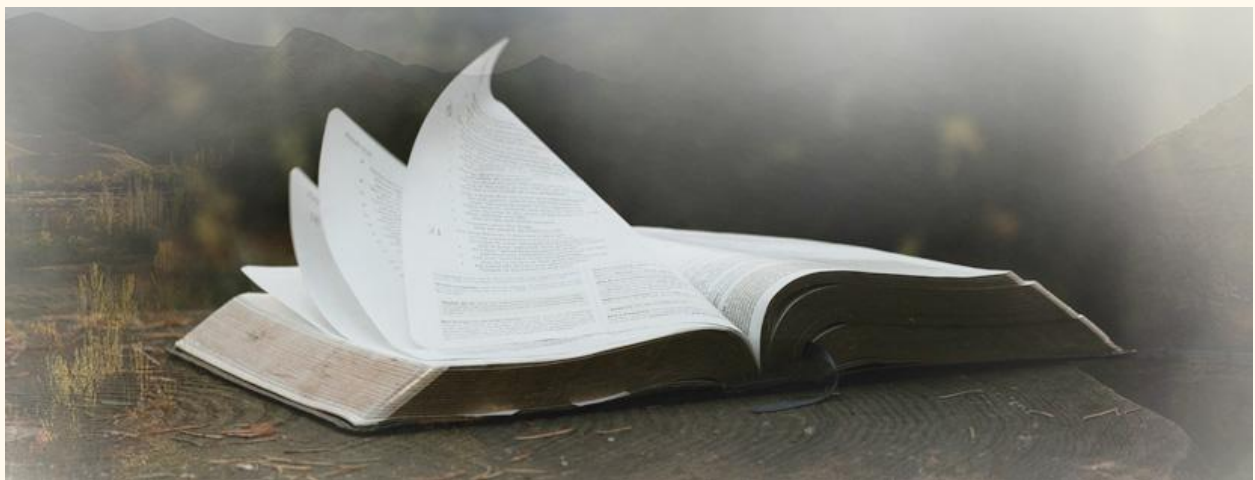

Ignite

"Dear Lord, as we gather together as family and friends we invite You once again into our lives. May the hope of Your resurrection color our days. May the promise of Your spirit working in us light up our lives. May the love You revealed to us shape our giving. May the truth in Your word guide our journeys, and may the joy of Your kingdom fill our homes. As we gather together underneath the banner of Your life, we thank You for all the wonderful blessings that we can now enjoy, and celebrate Your glorious resurrection. Thank you Jesus. 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.

Easter 2021 : Do you love Me?

John 21: 15-19

Senior Pastor Chris Kam

John 21: 15-19

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “ Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said. “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

Introduction

Easter is the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ who gave His life to suffer crucifixion to reconcile humanity to God. God raised Christ from the dead. As we who are sinful in nature are dead, the One Perfect sacrifice by Jesus Christ has enabled us who are 'dead' to be reconciled to God through Jesus who took all our sins upon Himself to make us acceptable in God's eyes. Easter is a call on our Christian faith. Have we fallen back to familiarity which breeds contempt? Can we awaken to His resurrection power in us to overcome sin and encounter Jesus closely once again?

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ *1 Corinthians 15: 14, 17-19, 26*

How serious are we about the Resurrection as believers of Christ? If Christ had not been raised from death, then our faith is lost and futile as we are not reconciled to God but remain in death. What difference would resurrection be in our life unless there is transformation from the head to the heart? How do we lead our life ? Live with Christ in us or live in denial with our own sinful nature?

Let us relate ourselves to Peter when Jesus met the apostles for the last time before His betrayal .

Peter's Declaration *Matthew 26 :31-35*

Just like Peter we declare that we will die for our faith in Christ. Yet in many situations we fail to stand firm for Christ just like Peter . Our actions denies Christ as we get influenced by the ways of this world.

Peter's Denial *Matthew 26 :68-75; 35 Luke 22 :60-62; Titus 1 :16*

We desert Christ when we feel threatened or insecure in the midst of the world just like the apostles deserted Christ on the night of His betrayal. Our actions denies Christ.

Yet, our Lord came back and restored the faith of the disciples on Resurrection Day!

Peter's Devotion *John 21 : 1-9 Acts 2:41 , 3:1-9*

When the apostles met the Resurrected Christ , they were encouraged with Hope as they saw Him alive ! What a miracle indeed! When faced with calamity or great trials and tribulation we too may turn back to our old self. But He who dwells in us will lead us to start all over if we recommit ourselves to Him. Let us be devoted to the leading of the Holy Spirit through reading His Word that His Will be done for His Glory.

