

Series - -

Date/s - 25 August 2019

Topic - Divine Shifts

Speaker/s - Pastor Ben KC Lee

Welcome [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

www.thesource4ym.com/games/

www.christianitytoday.com/smallgroups/articles/icebreakersbeyond.html < go to LEAD, click on ICEBREAKERS >

Worship [15 min]

You may select songs like “Build My Life”, “Christ Is Enough” or “Jesus At The Centre”.

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the cell discussion, cell members will be open to the shifts God is making in the church as well as in their individual lives.

Word [45 min]

This sermon was given on RiverLife’s 28th Anniversary. This is a Word in Season given by Ps. Ben to the church.

Introduction

- We cannot become what we need to become by remaining where we are. Therefore, God needs to shift us as a church and as individuals.
- Divine Shifts are evident throughout the Bible such as in the lives of David, Moses and Saul.
- Shifts in the physical often reflect the shifts in the supernatural.

1. God Knows How To Shift Things Around (Isaiah 43:19)

- God shifted the Israelites out of Egypt.
- Out of seasons of turmoil and pain in RLC, God did a new work and established the Bartley Family of Churches. This is His divine shift.
- In this season, God is shifting us again to return to the heart of discipleship within the cells.
- God knows what He is doing and this is our assurance when He shifts things around.

2. God’s Ability To Shift Us Is Greater Than Our Failure And Lack (Philippians 1:6)

- As individuals and as a church, we all have setbacks, hurts, failures and disappointments. We must allow God to shift us out of the regret of these disappointments and hurts if we want to flow with God’s divine shifts.
- We must submit ourselves to God’s transformation work personally, spiritually and professionally.
- What God started, He will bring it to completion until the day of Christ. (Phil. 1:6)

3. God Is Shifting Us Into Position (Philippians 4:13)

- God’s shifting is purposeful – it’s to position us to be ready for seasons of tribulations (esp. for His return).
- Sometimes, a divine shift looks like chaos, setbacks and even defeat. This is when we must not panic because He is shifting us into position.

- We must allow God to shift us into position – to build stronger marriages, to build healthier cells and families, etc. It is only then that we can be ready for His return and the tribulations that will follow.

Conclusion

- Life with God requires changes.
- We need to make a spiritual shift – to personalize our commitment to the church (e.g., this is my church, not just my parent’s church).
- We need to make a mental shift – renew our minds, and to let go of old mindsets for the season ahead.
- We need to make an emotional shift – to move towards emotional health / to let go of anything (anger, hurts, withdrawal because of hard truths) that can create distance between us and our cell/church communities. We must move towards investing emotionally in our marriages, families and cells.

Discussion Questions

1. **Share with the group your RiverLife story. How did you end up in RiverLife and what are some of the most significant experiences/events you have participated in?** [15 min]

Leader’s Notes: *This is a relate question. We all have unique journeys and significant moments in RiverLife. By sharing with one another our journeys and significant moments, we will be able to trace the fingerprints of God not only upon our lives, but also upon our church. These should be celebrated and savored as a group.*

2. **Read Isaiah 43:19. Ps. Ben shared that God is in the process of divinely shifting us into position. What are some shifts that you have/are experiencing in your life in this season? What are some shifts God is challenging you to make in this season? What are some obstacles you experience towards these shifts?** [15 min]

Leader’s Notes: *This is a personal reflection question. This question can be used to unite the various journeys of the individuals within our cells into one common path – a path of divine shifts. God is shifting the various ones of us in this season. It is important for us to recognize the work of God in our lives and to see corporately that we are not alone in our journey. God is shifting all of us individually and corporately.*

God is also challenging different ones of us to undergo a shift in the various aspects of our lives. Ps. Ben shared that God’s shifting is for a purpose – to get us into position for the spreading of the Gospel and for end times. Encourage your members to share what these areas are and what their struggles are concerning these shifts. Keep to the specific and not be vague. The shifts can happen in these various areas – mentally (mindsets), emotionally (how we relate with others) and spiritually (lifestyle and purpose).

In the midst of the sharing, some of your members may struggle with these shifts (eg. Coming out of a non-Christian relationship, cutting off a relationship that doesn’t honor God, etc). Encourage them to share openly about their struggles and encourage them through words and prayers to surrender their obstacles to the Lord, drawing their attention to God’s promises in Philippians 1:6 and 4:13.

3. **What is one shift you can make in order to help RLC fulfill its calling as a river of life into this nation and the nations abroad?** [15 min]

Leader’s Notes: *A response question. God is not only shifting us individually for His kingdom. He is shifting*

us corporately as a church for His purposes. Therefore, every one of us as the church has a role to play. Encourage your members to commit to one practical shift that God is calling them to. Some practical shifts that God may be speaking to the various individuals are such as – bless the RiverLife family by using one’s gifts to serve in a ministry, step up to take on certain responsibilities within the cell, coming early for services, to tithe regularly, etc.

Works [10 min]

Let’s pray:

1. Every RiverLifer will be open to the shifts God is doing in their lives and in the church.

Announcement

1 **Marriage Preparation Course**

8, 15, 22, 29 Sep & 6 Oct (Sundays, 1.45pm-5pm) and 12 Oct (Sat, 9am-5pm)

\$260 Per Couple | Faith Chapel, RiverLife Church

Register at the Information Counter by Sun, 1 Sep. For enquiries, please contact Christine Tan at

christinetan@riverlife.org.sg or 65114141

Church Vision:

“A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.”

Mission:

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.