

Date: 6 October 2024 | Speaker: Ps Ernie Song | Topic: God of the Generations | Scripture: Various

## SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

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

1. Own their children's spiritual journey and disciple them.
2. Model a beautiful and rewarding Christian life to inspire the next generation.

## SERMON SUMMARY

It is the responsibility of each generation to pass down faith and godly values to the next. Psalm 71:17-18 highlights the importance of parents being the primary spiritual disciplers of their children (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), showing them God's ways so that they can live in His blessings.

There is also a critical need for the older generation to live authentic Christian lives. Many youths today are disconnected from their faith due to the lack of role models and authentic community. Fathers, mothers, and singles should rise up and reclaim the younger generation from worldly influences, modelling lives that demonstrate the fullness of God's love and purpose.

Ultimately, there is hope for the next generation. This is a clarion call to be faithful stewards of our time and influence, creating a legacy that leads the next generation into a robust relationship with Christ.

## SERMON RECAP

### Introduction

**Psalm 71:16-18** – God is a God of generations and every generation has the responsibility to pass on the faith to the next generation.

### 1) Parents are the primary disciplers of their children's spirituality.

- Parents have the responsibility, the sacred task, of passing on your faith to the next generation (**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**). One unique feature of human beings is that we have parents. Parents don't leave their children but has the responsibility to take care of them.
- Parents want what is best for their children and there is no better gift than the gift of faith. **Ephesians 6:1** – God commands children to obey their parents in all things because parents are to teach them God's ways.
- In order for the horizontal relationships in your family to be strong, the vertical relationship must first be strong. You cannot cultivate faith in your children if you do not have faith. If you want your children to have a strong relationship with God, you first must have a strong relationship with God.
- Parents must own the spiritual journey of their children and not leave it to chance or to the church. The church complements the parent's efforts; not replace it.

### 2) The next generation need role models of the Christian life.

- Less than 50% of all marriages in Singapore are categorised as strong. This affected the next generation's view of marriage where only 60% of youths believe in marriage while 40% believe that marriage is not necessary/are against the idea of marriage (*statistics taken from "The Emerging Family" Survey by Focus on the Family, 2024*).
- Why youths/young adults leave the faith?
  - a. They do not see the beauty of the Christian life demonstrated through the lives of believers around them.
  - b. They do not see deep authentic community demonstrated within the church (*taken from the "State of the Church in Singapore" Survey by Salt&Light, 2022 & 2023*).

- They do not see the beauty of our faith - there is no difference between a Christian and a non-Christian in their eyes.
  - Therefore, we must rise up and model to the younger generation how a strong marriage looks like and to show them how beautiful the Christian life is (**1 Corinthians 11:1**). The early church in Acts grew because people outside the church saw how beautiful the Christian life was and wanted it for themselves.
- 3) There is a clarion call from God for men and women in the church to rise up as fathers and mothers and reclaim the generation to come.**
- There is an urgency for spiritual fathers and mothers to rise up and be present for the younger generation.
  - The enemy is attacking families today. Marriages are falling apart and being redefined. Couples are choosing not to get married. The enemy aims to break up families, break up the church, and break up society.
  - God wants us to focus on building strong families so that we can build strong churches. God is bringing a revival for families in the church and in the world today (**Malachi 4:5-6**). We will not allow the enemy to take away our families and relationship.
  - But there is hope! The desired priority of youths today is still the family as opposed to friends (taken from *State of the Family* by Focus on the Family, 2024).
  - Let us rise up to show the next generation how beautiful and rewarding it is to live according to God's ways. Show them how beautiful a marriage and a good family life can be.

# Discussion Questions

## 1. How can parents actively disciple their children in today's world?

### Leader's Notes

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."* - **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

This question invites parents and potential parents to reflect on the call to be primary disciplers, as mentioned in **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**. They can consider how they can live out their faith authentically at home, and how their personal relationship with God impacts their children.

Encourage them to share practical ways to incorporate spiritual conversations into everyday life – whether it's through prayer, Bible reading, or integrating God's values in family decisions and interactions. Discuss the challenges parents face today and how they can depend on God to overcome them.

### Transition

We can learn how to disciple from the great Discipler Himself – Jesus. Parenting, in essence is being Christ to our children.

## 2. Why do you think the enemy is attacking the family now? How can we protect and strengthen our family?

### Leader's Notes

This question invites participants to reflect on why the family is central to God's design and why it is under attack by the enemy. Guide the group to discuss how the breakdown of families can weaken not only individuals but also the church and society as a whole. Explore how marriages, parent-child relationships, and even the concept of family is being redefined and eroded in today's culture.

