

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

1 & 2 APRIL 2023 "PRAISE" LUKE 19.35-40, HEBREWS 13.15

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

- 1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/).
- 2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
- 3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (Who? What? When? Why? How?);
 - b. Application / Transformation (So what? What action should I take?

 Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc)
- 4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group's current context and present stage in life.
- 5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

2. Hebrews 13:15 calls us to "continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God . . . the fruit of lips." In what way/s are you practising this in your daily life? Learn from one another and encourage each other to start (or continue with) the discipline of praise and thanksgiving on a day-to-day basis.

- 3. Read Job 1:13-21 and 1 Thessalonians 5.16-18.
 - a) Has there been a difficult season in your life when you came close (or had to) pray these words from Job? How easy or difficult was it for you to have praised God in that challenging period? To what extent was it "costly" for you to have praised God during that tough time?
 - b) To what extent are the practices described in the Thessalonians passage a regular part of your life? Describe a time when practising the discipline of praise helped you to overcome life's challenges.

Sidebox The Disciplines of the Holy Spirit which Transform Us

Our call as God's children and disciples of Christ is to love God and love our neighbours faithfully as how Jesus demonstrated in his earthly ministry. The spiritual disciplines covered in the sermon series are "means of grace" that the Holy Spirit uses to empower us in living out this Great Commandment. We once had hearts of stone, but are now changed by the Good News of the grace of Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence and in-working (transformation) in our lives.

"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you, and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances." - Ezekiel 36:26-27

"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." - Jeremiah 31:33

4. Of the six disciplines—Fasting, Listening, Solitude, Generosity, Prayer, and Praise—which comes most naturally to you, and which do you find the most difficult to practice? Take turns to share.

Prayer Items

- 5. Take time and take turns to praise God, despite the difficult circumstances of your lives. If need be, use the psalms (e.g. Psalm 30, 42, or 63) to help you.
- 6. <u>Mutual prayer</u>. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.