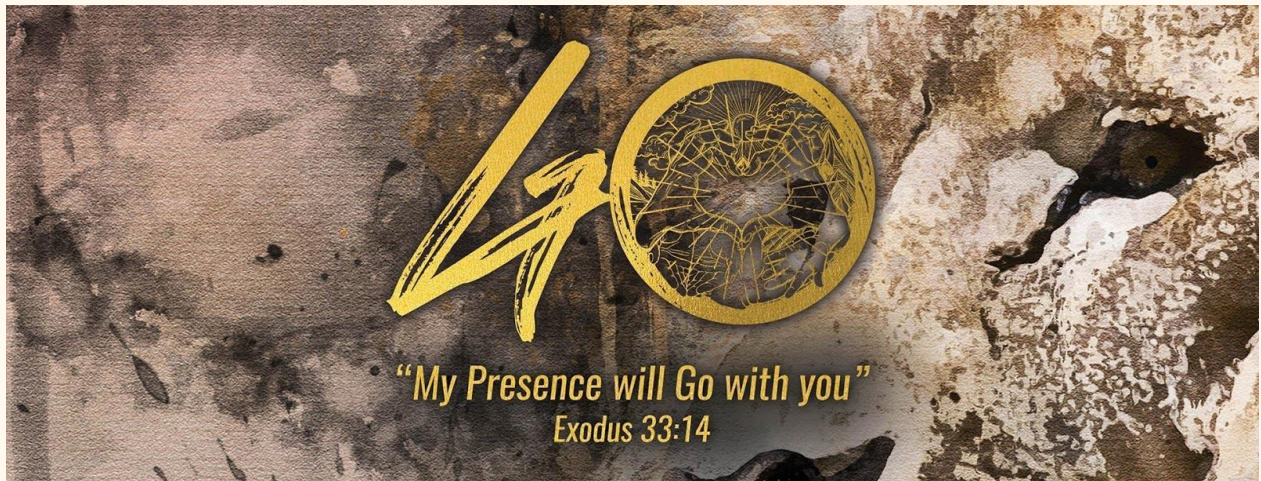


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# Ignite

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*"Lord, if we stray from the Ancient Paths, draw us back to the way eternal. You alone would we seek to walk with, in this life and into the life to come. Lord Jesus, You alone, we will follow. Amen."*



# SERMON SUMMARY

**Note to Word Facilitator:** The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

## What's Next?: The Ancient Paths

Senior Pastor Chris Kam

### Jeremiah 6:16

*This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’*

### Introduction

We have seen many movies about people lost at sea and how they have no control over where they are going, as the sea current or wind drifts them away. For many of us, there are times when we drift away in life as well. While boats in the sea drift due to lack of fuel or their sails have been disabled, spiritual drifting happens because of one reason only and that is due to neglect.

Many believers start out strong in their faith, but drift away when things get tough. It is easy to drift because it requires no effort. Drifting happens over the course of time; over a period of months and years. Just one degree of offsetting can translate into huge distances away from the intended destination over a prolonged period of time.

Solomon drifted away by having 700 wives and 300 concubines. Although being a disciple of Jesus, Judas Iscariot drifted away and betrayed Jesus. When Pr Chris was young, he was aware of what drifting can do to someone. He planned to live his life accordingly. We are trapped in chronic busyness. Have you lived differently during the MCO? Have you been drifting?

**BIG IDEA: Acting on a right decision at a crossroad will lead to a place of rest**

**1. STOP & LOOK - The Reflection Path** [1 Samuel 15:22](#), [Mark 12:33](#)

This is a call to the nation of Judah that has lost its way. Judah was religious but not obedient to God. Many lead double lives.

