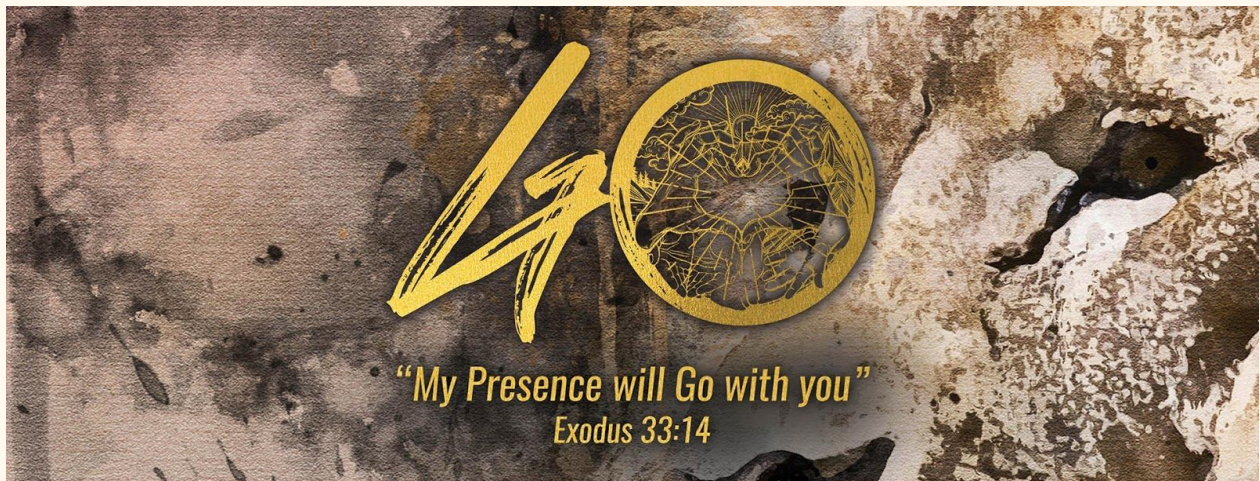


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# Ignite

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*"Lord, stir us up today, we pray, with fresh compassion for those 'harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd.' You told Your disciples to 'Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest fields.' Lord, here we are, send us. 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.

## Sermon Series: What’s Next?

### Peace in the Storm

**Pastor Mike Ngui**

***Philippians 4:4-9***

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

#### **Introduction**

We live in anxious, stormy times. Current national and global issues and the on-going Covid pandemic, affects everyone from all walks of life. The feeling of anxiousness, uncertainty and helplessness cloud our everyday life. Yet, we are not alone in this. God is speaking to us even in these troubled times. God is here to help us through these storms by drawing our focus back to Him. To ride out the storms, focus on God, respond to God and tune in to God. In doing so, God will give us the genuine peace of heart and mind, to remain calm and assured in the face of torrid storms.

**Big Idea: Peace in the storm, is in the “eye”**

**We See What We Focus On** *Philippians 4:12; Hebrews 12:1-2*

What we focus on does matter, as what we see depends on what we focus on. Often, when faced with challenges, our focus is on the circumstances that we are in. We have forgotten that our focus should be on God. Focusing on circumstances is futile as it only breeds anxiousness. But, focusing on God, allows us to see God in the bigger picture of the storm. We learn to value what God is doing to help us through

the storm. We can see God in our life by having the awareness of God in our daily life. Focus on Him and appreciate Him, and we can see how He works in our lives. Therefore, fix our eyes on God and find our delight and joy in the Lord no matter the circumstances. Knowing He is there with us and for us, gives us peace.

### **We Respond To What We See** *Philippians 4:5, 6-7,32-34; Matthew 6:32-34*

It is important that we focus on what we see, as we respond to what we see. If we focus on storms and ruins, we see chaos and respond with anxiousness. If we focus on God (in the midst of storms), we see peace and we respond with outward demonstration of gentleness, calmness, patience and mercy. When there is inner peace, there is no room for anxiousness. The peace of God will guard our heart and mind. And what the heart focuses on, the mind will see. Jesus exalts us to focus on God and His kingdom, and not to worry about tomorrow for God is very much in control. With God, there is no coincidence but God-incidence.

### **We Receive What We Tune Into** *Philippians 4:8-9*

To focus on God effectively, train our mind to tune into what is good and dwell on them. Center our mind on whatever that is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and anything excellent or praiseworthy. And tune out from strenuous frequency that may distract our focus on God. Do all that is good and put them into practice, and God's peace will be with us.

### **Conclusion**

We can find peace in the storm when we turn the eyes of our heart and mind to God. Focus on Him and what He is doing in our lives. God is with us, so remember to trust God and walk with God. His peace will encourage us to live through the circumstances in our lives with hope, calmness, gentleness, and kindness.

# **SERMON REFLECTION**

The storms we face in life are many. And very so often, when storms come, we fret upon our circumstances. We rationalize, deduce and strategize on possible means to lift ourselves from these turmoils. We feel abandoned as we struggle alone, thus we often respond in frustration and anxiety. At times, we ask ourselves “Where is God amidst all this?”

