

# One BRMC Small Group Study

## **The Welcome of God's Love**

### Participant's Guide

Please note that this study guide accompanies the pulpit sermon on 08 November 2020.

Scripture Passage:

Isaiah 54:8-10

#### **Context:**

For several years now, all of the 21 churches in the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) observe Conference Sunday to remind the churches of their close family connections as part of the Methodist Church in Singapore and also to pray for the Annual Conference where important decisions will be made and key people will be appointed.



In the TRAC logo, there are 5 connected Ws (the 5Ws of God) forming a star. They stand for Word, Worship, Welcome, Witness, and Wonder. This year, the focus is on the third W – WELCOME – and the message for this Conference Sunday highlights the “welcoming love of God.”

As we embark on this study, may we be reminded of the love of God, our Father in heaven. May we truly grasp His welcoming love – a love that is steady, never-ending and tender-hearted. May we also be compelled to love others the same way and desire to be part of a church that ripples welcoming gestures of love especially in these difficult times.

#### Introductory

1. In Isaiah 54:8, how are God's anger and God's love described in terms of duration? How are they different?
  
2. In Isaiah 54:9-10, the Lord spoke about an earlier event in biblical history. What is this particular event? How does this part of history encompass God's nature that shows holy anger but is also loving and compassionate?

## Reflection

3. In some cases, one's relationship with his/her earthly father affects how he/she views God as a Father. For example, growing up with a father who gets angry more than he shows love and compassion, may make one think, somehow, that God as our heavenly Father, is the same. In understanding the nature of God from the responses to Q1 and Q2, how would you describe God as your heavenly Father? Is He the same as our earthly fathers?
  
4. Rev Dr Gordon Wong, in his sermon, mentioned that he hopes for people to find the Methodist churches in Singapore welcoming and loving. Can we describe BRMC as a welcoming church?

## Application

5. Having understood the welcoming, Father-like love of God from the previous questions, how might you extend this kind of love to other people in practical terms, today? A love that, as Rev Dr Gordon Wong says, is "not just sweet love, but strong, steady love, a love that is permanent and compassionate."
  - (a) within BRMC or TRAC churches?
  
  - (b) within small groups in BRMC?
  
  - (c) outside the church, in the society?

## Prayer

6. Write out a prayer for yourself based on what you have heard and learned from this session.
  - (a) What is in your heart for yourself?
    - Perhaps you need God's help to understand deeper His welcoming, Father-like love.

“Almighty Father, grant me the grace to fully realize how I can come to You as my heavenly Father. Remove from my heart any tinge of doubt that may hinder me from enjoying Your great and tender-hearted love. Teach me to walk in Your ways, that I may love as You have loved me, that I may show compassion just as how You have shown Your compassion towards me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

(b) What is in your heart for others?

- Perhaps you feel led to pray for Trinity Annual Conference:

Suggested prayer pointers:

- Pray for the leaders
- Pray for its ministries
- Pray for the 21 churches, that all will be found exhibiting God’s welcoming love
- Pray also for the TRAC Conference, 23-26 Nov, as they meet to elect a new President, and to also appoint pastors to the churches for 2021.

It is always useful to collate these prayers and to refer to them for thanksgiving and sharing next week.