Even when the teachers of the law asked Jesus this question “Which is the most important law?” Jesus replied that we ought to love Him with all our heart, understanding and strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

To stop doing something can be counterintuitive these days. We can easily feel restless and the need to do something all the time. Today, many business leaders claim that “less is more” & “slow is fast”. There is a difference in doing things right and doing the right things. You can do many things right, but are you doing them correctly? The Pareto Principle states 20% of what we do contributes 80% of the expected outcome. We need to discover the 20% that matters. We can actually do less to achieve more. Most of us already have a good “to do” list. Although we have a good “to do” list, we also need to have another list. This is known as a “stop doing list”. An example of it would be as below:

| <b>TO DO LIST</b>                            | <b>STOP DOING LIST</b>                         |
|--|--|
| Exercise and Lose Weight                     | Stop having supper after 10.00pm               |
| Wake up 5:00am for morning devotion          | Stop watching Netflix and sleep before 11.00pm |
| To accept Christ and become a member of DUMC | To stop sinning                                |
| To save 10% of income every month            | To reduce spending while shopping              |

Many have fallen away because they do not stop what they are not supposed to be doing in order to replace them with the right items in their ‘to do’ list.

## **2. ASK – The Ancient Paths *Psalm 119:89***

Why do men never stop to ask? We know and believe that we are not completely lost. This is true in many aspects of our lives. Why wait until the end to pray to seek God instead of praying earlier?

When you wait for the lift, it is strange to see people pressing hard on the button or pressing on it continuously as if the lift will approach you faster. When do we seek God? We often seek Him when it is too late and treat God as a panic button. We are asking God “let me push my buttons first, then let me ask You when I am lost or run out of ideas”. Sadly, by the time we push the panic button, we are not in tune with God anymore. His voice is blurry and His paths become unclear.

Pr Chris hopes that his 3 sons look to him as a father whom they can go to anytime. Over the years he has lived a life according to God’s ways. Sometimes, his sons know what to ask and not ask Pr Chris. God is the same. Sometimes, the ancient path is right before our eyes and we do not need to seek confirmation. Once a man consulted Pr Chris about accepting a job overseas. By accepting the job, he has to stay away from his family for two years with occasional visits only. He also mentioned that he doesn’t actually need the extra money the job comes with but extra money is always nice to have. It is clear that staying with his current job will help him to spend more time with his family and have time for God.

The ancient path is the word of God. It is timeless and timely. The word “Paths” is not singular but in plural form. Ask for it. Life has its seasons. There is a path for every season you are facing. The Word of God is completely sufficient. Be rooted in Scripture. Start a “stop doing” list today.

### **3. WALK – The Obedience Path *Jeremiah 33:3, Jeremiah 6:16, Hebrews 2:1***

Finding rest is the greatest cry of the people today. When we stop and look, you will find it but you need to ask. Read Jeremiah 33:3.

Once you know the right path, you will want to walk in it. Many Christians hop from one church to another to be overdosed with Christ’s teaching. We must come to the place where Jesus is not just our teacher but our Lord. Only then we will find rest. True rest in God happens once we walk with God.

### **Conclusion**

You may be experiencing loss and the pain of losing your job and money during the pandemic.

Some of us are drifting. Thirty years ago, Pr Chris wrote what his life would be like at the age of 60. He wrote down, in light of the ancient paths, what his vision and mission would be like to take him there. He wrote down his funeral programme. He is reminded of the brevity of life - if he knows how he wants it to end, then he ought to know how to live. To drift takes no effort at all, but to stay on course is hard work. What do you think the Holy Spirit wants you to do today? How can you and I walk in the ancient paths again?

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# SERMON REFLECTION

My career path certainly has its high and lows. In 2007, I accepted what was supposed to have been the biggest career change in my life. I finally accepted a job offer in Singapore as an architectural site supervisor. The pay was good. I was earning at least 2.5 times of what I earned earlier. I cleared a few debts I had and lived a comfortable life. I also attended church regularly. I felt I was living the life and all was going fine or so I thought. I worked almost 14 hours a day, 6 to 7 days a week. I rarely had time to relax. The project was a joint venture with a Japanese company, which made this less healthy company culture a norm. All staff would come to work early and leave the office late. The company did pay overtime hence there were no complaints heard. Life was so routine and meaningless.

