and spiritual needs of the people, using this opportunity to usher them into relationship with Christ and help them experience His power.
 - Prayer Pointers:
 - Safety & Protection: Pray for safety and protection as the team and the Blaan people travel through daunting terrains with river crossing.
 - Wisdom & Guidance: Pray that doctors will provide accurate diagnosis and for team members to provided efficient support.
 - Love & Compassion: Pray for God's love and compassion to be demonstrated to the patients and their families, as well as within the team.
 - Harvest of Souls: Pray for God's power to be expressed through miracles, signs & wonders.
 - Healing and Restoration: Pray for physical, mental and emotional healing upon every patient.
 - Team Unity: Pray for unity and collaboration among the medical team and the local pastors as we work together to serve the Blaan tribe. Pray for unity of heart and mind as we serve the Lord wholeheartedly echoing Ephesians 6:7 "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people."
 - Community Impact: Pray that the medical mission has a positive impact on the community, building trust and relationships.
 - *22-26 Sep: Media Training for Christian Broadcast Network Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City*
 - Two of our staffs, Joash & Zhiyang, will be conducting training for the team at Christian Broadcast Network Vietnam.
 - Prayer Pointers:
 - The team will be able to train and guide CBN team effectively.
 - Divine wisdom and creativity to minister and collaborate.
 - Good health and effective ministry/training and safe travel.
 - CBN Media team to grow a deeper love for Jesus and His church, and gain understanding of the spiritual direction for the nation.
 - Both RiverLife and CBN team to catch God's heart for Vietnam.
 - *26-30 Sep: Ministry Trip to Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam*
 - A team of 12 will continue to build relationship with local churches and organisations in the city. They will minister and pray for spiritual breakthroughs, healing and salvation in the local communities.
 - Prayer Pointers:
 - For an outpouring of God's Spirit upon the land and its people. For the Lord to soften the ground where living waters will flow.
 - For the people that we will be ministering to – to have an open heart and teachable spirit so that that they may receive the Father's love and healing, and be filled and baptised by the Holy Spirit.

- For journey mercy over the team as they travel to and around Vietnam and that they will be effective when they minister God's love and power.
- For the team to be sharp in hearing and being led by the Holy Spirit.
- For leaders serving locally to gain a deeper love for Jesus and His church, and a sure understanding of the spiritual direction for their generation and the nation.

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. Bangladesh – Flooding
 - b. Vietnam – Super Typhoon Yogi
- 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.

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. **Current Sermon Series: Encouragement for The Journey Ahead. 1, 8 & 15 Sep.** Our hearts can grow weary and be filled with questions in times of change. When parts of our lives get shaken, how can we make sense of what is happening and respond in a way that honours God? While we wait upon the Lord for answers and clarity, we find rest in knowing that He is unchanging, in control and remains faithful. As we hear what the Lord has placed on the hearts of three good friends of RiverLife, may we be encouraged for the journey ahead.

- 1 Sep: Dr Philip Lyn (Senior Pastor of Skyline SIB in Sabah, Malaysia)
- 8 Sep: Pastor Vincent Lun (Senior Pastor of Kingdom Community Church)
- 15 Sep: Pastor William Lee (Former Senior Pastor of Bartley Christian Church)

Missions Emphasis Weeks 22 & 29 Sep

2. **Water Baptism Class.** Sat, 5 Oct | 9am to 3.30pm Conference Room (Level 2). If you desire to take the step of faith to be water-baptised, do join our baptism class to understand the significance and importance of baptism.

- Registration: rlc.sg/baptism-class (Closing Date: Tue, 1 Oct).
- Enquiries: Karen Koh (karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).

Note:

- Participants will have a one-hour lunch break at own expense.
- Our upcoming Water Baptism Service will be held on Sun, 10 Nov at 2pm.

3. **RiverLife Kindergarten 2025 Enrolment Now Open.** RiverLife Kindergarten is a Christian preschool that nurtures joyful learners. Registration for 2025 is now open.

- Playgroup (born in 2023 from 18 months onwards)
- Pre-Nursery (born in 2022)
- Nursery (born in 2021)
- Kindergarten 1 (born in 2020)
- Kindergarten 2 (born in 2019)

Note:

For enquiries, please call 6511 4168 or email us at office@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg.

Visit our website at riverlifekindergarten.org.sg to find out more about our programmes and curriculum.

4. **Bible Equipping Sessions – Numbers: Wandering in Light of the Gospel, Refining Our Faith through the Test of Life**

While its title refers to the two censuses taken in the wilderness, the Book of Numbers is really about the people of Israel being caught between the wonderful promises of God and the harsh realities of life as they wandered through the wilderness for thirty-eight years. In the book, the complex story of Israel's unfaithfulness and rebellion is set against the backdrop of God's faithfulness and patience. How will the people react to the challenging circumstances right before their eyes? And how will they respond to God's discipline? Behind all the hardships and grumblings lie God's ultimate intent to "humble and test" the people, and through this, to refine their faith in Him (Deuteronomy 8:2-5). **This series comprises 4 sessions:**

- Session 1: Fri, 6 Sep, 8-10 pm
- Session 2: Sun, 8 Sep, 11.30 am-3.30 pm (with lunch break)
- Session 3: Fri, 13 Sep, 8-10 pm
- Session 4: Sun, 15 Sep, 11.30 am-3.30 pm (with lunch break)

5. 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

6. **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)

7. **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: 5 Oct, 2 Nov, 14 Dec (Christmas Outreach)

2. **Caleb Ministry (For Seniors).** Caleb Ministry is part of our ongoing churchwide discipleship efforts, and aims to encourage, equip, and empower our seniors to live an abundant life (John 10:10) in their autumn years.
Gathering Dates: 15 Sep, 12 Oct, 9 Nov, 14 Dec

3. **RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: [rlc.sg/rpr-watch](https://t.me/rlc.sg/rpr-watch))
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: [rlc.sg/revivenights](https://t.me/rlc.sg/revivenights))

We encourage you to set aside every Wednesday for a time of fasting.

4. **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>September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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 • 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

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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