



Lively Stones | PETER 2:5

Holding forth the word of life

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The Adults Department

Introduction

Many years ago, a friend of mine started work with a Japanese company. After working for a few months, he lamented that during his school days, he should have learned the Japanese language. He found it very frustrating not being able to communicate with his colleagues and immediate superior who happened to be Japanese. He could not understand their thinking.

In many ways, we Christians faced the same problem. We become frustrated not knowing the will of God in our lives. We do not know how to communicate with our Heavenly Father because we do not know what is the Mind of God.

How do we know what is God's will and His thinking? Just like my friend who needed to study the language of his superior, we need to understand the thinking of our Lord. We can find the answers in the bible. God reveals His character and His thinking in the bible.

The Need to Study

The Holy Scripture exhorts us:-

2Tim 2:15: Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2Tim3:16-17: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and

upon thy gates: Deu 11:18-20

Fundamentals of Christian Faith

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 1 Peter 2:2

The Adult Sunday School, is designed to provide a platform for those who wish to learn and understand the basic beliefs of Christianity. These classes are suitable for adults who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and who wish to be grounded in their faith. The classes cover the basic doctrines of the bible and focuses on "Fundamentals of Christian Faith".

Class Size

There is a class for everyone, as the classes are structured to cater to meet your preference.

Those who wish to learn in a "lecture" environment, Class 1 at the main sanctuary is recommended.

You will notice apart from the class 1 (*see table on page 4*), held at the sanctuary, to cater to those who learn best in a lecture environment, the rest of the classes are intentionally kept small to enable active individual participation and edification. These classes allow every Christian to ask questions and clarify their doubts concerning their beliefs and what the Bible teaches. Two-way communication and active participation are useful to many of us who want to know many new things as revealed in the Bible.

Conclusion

Dear brethren, this is a personal invitation by the staff of the Adult Sunday School to appeal to you, challenge yourself to attend a Sunday School class. It will profit you in your

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Announcements



1. Due to Safety issues, Beulah House is closed until further notice. The **YOUNG TEENS & SENIOR Departments** are to attend the adults class at the **main sanctuary TODAY (25 June 2006)**.
2. All SS students are to check out the **Special Relocation Lively Stones** issue next week for an updated class location list.

Being Sensitive to Brethren Who Are Single

We live in an age where efficiency is the catchphrase of many. Sometimes, in our hectic schedules, we become rather impatient. We have no time to listen to others; much less care about their feelings. In the midst of such a busy lifestyle, we do not have the time and patience to nurture a sensitive spirit to other people, their feelings and circumstances. The question to ask ourselves today is: "Have we become callous creatures, heedless of the feelings of others?" Let us examine ourselves and if we are at fault, let us take steps to correct our attitude and behaviour.

How can we be sensitive to the singles in our church? As usual, I always like to define the terms first:

To be sensitive is to be susceptible to the attitudes, feelings, or circumstances of others.

The word "single" means "not married or related to the unmarried state". I would include not just bachelors and spinsters in this category. In fact, I would include the divorced and widowed as well as single parents.

The following scenes are fictitious but may bear some resemblance to actual events in your life or those of others.

Scene 1: The Single Lady

May Lee was feeling like the odd one out. Here she was talking to a Christian couple but they seem to have eyes for only each other.

"As I was saying..." May Lee continued, feeling as though she was speaking to no one in particular. The couple were too lost in their own world.

On another occasion while surrounded by Christian brethren, May Lee was asked point-blank why she was still unattached. May Lee felt embarrassed by the question and could not come up with an appropriate response to it.

Scene 2: The Depressed Divorcee

Mrs Yee was extolling the virtues of her husband who was a good provider, a loving father and a faithful husband to her recently-divorced friend, Mdm Tan. Mdm Tan, who had divorced her husband for infidelity, was wishing she could crawl into a hole where she could indulge in her own misery.

Scene 3: The Grieving Widow

Grieving Flora could not hold back her tears of frustration as well-meaning friends began rattling off a list of things she should do for her fatherless children only two days after her husband was laid to rest.

Scene 4: The Single Parent

"How did your son fare in the PSLE last year?" Mrs Wong asked single mother, Patsy. Patsy was at a loss for words - she had tried to avoid such questions after the PSLE results were disclosed a few days ago. Apparently, she had not been successful.

"So, how did he do?" Mrs Wong persisted, breaking into Patsy's stupor.

"Ugh, he did alright." Patsy managed to say.

"I mean, what's his T-score?" Mrs Wong specified, thinking Patsy had misunderstood her question.

"It's 180," a red-faced Patsy finally revealed.

Could you identify with any of the characters in the scenes above? You may have been the "victim" or the "villain" in the fictional accounts above. If you had behaved like one of the "villains", how can you be more sensitive to the feelings of others?

Listen More, Speak Less

Proverbs 13:3 says that "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin." James admonishes us in James 1:19, to "be swift to hear, slow to speak". An ancient once said that "Men have two ears, and but one tongue, that they should hear more than they speak". Let us heed these instructions and do our utmost to hear others out. When we listen to them, we will be less willing to dispense our so-called gems of wisdom.

Show Empathy

The Bible says in Matthew 7:12 that "whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." The same injunction is repeated in Luke 6:31: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise". This is the Golden Rule. It means putting yourself in the shoes of others. How would you feel if you were either the "single lady", the "depressed divorcee", the "grieving widow" or the "single parent" in the narratives? If you feel wretched, imagine how those people feel?