My tonsillitis (which I didn't know then) was badly affected due to the dust at the construction site. I did my quiet time but life was so empty. In only about 4 months, I was asked to leave after probation. I managed to uncover some subcontractors claiming overtime and suppliers' materials that were not up to specifications. I was asked to leave eventually as I was played out by my subcontractors and my health worsened.

Looking back, I saw myself drifting away from God and am thankful that God is always there for me to redirect to the Ancient Paths. I thank God for keeping me sane. Going to church and my regular devotion made me agree with my employer's decision. I already sensed the emptiness within and had the peace of heart when I was asked to leave the company. God indeed works in mysterious ways.

Today, we often hear of spiritual leaders drifting away from the Ancient Paths too. Some may have started off well but along the way, drifted away from the ancient paths. This can be due to multiple reasons but it often stems from the issue of pride and greed. As is true of my life and perhaps yours too, pride and greed can manifest itself in how we lead others, how an organization or church is managed, how one can sound spiritual without actually having that ongoing life giving relationship with Him.

I am blessed to see how DUMC has helped redirect many back to the ancient paths, some of whom may have been hurt by people and the church. With amazing cell leaders and pastors who are rooted in the ancient paths, many have found solace in God and the church. As a result of walking in Christ, many have matured and grown. This is evident in how church members continue to give generously to the work of the ministry, counting it an honour and privilege to serve others well, glorifying God in all that they do.

I thank God that I am part of this local church called DUMC that has played a big part in guiding me back to the ancient paths.

*Contributed by Abbey Thangiah*

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# APPLICATION

## **Note to Word facilitator:**

*As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficaciously. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.*

## **Suggested Icebreaker Question** (for Welcome that would link to the Word time)

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your emotional state now? (1 – Chaotic and Confused. 10 – Calm and Collected.)
- What movies come to mind when you think of the *Ancient Paths* or *Drifting Away*? What have you learnt from these movies ?
- Name some movies where the actors pressed a button to save the day?

## **Suggested Word Introductory Question**

- Have you lived your life differently for the better since MCO/CMCO started? How so?
- Imagine you are on a helicopter looking down at a map of your life. Is it a straight path or are they dents, and boulders, junctions and crossroads to traverse? Are you on a crossroad today? How do you feel standing on a crossroad?

## **Suggested Questions linked to main point**

### **STOP & LOOK**

- Pause and ponder for a bit here. What are some ways in which you may have drifted away from God? How might that have happened?
- You would probably have a “To-Do” list. What’s on it that is not working out?



What do you need to put on the “Stop-Doing” list so that you can achieve your end goal?

[eg. You want to lose weight. To-do: Exercise and eat healthy. Stop doing: Binge-watching Netflix till you lose track of time to go exercise proper, or,

You want to grow spiritually: To-do: Attend bible studies and Equip classes. Stop doing: Giving excuses not to go, like ‘there are no suitable dates’ or ‘I have no friends to go with’ or ‘I have nothing much to share’ or ‘no need la, I am not a cg leader and I don’t want to be one.’]

## **ASK**

- Can you remember a moment where you prayed and sought God’s Word for help in a difficult situation? Did He answer you? What was your response?
- What are some ways that you can grow to be more engaging with God on a daily basis? How can you have a heart that is after God’s heart?

## **WALK**

- *“He is not just our teacher, He is our Lord.”* - what are your thoughts about this statement? Do you receive but do not give? How would this statement shift your posture towards God?
- Do you feel restedness or restlessness in serving God or the church? How can you encourage others to step out and serve?

