



IGNITING PASSION

PREACHING AND TEACHING RESOURCES



◆ IGNITING PASSION ◆ EQUIPPING PEOPLE ◆ ALIGNING PURPOSE ◆

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The following are some topics and series we have developed in the past, which you may wish to consider inviting us to speak on:

BOOK “ENDURING CHURCH GROWTH” – RELATED SERIES

Each title represents a single sermon, and may be a standalone or as part of the stated series.

CHURCH GROWTH-RELATED

1. A CHURCH THAT PREVAILS (MATTHEW 16:13-20)

Christ has mandated a church that prevails, that “the gates of hell cannot stand”. Yet, are our churches growing today? In truth, together with that mandate, Christ has also stated a few pre-conditions for growth. Are we living out these pre-conditions to help grow our church?

2. A BIBLICALLY FUNCTIONING COMMUNITY (ACTS 2:42-47)

A healthy building has strong, robust pillars. A healthy church requires healthy pillars of ministry, ministries that are evident in the church and in the hearts of her people. Come and learn what the healthy pillars are that we must grow in... and never give up on becoming all that God intended for us to be!

DISCIPLESHIP-RELATED

GROWING UP...

1. SIGH OR INSIGHT? (MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23)

Have you been 'sighing' when it comes to spiritual growth? What are blocks and difficulties that frustrate you in spiritual growth? Jesus gives insight to 3 common blocks that frustrate spiritual growth in many people's lives. Are these blocks in your life? Come and discover these blocks and remove them from your lives!



CHURCHLIFE RESOURCES
Registered Address: 35 Selegie Road #09-14/15 Parklane Shopping Mall Singapore 188307 UEN: 53230761E
Email: admin@churchlife-resources.org

2. HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GROW? (JOHN 4:31-38)

There are growth factors that help a child stay healthy and grow well. Likewise there are also spiritual growth factors wired into the spiritual life that help us grow well spiritually. How much do you really want to grow? Come and discover the growth factors that Jesus himself used for his own spiritual life, and add them to your life!

SERVING-RELATED

A SERVING HEART

1. ATTITUDES OF THE GIFTED PART 1 (1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11)

The “spiritual gift” is the mysterious interface between heaven and earth in the dynamic of God’s work. What heaven desires, the spiritual gift expresses. Come and learn more about your spiritual gift and how heaven is expressed through it!

2. ATTITUDES OF THE GIFTED PART 2 (1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31)

The “spiritual gift” is more than a heavenly expression; it is God’s very heart to do a deep work in your life and the life of others. There is divine blessing and guidance when we grow in our gifts. Come and learn these dynamics of the gifted life!

3. WHEN GOD CALLS A SERVANT (EXODUS 3-4)

When serving with gifts bring pain, discouragement, conflict and disillusionment—that is when God truly begins to do His deep work. Come and learn what God seeks to do when He calls a “servant of the living God”, and don’t give up on God’s call upon your life!

SPECIFIC ISSUE-RELATED

The following sermons are standalones.

ARMOR-BEARING

God can do a mighty work, through many or through few—if that few is a united team of leaders and followers. There is an anointing for followers to uphold leaders and peers in a way that increases the leader’s anointing and enable the work of God. Come and learn some dynamics of this “armor-bearing” ministry. Perhaps God is calling you to be an Armor-Bearer!

SEVERE-SHEPHERDING-GOD’S HEART FOR PASTORAL DISCIPLINE

(1 CORINTHIANS 5)

Discipline is the extreme end of loving people and shepherding them in God’s purposes. It is a necessary part of God’s plan and should not be avoided in a healthy, growing church. We must all be open to God’s love through discipline in our lives. Come and discover how God loves you enough to discipline as part of our growth...

THE MEASURE OF A CHURCH’S “LEADERSHIP-QUOTIENT”

(1 TIMOTHY 3:1-5)

When God measures a mature church, He measures the degree to which every member wants to be like Christ and to make impact for Christ. This is the mark of a spiritual leader – to influence others for Jesus. What does this “leadership quotient” look like? How can we grow in it? Come and be surprised that God wants to stir this quotient in you!

WE CAN’T GET ALONG...WE CAN’T CHANGE THE WORLD

Osborn, writer for Leadership Journal, once said, “...we are not going to change the world out there when we can’t get along in here...” When God wants to do something in your church, spiritual warfare will ensure that unity is attacked and threatened. What are some pillars for unity? What can we learn in the dynamics of getting along with one another? Come and learn to grow deeper relationships as we work with one another.

WOMEN MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Women today have it good they say.

But do we agree? We know too well that having options does not mean we live better and stronger lives that have point others towards eternity.

What is God’s point of view?