Conclusion

It's OK not to be OK, but it's not OK to stay that way. Human as we are, we can still be Holy. By allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you and recommit your life to Christ, is the way forward. Peter knew his calling meant the way to the cross and was prepared to face death. Yet, he had denied Christ in his human nature which Jesus had prophesied to him. But because of the Resurrection of Jesus he saw hope of eternity and devoted his life once again and glorified God in his transformation to follow Jesus.



SERMON REFLECTION

Easter, a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ - a Victory over eternal death. I was reflecting upon the times when I was young just as Pastor Chris recollected his childhood days as living in darkness, carrying out rituals which I did not understand. I too had asked my mum questions about the deities my siblings and I were told to worship. The answer she gave was simply this- "Just follow and you will be protected." Unfortunately when I grew up and problems arose within the family, all the prayers did not give me peace but to accept that it was fated to take place due to our own actions.

Then I met a Christian sister who saw my struggles and would pray for me and shared about Christ. But yet, I only truly understood and turned to the Lord when

God gave us a Cell Group to be a part of; to walk with me and my husband as we discovered how God helped us to change ourselves to be more Christlike and not just compare ourselves to others.

Amazing transformation took place when we saw things and circumstances from Christ's way and not our own way. Our journey in following Jesus has taught us to look to Him. The amount of suffering He endured was way more than what we encounter in hardship, heartbreak, and pain. For all was not lost as we held on to God's promises, witnessing His goodness and blessings on our lives. Our commitment in following Jesus has been blessed by answered prayers, changed lives, salvation for my sister and abundant providence during difficult times.

Pastor Chris shared about the comment of the Armish man who was asked the question "Are you a Christian?" And his reply, "Ask my neighbour" hits it on the nail. Indeed, how we live our lives is living testimony to whether we are true followers of Jesus Christ.

So I am reminded when Pastor Chris asked the question 'How far or near are you following Christ? Will you follow Him all the way to eternal life? I hope to hear from the Holy Spirit who guides and leads me in following and serving the Lord well.

May we all continue to recommit ourselves to a risen Savior, for His Glory!

Contributed by Michelle Chuah



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 efficiently. 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 Questions

- Think about the latest promise you made. Did you keep the promise or not?
- If God calls you to leave your comfortable life to serve him, how will you respond?

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- Do you recall a time in your life when you drifted away from God? Jesus was very compassionate towards Peter with regards to his failures. How did you find peace with God again?
- Are you still in that state of drift? How can you come back to God based on the story of Peter in John 21:15-19?

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- Jesus asked Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?do you love Me?do you love Me? Why?"
- What does following Jesus mean in our life experiences at work, in our relationships with our neighbours? Share if you have been discouraged by others who have rejected God and how you overcome them to remain committed in following Jesus.
- In what ways would the Resurrection of Jesus make a difference in your life? How do you set yourself apart in your actions and living to be holy for Him?
- What results will you look to achieve by following His teachings closely?

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

- How closely are you following Jesus today? Are you watching Him from a distance or are you being transformed in His Presence?
- How do you know that you love Christ?
- Can you be human and holy as well?



PRAYER



Photo by Timothy Eberly on Unsplash

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.

Easter/Resurrection Sunday Prayer

Matthew 28; Revelation 5:11-14; Psalms 118:1-2; Psalms 118:14-24

Lord God,
You loved this world so much,
That you gave your one and only Son,
That we might be called your children too.

Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace
Of Easter Sunday, everyday.
Let us have hearts of thankfulness
For your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that look upon
Your grace and rejoice in our salvation.
Help us to walk in that mighty grace
And tell your good news to the world.
All for your glory do we pray, Lord,

Amen.



OTHER RESOURCES

*Below are some links to resources for 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!



Holiness

6 minutes 34 seconds

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

In this video, we explore the paradox that God's holiness ...

[Bible](#) [Doctrine](#) [Prayer & Spirituality](#) [Christian Living](#)

[Video Clip](#)



Sacrifice and Atonement

7 minutes

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

In this video on sacrifice and atonement, we trace the the...

[Bible](#) [Doctrine](#)

[Video Clip](#)



Overview: Leviticus

8 minutes 16 seconds

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Israel's holy God invites them to live in His presence desp...

[Bible](#) [Christian Living](#)

[Video Clip](#)



Holiness as the Church Bearing Fruit

seedbed.com

Holiness, as we have seen, is not merely about eradicatin...

[Timothy Tennent](#)

[Bible](#) [Doctrine](#) [Teaching](#) [Christian Living](#)

[Article](#)

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!

