

**Date:** 29 Sep 2024 | **Speaker:** Ps. Joachim Tan | **Topic:** Let Us Not Ignore the Great Commission  
**Scripture:** Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:8

## SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Seek to let go of personal hindrances and prioritize God's mission, surrendering to His will and purpose.
2. Have a deeper desire to love God and obey Him, fuelled by a renewed passion to fulfil the Great Commission.
3. Commit to intentional actions, such as prayer, outreach, and discipleship, to extend God's Kingdom locally and globally.

## SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Joachim Tan issues a timely and urgent call for RiverLifers to embrace the Great Commission wholeheartedly. Drawing from **Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:8**, Pastor Joachim reminds the congregation of their responsibility to make disciples of all nations. He emphasizes that this sermon follows the spiritual awakening from the previous week, where many responded to God's call for service. Now, the challenge is to ensure that the Great Commission is not ignored or treated with complacency. He stresses that this call is central to the mission of every believer and must not become something we grow weary of or indifferent to.

1. God has commissioned His Church to fulfil the Great Commission.
2. God has sent the whole Church into the whole world
3. God has empowered His Church so that the world will know His Son.

## SERMON RECAP

Pastor Joachim Tan issues a timely and urgent call to RiverLifers to wholeheartedly embrace the Great Commission, emphasizing its centrality to every believer's mission. Drawing from **Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:8**, he reminds the congregation of their responsibility to make disciples of all nations.

Following last Sunday's powerful testimony from Lam Bao Yan on war-torn Ukraine, many RiverLifers responded to God's call for service. Now, the challenge is to ensure that the Great Commission is not ignored or treated with complacency.

Three Truths About the Great Commission:

1. **God has commissioned His Church:** The task of making disciples rests solely on the Church (**Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-2, 8**). In **1 Timothy 2:3-4**, Paul emphasizes that God desires all people to be saved and come to know the truth. The greatest challenge is not clarity but obedience.

The early disciples understood this mandate clearly, and their lives were transformed by it. They knew Jesus had entrusted them with the greatest mission of their lives, and every fibre of their being was used to fulfil the Great Commission.

2. **God has sent the whole Church into the whole world:** Every believer plays a crucial role in advancing God's Kingdom (**Matthew 28:19-20**). To make converts, some men are needed, but to make disciples, everyone is needed.

In Acts 2, after the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it took one man to convert 3,000 people, but it took the whole church to disciple 3,000 converts. The Church needs:

- Teachers to teach sound theology and doctrines
- Spiritual parents to nurture new Christians
- Evangelists to sharpen the way we share the gospel
- Pastors to care for the flock

Together, the Church demonstrates generosity, servanthood, love, compassion, and forgiveness.

3. **God has empowered His Church:** The Holy Spirit empowers believers to reach the ends of the earth with the gospel (**Acts 1:8**). The disciples knew they were empowered for a greater purpose – not only for spiritual growth but to make disciples of all nations.

Despite trouble and persecution, they did not allow obstacles to stop them (**Acts 7-8, Acts 15**). They did not allow differences and church disputes to hinder the gospel's advancement.

### Response

As time is running short, Pastor Joachim challenges RiverLifers to recognize the empowerment available and overcome obstacles to engaging fully in this mission. He asks, "What is stopping you from obeying the Great Commission?"

John MacArthur's words resonate: "Satan continues his efforts to make sin less offensive, heaven less appealing, hell less horrific, and the Gospel less urgent." May we not fall prey to these tactics.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, Pastor Joachim's sermon served as a powerful reminder of the Church's responsibility to fulfil the Great Commission. May RiverLifers and believers worldwide respond to this call with obedience, unity, and empowerment, proclaiming the good news to all nations.

As we live in the 11th hour, may we prioritize the Great Commission, recognizing its centrality to our mission as believers! May we overcome complacency, embracing the urgent call to make disciples of all nations!

# Discussion Questions

## 1. What do you think is currently hindering you from fully participating in the Great Commission, either personally or as a cell group?

### Leader's Notes

Encourage the group to reflect on both personal and collective obstacles, such as fear, busyness, lack of training, or a misunderstanding of the Great Commission ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)).

Some may feel they don't have the right skills or platform to contribute. Guide the discussion to explore both practical and spiritual barriers ([2 Corinthians 3:5-6](#)). You can prompt them with: "What are some internal (e.g., doubts, insecurities) or external factors (e.g., time, resources) that might be stopping you from engaging in discipleship or evangelism?"

Acknowledge the real challenges but steer the conversation toward solutions and faith in God's empowerment ([Ephesians 2:10](#)).

### Transition

As we have discussed, there are real barriers we face in fulfilling the Great Commission. But let's now consider how we can overcome these challenges, remembering that God has empowered each of us for this mission.