Being Sensitive to Brethren Who Are Single

Reflect On Your Words/Actions

I must admit my fair share of mistakes in being insensitive to the feelings and needs of others. When I reflected on past incidents where I was the “villain” in the piece, I recall my words or actions which may have hurt others. I then tried to make amends or an apology depending on what the offence warranted. We must be sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. As the Psalmist says in **Psalm 119:59**: “I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.” **2 Corinthians 13:5a**

admonishes us to “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.”

In conclusion, brethren, let us imitate our Lord Jesus Christ who is no stranger to sufferings and humiliation. He is sensitive to our feelings and circumstances and knows our very thoughts.

Sharing by
Sister Song Ching

The Adults Department— Testimonies

Dear Brethren,

Have you ever wondered what is stopping you from attending Sunday school?

I have been attending Mrs. Chew’s Sunday school sessions for almost two years. I must testify that I have been blessed by the many lessons. So far, we studied Ephesians, The Ten Commandments, and now we are studying on the Book of Matthew. I had studied these books in previous bible study groups, but God’s word is so rich that I never fail to discover more gems when I study them again (Romans 11:33). And I thank God for granting Mrs. Chew the strength and perseverance to prepare the lessons so that we can all benefit from them.

Discipline is required to attend Sunday school regularly and sacrifice some sleep on Sunday mornings. And not forgetting there is homework to do! But you can always treat the preparation of questions as part of your quiet time with God. The Sunday school session is an effective way to clear any doubts in understanding God’s word, since we have studied the same passage and are able to discuss it. Sunday school attendance is not compulsory. However I always remind myself if I can attend school as a student without fail, why can’t I put the same practice in attending Sunday school?

Are you undecided in which Sunday school class to go to?
Are you afraid that you may feel uncomfortable in the group?

There are people who ask me if I feel comfortable in my Sunday school; wouldn’t it be easier to attend Sunday school in the sanctuary where you can just be on your own? On the contrary, it is from Sunday school I get to know people from the church instead of restricting myself to the circle of YAF friends. They are people from different age groups and different walks of life. They are people whom I do not even know they exist in church if not for Sunday school!

During each Sunday school session, we do not only study the bible verses. We share with one another what has happened throughout the week. I may not encounter the exact same trials as some do, but I am always encouraged by how they trust and depend on God to solve their problems.

Dear brethren, what are you waiting for? Hope my short sharing may encourage you to take the step of faith to attend Sunday school. Let us pray that we have a voracious appetite in studying the bible which is God’s love letters to us, so that we might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God (Col 1:10)

Daisy Tan

I thank God for the opportunity to study God’s word at Sunday school with sis Shirley Chew teaching us the book of Matthew currently.

Ours is a small class of about 7 to 10 ladies of various ages. This gives us the opportunity to discuss, seek clarification and share our experiences on how God’s word is working in our lives.

Sunday school is one way to help me come for a closer walk with The Lord.

Praise God!
Christina Ho

The Adults Department

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sanctification process as you get to know our Saviour more and more each day. He wants us to know Him more intimately each day.

The Church of Jesus Christ is in dire need for obedient children of God to serve Him. In order to serve Him, we must know His commandments and His will. May we avail ourselves to the listening of His Word; for faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

May the Lord find us faithful in active obedience to seek and to study His Word.

May God bless you richly. Amen.

Ong Beng Hong
Adults Department
Superintendent

Class	Teacher	Location	Topic	Student
Class 1	Eld Ng Beng Kiong	Main Sanctuary	Joshua	Mixed
Class 2	Mrs Shirley Chew	To be confirmed	Matthew	Ladies
Class 3	Ms Leong Sow Mun	Reference Library	Study of Holy Spirit	Ladies
Class 4	Dr Khoo Hock Seng	Piano Room	Ephesians	Mixed
Class 5	Dn John Ching	MF Room	Experiencing God	Men
Class 6	Dn Victor Loo Dn David Tan	Cry Room Kitchen	Fundamental of Christian Faith	Mixed

Testimonies

Our class is led by Mrs Shirley Chew in Beulah House. I joined this class last year after I learnt of it through the Sunday School promotion. I am very happy to be in Mrs Chew's class because I have learnt a lot from Mrs Chew, from both her lessons and through the sharing of her life.

Mrs Chew gives clear exposition from God's Word. Before going into the study of a book, Mrs Chew will give us the background of it and then draw us into the insightful pictures of Jesus' times. This has opened my understanding and makes me understand why the Scripture speaks in such a way. Through her verse by verse explanation, I also see how the links are drawn, how prophecies are fulfilled in the New Testament and how to apply God's words in our daily lives.

Mrs Chew is a godly woman and a living example of the doctrine she professes. In her open and frank sharing with us, she led us to see how our compassionate God delivers His children from difficulties whenever we humbly submit to Him. The sufferings we went through always turn out to be a blessed and invaluable experience.

Attending Sunday School is a blessing for me because I feel encouraged and recharged for the week ahead. I thank God for Sunday School and for Mrs Chew's time and effort in teaching us.

Tan Choy Foong

Sunday School is a great place for learning God's word. We have just completed studying the Ten Commandments in Mrs Shirley Chew's class. The Ten Commandments encompasses every aspect of our life. We learnt that there is only One God and we should be careful not to let other 'gods' creep into our lives. In class, we also learnt what it meant to honour our parents and how to conduct ourselves in our daily living. Studying God's word helps us, as the psalmist said "thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Ps 119:105.

Most importantly we have to maintain a proper condition of our heart because out of it are the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23).

I encourage every Lifer to attend Sunday School. Life Church have many different classes, surely there is one that will minister to your needs.

Chew Kim Hong