How do we as Christian women live out our identity and calling; we who often felt torn in different directions and by competing demands.

Jenni has spoken to groups of women in various settings over these real and important issues including:

1. *How to shine where you are - lessons from the Lampstand in the Tabernacle*
2. *Beyond balance - from guilt-driven to Grace-carried*

3. *Becoming our true, best selves*
4. *Bonds that free*
5. *From fear to faith and freedom*
6. *Leading as women, working with men*

These themes can also be explored in a retreat setting which will bring together teaching, personal reflection and quiet, group sharing and prayer ministry.

Retreats are also good for going deeper; and Jenni has two themes she would love to take the group on:

I. ...Becoming Women of Substance, Conviction and Strength

A time to look back and into our lives, to face our challenges and to learn the posture that brings resilience, grace and power for our daily lives and major moments.

II. Growing Strong in the Broken Places

To understand, examine and consider your life's journey and the pains it has brought to enable each woman to rise from the ashes to receive her garment of praise.

Regular, persistent prayer is requisite preparation by the leaders.

MARKETPLACE-RELATED

JOSEPH—NAVIGATING TRANSITIONS IN LIFE

“Change” often seems like a bad thing. “Transitions” is a politically correct word for that same...bad... thing. But it happens to all of us:

- Leaving school, entering the marketplace, coping with a new rhythm and way of life. Are we prepared?
- Rising the corporate ladder, pressured by money, power and family. Will we succeed?
- Changing a job, re-training for another position, retrenched. Will we survive?

The Bible tells us that “transitions” are a way of life, that “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...” (Eccl 3:1). But more importantly, it tells us that God moves with us through our transitions. He often uses them to build us and position us into the things of God...if we will believe in Him.

The transition that Joseph went through tells us exactly that!

The Person God Moves With... (Genesis 37, 39:1-2)

Does it look like its darkness all around? There is no light; it's nowhere near the end of the tunnel? God is with you! No matter how hurt or betrayed you feel, how difficult it may seem, God is moving with you! He wants to make you into a person of God. He allowed the change to happen to teach you the tenets of a person who lives by calling. Come and discover what these foundational tenets are through Joseph's first transition.

The Person God Favors... (Genesis 39:3-40:23)

Do some things that happen seem like accidents or “bad-luck”? Does it seem like unfortunate circumstance has sabotaged your advance or career? Why did it happen?

Yet, God tells us He wants to give us favor! The Bible says, “every branch that does bear fruit [God] prunes so that it will be even more fruitful...” (John 15:2b) At such times, heart is more important than skill. God wants to build into your heart the things that invite God's favor. Come and learn, through Joseph's 2nd transition, how to be the type of person that invites God's favor!

The Person God Makes Fruitful... (Genesis 41:1-57)

Did you know that you have a “God-ordained positioning” in this world? There is something that God intended for you to achieve in your life that is uniquely you! When you move into that positioning—the result is fruitfulness! God wants this for every person. But God's positioning is often followed by fear and apprehension. Can we make it? Do we have the resilience? Do we have the focus?

Come and learn, through Joseph's 3rd transition, how God positions His loved ones.

Are you fighting or accepting God's positioning today? That is a key to great fruitfulness!

The Person God Transforms.... (Implications of the Entire Joseph Story)

As a person goes through many transitions in life, what is God working in that person's life? Why does God allow it? What is the “plan” behind it?

As we sweep through all of Joseph's transitions in one sitting, you will see the pattern of God's working to transform a man of God. You will see God working to give Joseph something better than Joseph ever thought possible! The challenge for us—will we trust and obey?

Note: It would be helpful to read the relevant passages before the sermon to give you the backdrop of Joseph's story.

DANGEROUS LIAISONS... (SELECTIONS FROM DANIEL 1-6)

What if our environment is full of danger?

What if politics and power rule the day?

How can we navigate these relationships?

Daniel 1-6 is an account of staying true to one's values in dangerous times. It teaches us principles of navigating through:

- Being thrown into unfair circumstances,
- Serving under a wicked boss
- Learning to navigate tense environments
- Responding to difficult policies
- Learning to test what is God's will
- Choosing to pay the price of being a witness for God

In the end, God raised Daniel up for lasting impact in a dangerous environment, working in the midst of dangerous liaisons...and surviving the test.

1. **Daring to be Different... (Daniel 1)**
2. **Shining in Dangerous Times... (Daniel 2)**
3. **Testing of Witness... (Daniel 6)**

GOD KNOWS MY WORK....(Studies from Nehemiah)

Nehemiah was not a prophet, neither a teacher nor pastor. Rather, he was an entrepreneur in the marketplace. Yet there is a book in the Bible solely dedicated to his work project that hold lessons for us, lessons to have an impact that is eternal and leaves legacy.

