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# Ignite

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*“God of welcome, You invite us into Your family. We sit at Your table and savour Your word to us today. Help us to receive all the nourishment You have for us today. 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.

## The Local Church 3: A Global Mission

Senior Pastor Chris Kam

### 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

### Matthew 28:18-20

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

### Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*

### Introduction 2 Corinthians 5:20

The local church is a covenant community that vividly manifests God's invisible kingdom. As mentioned in the scripture above, we are ambassadors for Christ; with a ministry of reconciliation as our mission. Therefore we are encouraged to live our life

as one.



*Photo by Jeremiah Higgins on Unsplash*

What is 'the local church'? It is likened to the embassy for all Christians; a home away from home . As ambassadors for Christ, we are to step out and be witnesses to our neighbours, our nation and also wherever God leads us in the world, doing the ministry of reconciliation that will bring glory to God.

In the present day context of our local church, there are three roles we have to look at as a local church to function as a global mission field to non-kingdom people.

**BIG IDEA: The church is a mission to non- kingdom people.**

**Three roles of an ambassador :**

**1 Be committed to providing answers to the least and the lost. [Matt 5:16](#)**

In this world of sin and suffering, Jesus came to reconcile us to God by dying on the cross for our sins. We, who believe and accept Him have been forgiven of our sins. Yet there are so many out in the world that are suffering because of the sins in this world.

How can we help to elevate the sufferings of people? Can we listen to their cry for help and extend our hands and feet to serve them? Can we share the Gospel, be God's ambassador to help them find answers to their situations in God? The Gospel must be both spiritual and social in nature.

Let us be the 'light and salt of the earth' and shine for God.

## **2 Be committed to accepting the least and the lost as they are. [John 8:1-11](#)**

Just as Jesus accepted the adulterous woman as she was and told her to not sin anymore, we as kingdom people should have compassion for the least and the lost. We need to come to them and accept them as they are.

Let us be reconciled to accepting the poor and dysfunctional as they are and not have the mindset of 'God help those who help themselves'. Instead, welcome those who realise they can't help themselves and need God to take care of them. For we are to reconcile them to God to help them.

## **3 Be committed to aggressively seeking the least and the lost. [Matt 5: 16](#)**

When we see or find a struggling friend complaining or having doubt of God's faithfulness, how would you respond to your friend? Will you be a good ambassador for Christ in sharing your testimony? Are we charting a plan to seek the least and the lost? Are we part of this plan?

Has the local church family been the spiritual safe home during at such a time as this? Are we committed in our hearts to seek them?

### **Conclusion [Matt 5: 16](#)**

It is our mission to seek and minister to those in need. For God cares and He has sent us to listen and serve those in need. He enables us to serve through His blessings as He equips us. That non-kingdom people may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven.

# **SERMON REFLECTION**

It was the care and concern of a few believers in Christ when I first came down to work in KL that touched me. Learning to cope with everything without parents and siblings around was a great challenge as I had always been with my family until I came out to work. Yet God sent a Gideons bible to me through a God loving Christian lady. It became a constant source of comfort during these times.

I had tasted the goodness of the Word of God which as a non believer I took as a good guide for daily living. As He sent God's people to help me I could also see the difference in attitude of a Christian toward life compared to the world. Then came challenges after challenges yet God's love for me never failed as He sent different people to comfort and pray for me and most of all to teach me to pray at all times. This is a time of equipping in my life from a lady pastor, my mentor for life as a wife and mother. Truly God has always been there with me in my journey of life.

I thank God for sending Christian friends who through their act of kindness, care and concern had led me to experience the Love of God. It made me realise that as Christians we must live a life of testimony for God. I in turn need to do the same for those who do not know of His great Love for all people especially those who have not experienced His Love. Here are a few short stories to share below...