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### **Question Bank***(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

1. Drifting away can also be related to how we take care of our physical bodies or mental health. What are some ways in which you have cultivated a rhythm (or aim to) in order to take care of these areas of your life (as a child, teen, adult, spouse, parent, grandparent, etc)?
  2. Do you agree or disagree with the Pareto Principle - 80/20 Rule, that 20% of what you do would affect 80% of your life. Give some examples.
  3. Some people say that white lies are harmless. Do you agree? Do you have a story to share of how a white lie led to a more harmful outcome?
  4. Are there any specific “paths” that God has shown and challenged you to walk in them?
  5. Truth tells us what needs to be changed, but it is active applied truth that changes us. That calls for obedience to apply God’s truth in our lives. Name one bible truth that you want to obey and live out.
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# WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Photo by Judit Peter from Pexels

## Story of the week...

*This week, we bring you a [video story](#) of Mwila from Zambia. This short story video was recorded several years ago but it is too good not to show it to us again via Ignite. Some of you may have seen this before. Many others may not have. Mwila was an international student in one of our local universities then. She was invited to visit DUMC by a DUMC member who then worked with the university she was a student at. Mwila, after her visit to DUMC was soon connected and assimilated into a CG that made such a difference in her life. This story reminds us of how a CG community can play such an important part in the life of a person, even if it is just for a season.*

*Watch this amazing story of a CG community that cares, put together by Priscilla Lim (NextGen Campus) [HERE](#)*

*“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”*

*- Maya Angelou*

If you or your CG member(s) has a story to share related to today's Word or any other story that speaks of His goodness or of IMPACT Now, **share their/your story** [\[HERE\]](#)

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# PRAYER

**Note to CGL:** You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

- 1. Thanksgiving:** Let's give thanks for this week that the Lord has led us through. In joyful moments, give thanks. In troubled times, give thanks that we walk through these with Him. Let's be thankful for His ever-abiding presence and for His unmerited favour.
  - 2. IMPACT@family:** May God bless our homes, as we remember all our family members in prayer, both far and near. May the Lord use us as channels to be a blessing and to remind them that the Lord loves them as He loves us as we remember them in prayer right now.
  - 3. IMPACT@work:** Thank God for the opportunity to earn an honest living in times as this. Pray for some of our colleagues and ask God for an opportunity to be a testimony to them. Pray for members and friends who are seeking for jobs too. May the Lord open doors to where He would lead us too and may we be His lighthouse, wherever He calls us to "Go".
  - 4. IMPACT@Malaysia:** May God continue to use His church to impact our nation, bring His radiant transformation to all walks of society.
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# OTHER RESOURCES

Below are some links to resource you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!

## FEATURED

*In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!*



### Methodist Prayer

methodistprayer.org

Methodist Prayer is based on Daily Prayer, the Church of ...

Prayer & Spirituality

Website



### Following Christ in a Pandemic: Philip Yancey

59 minutes

biologos.org

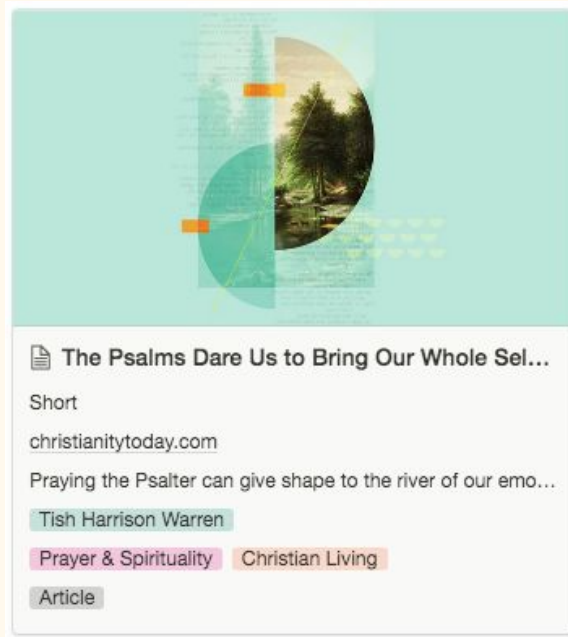
In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, "science" has be...

Philip Yancey

Social Concerns

Christian Living

Video Clip



## OTHER RESOURCES

*Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!*



## DUMC STORIES

*Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!*