Come and learn together:

The Contrast... (Nehemiah 1, 2)

People who make a difference...are different.

The Course... (Nehemiah 4, 6)

People of godly purpose finish the course set for them.

The Core... (Nehemiah 7, 8, 13)

People leave legacies because they build to last.

“Remember me for this, O my God...what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services”. (Nehemiah 14:14)

GENERIC BIBLICAL AND TOPICAL RESOURCES

NEHEMIAH: PEOPLE...PASSION...PURPOSE

The heart is a compass when we go through changes and transitions, especially in times of crisis and pressure. In such a time of crisis, Nehemiah felt the burden to build the walls of Jerusalem. Through that, God not only used him to do a mighty work, God also shaped his heart, and the hearts of His people.

Through looking at Nehemiah, we will learn to:

- *Have a heart for the right attitudes*
- *Have a heart for God's purposes*
- *Have a heart for God's people*
- *Have a heart for sustained fruitfulness*

God's Jerusalem today is His people-the church. God is looking for people to build the walls of the lives of His people. Come and learn to be the kind of person God uses to build up His people, a person with a passion for God's purposes and God's people!

LEARNING TO DISCERN GOD'S WILL

"God, are you out there? What is your will for me?"

Someone once asked this honest question that is on many of our hearts. I believe the truth is: God has a purpose for your life, and He wants to guide you to His will.

God's Will: the Choice...

Should we go "left" or "right"...?

What factors can guide us in a decision if we want to know God's will?

Ultimately, no one can make a choice for us, but we can learn the principles so that we can align our choices to be in line with God's purposes for our lives.

God's Will: the Compass...

More powerful than making good choices is having a compass to guide us through our lives. Through good times and bad, through friendships and loneliness, God wants to give us a compass to be sensitive to His voice. In this session we will also learn the role of dreams, signs and circumstances in godly decision-making. Come and learn how to develop a spiritual compass in your life.

SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

When God called us to be His child, He called us into spiritual transformation. His plan for us is glorious, to make us into the person He intended for us to be.

Who is this “me” God intended for me to be? What have I discovered about this “me”...this redeemed “me” in Christ? This person is beautiful, impactful and glorious.

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”

This series of 9 sermons may be covered at a teaching conference, church camp, or a sermon-series of 3 mini-series of 3 sermons each. The series is also adaptable by starting with “whom I was meant to be”, followed by a selection of the more relevant titles (eg. 3-5 titles, rather than all 9).

Whom I was Meant to Be (2 Peter 1:3-11)

There is a “false-self” of who we are in the flesh, and a “true-self” of who we are transformed in Christ. Come and discover what the Bible says about our “true-self”, and what ingredients must be added to your life to grow in this journey. Hear the call to grow and pursue whom God intended for you to be!

Faith—The Faith-Life of Christ (Galatians 2:11-21)

When the foundations are weak, no matter how beautiful the house is, the house will crumble. This very call to a life of faith and trust is a Christian’s foundation. No matter how gifted or anointed, the life will crumble if this foundation is not reinforced and laid well. Come and reinforce your first call—to complete faith and trust for a life-time!

Goodness—The Cutting Edge of Character Excellence (Ephesians 6:5-8)

What happens when “goodness” enters into lives and the workplace? When God’s goodness is shown in character excellence, it cuts into the lives of others with impact. Come and learn how this cutting edge of character excellence will impact your boss, your job and work-responsibilities daily, and brings God’s goodness into the world!

Knowledge—The Hallmarks of Maturity (Ephesians 4:11-16)

We cannot grow into what we do not know. What does it mean to “reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”? One day, we will walk the halls of heaven and see people known for growing into a God-called maturity in their lives. We will marvel at what God did in them, lives of knowledge that transformed their hearts and experience. Will your name be there?

Self-Control—Overcoming Temptation (1 Thessalonians 4:1-11)

This sermon focuses on godly purity and standing against sexual temptation, both for the married and the not-yet-married. Sexual themes pervasive in our world today has been a key hindrance to the truly anointed life. Yet, when we put our hearts into overcoming them, the benefits for our lives and loved ones are overwhelming! Make a commitment to this today!

Perseverance—Power to Persevere (2 Corinthians 4:1-18)

We all know of seasons when “the going gets tough, the tough gets going”. This is true of the spiritual life. How can we press on in the things of God? How can we endure for the breakthrough? Power for perseverance comes from conviction, beliefs, a realistic acceptance and, surprisingly, a willingness to lose! Come and learn how to apply this to your life.

“Can thy heart endure, or can thy hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with thee?” says the Lord.