## 2. How can we, as a cell group, intentionally support each other to be more missional in our daily lives?

### Leader's Notes

Encourage the group to think of practical ways they can support one another, both spiritually and tangibly. Here are some ideas:

- Accountability partners: Pair up members to regularly check in and encourage each other in sharing the gospel or discipling someone.
- Prayer focus: Dedicate time during each cell meeting to pray for specific people or groups who need to know Christ ([Colossians 4:2-4](#)).
- Outreach activities: Plan simple outreach events like inviting friends or neighbours to a casual meal or a church service.
- Testimony sharing: Encourage members to share testimonies of how God is working through them in their workplaces, schools, or families.

As Francis Chan says, "*We're not called to find purpose; we're called to align ourselves with God's purpose.*" Use [Hebrews 10:24-25](#) to emphasize the importance of mutual encouragement: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another." Additionally, share [Romans 12:4-5](#) to remind the group of our interconnectedness.

### Transition

As we explore ways to support one another, let's also consider how we can extend our missional impact beyond our cell group.

# Discussion Questions

### 3. How can we, as a cell group, extend our missional impact locally and globally, and what role can mission trips and practical giving play in this endeavour?

#### Leader's Notes

Encourage the group to explore ways to reach beyond their immediate community:

- Local outreach: Workplace relationships ([1 Corinthians 3:9](#)), neighbourhood connections, social media platforms, and local community events.
- Global outreach: Participating in mission trips ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)), supporting missionaries, and praying for nations ([Revelation 7:9](#)).
- Practical giving: Collecting gifts, sponsoring children, or providing disaster relief ([Proverbs 19:17](#), [2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#)).

#### Ask:

- What are some opportunities for our cell group to engage in mission trips?
- How can we support missionaries and organizations already working among unreached peoples?
- What practical gifts can we collect or provide to demonstrate God's love and care to those in need?

Emphasize the importance of being globally minded and practically involved in missions, as stated in [Psalm 2:8](#) and [Matthew 24:14](#).

#### Closing

As we close, remember that being missional is not just local, but global. Let's take small, practical steps together to reach the nations. Whether through prayer, giving, or going, we can each play a part. As we commit to supporting each other, trust that God will provide the strength and opportunities we need to fulfil the Great Commission ([Philippians 4:13](#)).

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 us to embrace and obey the Great Commission, asking God to remove any hindrances that keep us from fully participating in His mission.
- Pray that we will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to boldly share the gospel and make disciples in our daily lives.
- Pray for our cell group, that we will grow closer to God and support each other in becoming more missional, living out our faith with intentionality.
- Pray for our family members, friends, and colleagues who have yet to know Christ, asking God to open their hearts and provide opportunities for us to share His love with them.
- To commit the rest of 2024 to God, trusting Him to work in and through us as we seek to fulfil the Great Commission, both locally and globally.

## 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.

## 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, Hezbollah & Lebanon – For the conflict to end quickly.
- 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
  - c. Indonesia – Landslide at Illegal mine
- Pray for Singapore
  - a. 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. Caleb Ministry. 9am-12.30pm. Sat, 12 Oct. Faith Chapel.** This month, our gathering will focus on learning through play. Through a series of group activities facilitated by Yoong Fook Loy, seniors will discover their God-given identity and purpose. These activities will provide space to process and reflect on our life experiences as we continue to walk with God and serve Him.

Register at [rlc.sg/caleblearnplay](http://rlc.sg/caleblearnplay) by Tue, 8 Oct. A freewill offering will be collected.

For enquiries, please contact Christine at [christinetan@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:christinetan@riverlife.org.sg).

- 2. Celebrating Children's Day as a Family. Sun, 6 Oct. 9am. Worship Centre.** In celebration of Children's Day, we will worship as a family to remember that children are a gift from the Lord and a reward from him (Psalm 127:3). Instead of the usual SuperLife service, our children (0-12 years) will join us in the Worship Centre next Sun, 6 Oct. We're looking forward to see the generations gather to praise God!

*Cradle Roll will be open but there will not be volunteers on duty.*

- 3. 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](http://rlc.sg/rcs-serve24)

- 4. 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](http://rlc.sg/mr) (Capacity: 40 couples. Closing Date: 30 September)
- 5. 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](http://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. The Caleb Ministry gathers on a bi-monthly frequency.

Gathering Dates: 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://rlc.sg/rpr-watch))
- *Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Livestream: [rlc.sg/revivenights](https://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 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
- 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth)

### November

- 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

### December

- 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](https://rlc.sg/9m)
- Provide Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/serve](https://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](https://rlc.sg/missions).

## 3. RiverLife Cares Opportunities.

Enquiries/Registration: [rlc.sg/serve-rlcar](https://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](https://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://rlc.sg/wachannelinvite)

Telegram Channel: [t.me/RiverLifeChurch](https://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.