Well, simple truth-God is with us, always. He has never left us, but we left Him! The root of the problem is that we did not trust God enough to keep our focus on Him, especially through trying times. We have forsaken His authority and sovereignty, not trusting that He has a better plan for us. We miss seeing God in our storms as we were too focused on the storm, but not on Him. We tuned-out of God and leaned on our own understanding, thinking we could steer ourselves out of the storm.

Yet, in our troubled times, God still speaks to us. He wants us to remember that He is in control, and we can trust Him through all the storms. Storms do not last forever, but through the storms we weathered, we learn to focus on God, to trust in Him, and to reflect on His goodness and mercy. Let us encourage one another to focus on God, and proclaim God is good, no matter if we are in category 1 or category 5 storms.

*Forgive us Father, for we have abandoned You. We forget to remember the times You have carried us through the storms in our lives. While we may not understand what storm lies ahead or when it will enter our lives, we rest assured that You are always there for us. Teach us to never forget to fix our eyes on You, and to trust that You are in control. May we weather the storms together and emerge victorious, and that all glory belongs to You.*

*Contributed by Adeline Ting (PJN2) and The Ignite Team*

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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)

- Reflect on these past few weeks of CMCO. Share one “not-so-great” experience, and 3 great experiences which you are thankful for. *[Note to facilitator: This is a precursor to identifying possible storms and to reflect on where God is in the storm]*
- We see what we focus on-Let’s have some fun! View several pictures of optical images/illusions and have everyone share what they see. *[Note to facilitator: This is an interesting activity meant to get everyone involved to have fun sharing what they see, and it is proof to what you see is what you focus on. Please source for 3-5 pictures. Suggested links: [examples of optical illusion](#) ; [best optical illusions photos](#) ; [young girl-old woman pic](#)*

## **Suggested questions linked to the main points:**

- God carried us through many storms (e.g. family, marriage, children, business, ministry), yet we sometimes fail to remember all that He has done for us. How do we shift our focus from the storm to God? How do we remember God’s goodness and faithfulness in our lives?
- We must trust that God can carry us through the storm. Would you trust Him in whatever category of storm(s) you are in? [Category 1 (mild) to Category 5 (devastating)] Share the type of storm(s) you or someone you know, have encountered or is currently facing. How can we help each other (or your friend), to trust God and find peace to weather the storm together?

- What we tune into feeds our spirit. We tune into social media, world news, entertainment, on a daily basis; but not to God. Reflect upon the % of your time spent on social media, world news, entertainment, sports, etc., against the time spent to tune into God. How can we change this lifestyle to learn to live with Christ and tune-into God daily?
- 

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

- Is it easier to focus on the storm or God? Discuss your thoughts on this.
  - Why did God allow us to be in the storms? What does He want us to learn from being in the storm?
  - How can we encourage one another to recognize storms as opportunities for us to seek God? What are some of the practical steps we can take to focus on God through the storms?
  - Remember the times God carried us through the storms. He came through for us. How did we glorify Him? Reflect on God's goodness and mercy in our lives.
  - We know that tuning into God daily will help us focus and see God. Will tuning out from the worldly distractions help us too? How can we tune into God and tune out from the distractions more effectively? Share your thoughts.
- 



## WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Photo by Judit Peter from Pexels

### Story of the week...

*"As part of our CG's IMPACTNow initiative, in September 2020, we decided to adopt a Myanmarse refugee family from the Falam Chin tribe. We decided on this initiative as it makes it more meaningful for us to be able to sow into the marginalized on a continued basis as compared to just paying a one off visit to the old folks home..."*

- Richard Yeo, DUMC Senior CG 1, PJN3

\* Read the rest of Senior CG's IMPACTNow 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 or of IMPACT Now, **share their/your story** [\[HERE\]](#)



# 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.

## **Our Nation's Plight**

*What unusual times we are living in. Many lives have been lost to this fight against Covid-19, our economy has suffered because of the pandemic, and the politics in our nation have been unstable all throughout. We need God's mercy and His intervention for such a time as this.*

### Health Crisis

- *Protection of medical frontliners as they continue to help those who are infected*
- *God's mercy to be upon our nation*
- *Vaccine for COVID-19 to be made available for all soon*

### Economic Hardship

- *For minimisation of losses and swifter recovery process*
- *For creativity to come to the forefront of small business owners and workers to reinvent themselves*
- *Wisdom for our nation's leaders to guide our nation and bring us out of this economic hardship*

### Political Instability

- *Our political leaders to work together, laying aside any private interests for the sake of the people of Malaysia*



- *For wisdom to be upon our political leaders in their thought, speech, and actions*
- *For more responsible and God-fearing leaders to rise up and bring stability into our political system*

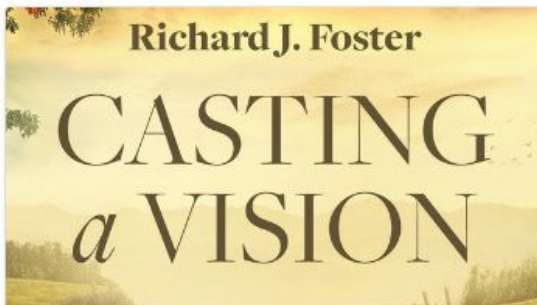


## OTHER RESOURCES


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!*