Godliness—Having a Heart for God-Likeness (Matthew 5:43-48)

What is probably the one thing that is hardest for us to do, yet is the most Christ-like thing to do? “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do...” Jesus’ words on the cross encapsulate the heartbeat of God that grows us into God-likeness. Come and learn God’s vision for you in this regard, and the power to live by God’s vision rather than our weakness.

Brotherly Kindness—Worth The Risk! (Philemon 8-13, 15-18)

Risk is part and parcel of enduring relationships. But when it comes to Christian brothers and sisters, despite all their failings and imperfections, are they worth the risk? Come and learn why the shortest letter in the Bible was placed there just to speak about that. Come and learn about the promise and potential in brothers and sisters in Christ!

Love—The Love that Turns the World Upside-Down (1 Corinthians 13)

When we stand before God one day, having lived our lives to the fullest, what will be the things that ultimately matter to God? What will be the things that count for all eternity? Come and learn of 5 common things that do not matter to God, and 6 things that ultimately matter to Him. You may be surprised by what they are!

A CALLED LIFESTYLE

Much has been said about living well and finishing well. But for this series, we want to look to the beginning--the point of calling of great men of God. The point of calling is the defining moment when God met with men and issued His call to them. It is the moment when God reveals Himself to them and speaks to areas of their lives which turn them around and sets them on the path of a called lifestyle. Their living well and finishing well depended on the extent to which they lived their whole life faithfully on the principles revealed to them in their moment of calling.

Do you desire to live a life of following God's call? Do you wish to fulfill God's purpose for your life in your generation? Come and discover the principles that turned ordinary men into people whose lives counted for the living God!

- *The Calling of Peter-A Full- Strength Anointing*
- *The Calling of Jeremiah-What you see is what you get*
- *The Calling of Nehemiah-Church Image*
- *The Calling of Jesus-Living by God's Will*
- *The Calling of Isaiah-The Last Man Standing*
- *The Calling of Saul--The Lack of a Better Heart*
- *The Calling of Abraham--Living with Destiny*

This series can be preached as individual sermons, usually encouraged to be spread over a period of time rather than all in one sitting. It can be a regular teaching conference with small group discussions over a period of time.

TEACHING THEMES FOR CHURCH GROWTH AND REVIVAL

These preaching-teaching themes are sermons with biblically derived core values targeted to help churches grow toward church-health, balance and revival.

The themes are:

- God's Purpose and Call for the Church
- Worship, Prayer and Love for God
- Fellowship, Encouragement, Loving One Another
- Overcoming Difficult Times
- Serving and Using Your Gifts
- Outreach Challenge for Evangelism

These themes were developed out of Philip's Doctoral Dissertation and specifically designed to establish church health leading to church growth. These themes can be delivered as sermons at pulpit level, as a series in church camps, as well as night or weekend sessions.

EXCERPTS FROM JOSHUA: AN OVERCOMER'S LIFESTYLE

This is a preaching-teaching series from the book of Joshua.

"Leaving the old, moving into the new, living life with a mission, entering into God's calling. These were the challenges of God's people in the book of Joshua. Joshua was called by God to lead his people to overthrow Canaan for God's purposes. It was a call for Israel to be victorious overcomers in fulfilling God's mission in their lives. Looking at the challenges they faced in their journey gives us spiritual principles by which we can discover God's call, serve him and fulfill our call even through failure, pain and difficult moments. It teaches us an overcomer's lifestyle!"

Topics covered through the book-study:

- Attitudes that Overcome
- Readiness for God's Call
- Qualities of a Life of Impact
- Blocks to God's Anointing
- Dealing with Mistakes and Regret
- Living with Greatness

The series lasts 4-6 sessions, and can be delivered in the pulpit or at a teaching weekend or week-nights.

EVANGELISTIC AND SEEKER-SENSITIVE PREACHING TOPICS AND MINISTRIES

Several topical series are offered for anchoring outreach ministries in local churches. ChurchLife will preach and challenge these topics to pre-believers, and will also work with worship/audio-visual teams and volunteers of churches to present a high-impact outreach series, with creative preaching and multi-media. Included in this approach are pre-outreach sermons offered to prepare and challenge church members to outreach as a build up to the outreach event. Some of these "preparatory challenges" have been preached and well-received at several churches, and the material partially taught as Seeker Outreach lectures in Trinity Theological College.

Current topics offered include:

- Running the Race with Giants
- God's Top 10
- Living Life on Sure Foundations
- L.O.V.E.

These topics can be held as a "one-off" evangelistic event, or a series for inviting pre-believing friends over 4-6 sessions either over the pulpit or a weeknight/weekend event.