Encourage members to share biblical insights and practical ways they can protect and strengthen their families – such as prioritising time together, building strong marriages, and cultivating a Christ-centred home – so that their families can stand firm in God and be a role model to the next generation.

### Transition

Don't lose hope! God is bringing revival to families.

## 3. What are some practical ways the older generation can model the Christian life to the younger generation?

### Leader's Notes

*"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."* - **1 Corinthians 11:1**

This question challenges both parents and non-parents to think about how they can live in a way that inspires the younger generation. **1 Corinthians 11:1** calls for Christians to live lives worth imitating. Therefore, explore what it means to model faith not just in church, but in all areas of life – work, relationships, and community.

Encourage members to consider how they can close the gap between their faith and how they are perceived by younger generations. Discuss the importance of authenticity, vulnerability, and deep relationships, especially in family settings, and how these can help the next generation see the beauty of walking with Christ.



# Discussion Questions

## Closing

The next generation needs to see how beautiful being in a relationship with God is. They need people who inspire them by how they live their faith. Therefore, let us all rise up and demonstrate the beauty of our faith by living it out every moment of our lives. May our generation be the footprints for the generations to come.

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 rise up and reclaim the younger generation for Christ.
- Pray that we will imitate Jesus and model a Christ-like life to those around us.

## 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. Taiwan –Typhoon Krathon
  - b. 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.
  - b. Clashes with police in Pakistan

## 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. **Discipleship @ Home (Organised by SuperLife Children's Ministry). For Parents of Primary & Preschool Children.**
  - Primary
    - a. Sun, 3 Nov, 9am-11am. Grace Chapel.
    - b. Cultivating Godly Habits As A Family
    - c. Speaker: Dr Morgan Zhou (Vice Principal of ACS Primary and Chairperson, TRAC Board of Children Ministry, Methodist Church in Singapore)
  - Preschool
    - a. Sun, 17 Nov, 9am-11am. Faith Chapel.
    - b. Building Godly Character In Our Children
    - c. Speaker: Pastor Elaine Kwok (Children's Pastor, Queensway Baptist Church)
  - Sign up to attend: [rlc.sg/dah](https://rlc.sg/dah)
2. **RiverLife Kindergarten Annual Graduation Concert Sat, 9 Nov, 9am to 12pm.**
  - RiverLife Kindergarten will be holding their Annual Graduation Concert this year-end. They're looking for volunteers to serve as:
    - a. Classroom Helpers: Touch up children's hair, take care of them before and after their performances
    - b. Greeters & Ushers: Welcome guests and usher them to their seats
    - c. Stage Helpers: Help in moving children up and down the stairs Volunteers are highly encouraged to be available for a pre-concert rehearsal.
  - Combined Full-dress Rehearsal: Thu, 7 Nov | 8.30am to 12pm | Worship Centre
  - Actual Concert Day: Sat, 9 Nov | 9am to 12pm | Worship Centre
  - **Sign up to serve:**
    - a. Email Oi Leng at [oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg](mailto:oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg)
    - b. Call Linda Chong at 6511 4103
3. **Marriage Retreat. 23-25 Nov.** Do note that the retreat has been cancelled due to poor signup rate. Stay tuned for the upcoming runs of the Marriage Retreat.
4. **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. Your 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](https://rlc.sg/rcs-serve24)
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](https://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: 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.*

<b>Quarter 4</b>
<u>October</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 06 to 20 – Marriage Preparation Course #3</li><li>• 12 Oct – Caleb Ministry Gathering</li><li>• 13 Oct – Discipleship @ Home for Pre-School Parents (Parents Equipping)</li><li>• 16 to 23 Oct – Feast of the Tabernacles</li><li>• 26 Oct – Local Outreach (Youth)</li></ul>
<u>November</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 02 Nov – YA Gathering</li><li>• 7 to 9 Nov – Ministry Orientation Camp for Sec 1s</li><li>• 9 Nov – Caleb Ministry Gathering</li><li>• 10 Nov – Discipleship @ Home for Primary School Parents (Parents Equipping)</li><li>• 10 Nov – Water Baptism Service #3</li></ul>
<u>December</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 14 Dec – YA Christmas Outreach, Caleb Ministry Gathering</li><li>• 19 to 21 Dec – Youth Conference</li><li>• 21-22 Dec – Christmas Outreach Weekend</li></ul>

# 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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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:

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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.