I had the opportunity to be a blessing to my younger sister by sharing the love and joy of being in Christ when she too had to leave home to further her studies abroad. She mentioned that there was so much love and joy in my letters to her and she was blessed to be boarding with a Christian landlord who was also kind and caring. Her comment then was Christians are so encouraging and caring. Praise God she has joined the kingdom of God.

As we progressed in life, my husband felt the call to serve in DUMC's premarital counselling (PMC) ministry and we were indeed blessed to have enriched the life of a young couple. The wife-to-be, being a young believer, was unsure about getting married, yet through the premarital counselling sessions we were able to identify and help them see that God needs to be in the centre of a marriage in order for them to be able to move forward in life. We are now enriched with their presence in our lives and are continually being in contact with them.

Before the lockdown in March, I had the opportunity to visit a friend whose husband was hospitalised due to diabetic shock. Being married to a non believer, life is tough for her as her husband is retired yet the daughter is still in university. It was an opportunity to pray for healing for the husband and for the son who had been under treatment for leukemia. We hope the children will see God's Love for their family

even though they did not believe in Christ as we practice praying for them when we visit.

I am grateful for the above opportunities to touch lives. It all started with the care and concern shown to me by the few believers when I came to work in KL. I continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide me in this season as I sojourn on in life, in community.

*Contributed by Michelle Chuah*

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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)

**WE ARE AMBASSADORS  
FOR CHRIST,  
SHARING HIS LOVE  
AND HIS LIGHT  
THROUGH THE WAY WE CHOOSE  
TO LIVE OUR LIVES.  
WE ARE AMBASSADORS  
FOR CHRIST.**

*Published by Solomon Summers*

- You have been selected to be our church Ambassador for Christ Programme. List Top 10 Dos and Don'ts of an ambassador.
- You have been made an ambassador of a health food product. What changes would you make to your lifestyle to portray your healthy living?

**Suggested Word Introductory Question:**

- From a scale of 0 (zero influence & impact) to 10 (maximum influence & impact), how do you rate Christians and the Church's influence and impact in our society? Why do you rate it this way? Provide some examples and reasons for your answer.

**Suggested questions linked to each main point:**

**Be committed to providing answers to the least and the lost.**

- A close friend shared some tragedy that has happened in the family and is feeling disillusioned about God. How can we, as ambassadors of Christ respond?
- What could you do to become more equipped than you currently are at?

**Be committed to accepting the least and the lost as they are.**

- How would you regard the poor and dysfunctional that may join your CG?
- How accepting are you of the least and the lost?

**Be committed to aggressively seeking the least and the lost.**

- During this pandemic, how has God challenged you to intentionally reach out to non-kingdom people?
- Can you safely say you have been an ambassador for Christ in your own way? If not, what better role describes you?

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

- How has the Holy Spirit been prompting you about global missions ?
- Being a child of God, how do you feel?
- What are some next steps you would take to be renewed in the body of Christ?
- Does an ambassador for Christ best describe you? If no, what avatar/role better describes you?
- As Kingdom people , how are we living out our Christian lifestyle as Christ Ambassadors?
- How can you assist in caring for your immediate neighbours?
- If a CG member confided in you that he/she was involved in a well known financial scandal, how would you respond? Would it change your perception and attitude towards this person?
- What is one thing you would do this week as you are reminded of the Ministry of Reconciliation in Christ?
- How can the CG help and encourage you to develop real, on-going connections to missions?
- Share a story of how you have personally or as a cell group been engaged with the community to be an influence and impact in society?



How can we increase our influence, impact and witness so that we see true and lasting change?

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## WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Photo by Judit Peter from Pexels

### Story of the week...

*"Growing up, I have always questioned my existence. Who am I? Is there a meaning to life? What is my purpose here? While I believe that there is a god, I did not feel the need to have God personal in my life then; I believed and trusted in my own abilities for accomplishments, without knowing the significance or impact of what I do. Friends would encourage me to attend Christmas services at church and evangelistic meetings. While I attended numerous times, however, I did not have the desire to know Jesus personally. Yet, there is this naggy void that something is missing in my life, which I could not put my finger to..."*

- May, PJN6

\* Read the rest of May's story on [dumc.my/blog](https://dumc.my/blog)

“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, **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.

## Today's Prayer

READ **Psalm 6** and meditate

*PRAYER OF NATIONAL REPENTANCE - Our Father in Heaven, we humbly repent of our decadence and corruption, the abuse of wealth that belongs to the people, the racial polarisation and for our silence over the widening disparity between the rich and the poor. We repent of the way we have wasted the natural resources of our nation, without proportionately enriching those who live in the territories that provided them, especially in Sabah and Sarawak. We repent that we trust in “chariots and horses” when we should put our faith in You, and You alone for our deliverance from injustice and unrighteousness.*

*Forgive us for our lack of compassion for those around us who are suffering: the poor, the aged, the disabled, migrants and refugees, religious and racial minorities, and police detainees and prisoners, and the jobless. Forgive us for our apathy*

*towards injustices and our failure to speak out for the voiceless, and our failure to act.*

*We repent of our lack of perseverance towards removing unrighteous barriers that prevent men and women from having full knowledge of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We repent of our fear to preach the gospel boldly to all peoples who are in desperate need to hear of Your gospel of salvation. We repent of our lack of faith that You are able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think. We ask for Your mercy and grace.*

*We declare O Lord, "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done" over our nation, so that all her peoples may be blessed with Your truth, righteousness, justice and peace reigning over Malaysia. Lord, You say that if Your people who are called by Your name would humble themselves and pray, and seek Your face and turn from our wicked ways, You will turn Your face towards us, forgive us our sins, and heal our land.*

*Lord, please forgive us of our sins - for our attitudes of wickedness, self-righteousness, idolatry, apathy and hate. Please come and heal our land. Restore us, O God, fill us with Your Holy Spirit, and empower us to be a holy people called by Your name.*

*Fill Your Church with Your Holy Spirit, that we may walk in newness of purpose and mission for Your glory. May we be Your mouth, Your hands and Your feet in bringing truth, justice and righteousness to those who are oppressed, displaced and in material and spiritual need. Help us to get out of our comfort zones and offer compassionate and practical help together with our prayers, as we seek not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit.*

*Use us, O Lord, to prosper and transform this nation. Breathe afresh new life in us and revive us through the in-filling of the Holy Spirit - to greater zeal and boldness to proclaim Your Word, that we may be lights shining in a dark place. We ask that You will remove all hindrances that prevent us from speaking to those who need to hear the gospel so that they may be saved. As we await Your return, O Lord Jesus, we pray that You will use us to be a blessing to our neighbourhoods, our workplace and our nation – led and filled by the Holy Spirit. In Your mercy, heal our land. In Your mighty name, we pray. AMEN.*

24/7 Prayer Asia

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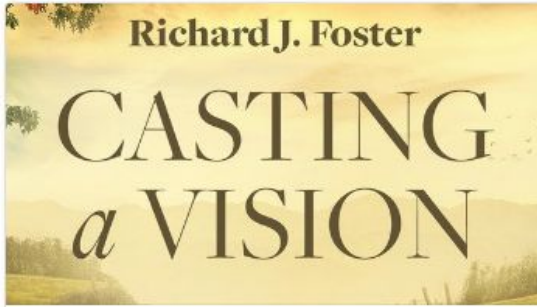


# OTHER RESOURCES


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!*



**Richard J. Foster**  
**CASTING  
*a* VISION**

 **Casting a Vision**  
20 pages  
renovare.org  
The twenty-first century though has brought with it new c...  
**Richard Foster**  
**Prayer & Spirituality** **Discipleship**  
**E-Book (Free)**



**Where is God in the Pandemic?**  
1 hour  
youtube.com  
**Tim Keller** **Francis Collins**  
**Suffering** **Social Concerns** **Teaching**  
**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!*

