FORWARD2017

**STEP OUT: Doing Life Together (Acts 2:42-47)**

***Senior Pastor Chris Kam***

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

# Introduction

The theme for 2017: Step Out

Tag-Line: Love God, Serve People, Make Disciples Toward Christlikeness.

Jesus died for the church, and the church is very dear to Him. Therefore, as followers of Christ, the church is very dear to us too. It is our family, for we are all sons and daughters of God.

3 Steps of Discipleship:



The word 'church' in the *New Testament* is translated from the Greek word 'ekklesia' which comes from two words 'ek' meaning 'out' and 'kaleo' meaning to 'call', a called out assembly.

# ttps://leaderchat.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/bigstock-businessman-idea-16589585-e1458605666325.jpg?w=299&h=309**Big Idea: Church is not a place we go to but something we become.**

# Image result for cell groupLove God

Church is not a place we go to but something we become.

Asking the question, “Which church do you go to?” is not the right question, but the question “Which church are you a part of?” should be the question we ask others.

Church is not a place we go to but it is a family we to belong to. We are not a big church but a small church with many people.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching… and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)*

If we want to love God, we need to know God and experience God.

## Know God

Jesus asked 307 questions. He was asked 183 of which He only answers 3-8 directly.

From this, we can conclude that the best way to learn is to ask questions. Sometimes, it is better for us to find the answers on our own.

## Experience God

* Holy Spirit

*Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. (Acts 2:43)*

In cell groups, we learn to hear from God and release Holy Spirit-inspired words to each other. Cell group is the place where we can exercise our spiritual gifts.

* Application / Obedience of His Word

Cell group is where we can learn to apply the Word of God in practical ways, and to learn from others how they apply the Word of God in their lives.

* Learning from the experiences of others

In cell groups, we learn from the life lessons and testimonies of others, we encourage one another and build each other’s faith.

# Serve People

“…and to fellowship… to the breaking of bread… ” (Acts 2:42)

There are two types of people,

## Within the church or CG Fellowship – “Koinonia”

Learn to love one another in the church so that you can love and serve people in the community.

There are five levels of communication with different levels of intimacy, as shown below. How many of us have truly authentic and intimate relationships in our church and cell group where we can openly and honestly share our feelings at gut level? Or are our interactions within the church and cell group limited to a shallow and superficial level?



Five Levels of Communication:

1. Cliché Words
2. Sharing Facts
3. Sharing Opinions
4. Sharing Feelings
5. Gut level sharing

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. (Acts 2:46a)

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts… (Acts 2:46b)

## Beyond the church

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. (Acts 2:44-45)

The cell group is a platform where we can serve the community. Cell groups rally together and pool resources to serve, to help, to meet the needs of the community.

For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord’s people in Jerusalem. (Romans 15:26)

# Make Disciples towards Christlikeness

Cell groups are places where we can find role models to imitate. This leads to the mentor-mentee initiative of the church, where our goal is to disciple people to become more Christ-like. The church is where we can find spiritual fathers and mothers as well as accountability partners who can help us in our journey of life.

…praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. (Acts 2:47a)

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47b)

# Conclusion

Let us take cell group a level higher by seeking to disciple people in reaching the goal of Christlikeness.



Sermon summary contributed by Anthea Tan

Prayer points contributed by Abbey Thangiah



SERMON: Doing Life Together

**Pray:**

* We will remember that we belong to the global community of the Church of Christ.
* We will live a life of prayer.
* We will be teachable and listen to the wisdom of God through the pastors, cell leaders and wise Christians.
* We will give and serve each other.
* Others will see the love of Christ through the cell group.

***They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)***

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: Live Justly Seminar by CNBM**

**Pray:**

* The DUMC members will go to this seminar to learn about justice.
* The church will play an active role in promoting justice in society and more people will be involved.
* That each cell will contribute to the CES and CNBM activities on short term or long term basis.
* Spiritual protection for all speakers and organizers so that the event will go on smoothly.
* More people will be blessed and inspired to serve after attending the seminar.

***He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings utter darkness into the light. (Job 12:22)***

MALAYSIA MY NATION: BRAIN DRAIN

*MALAYSIA’S young people are eager to spread their wings: Many have their eyes set on pursuing work abroad, more so than their peers from other regional countries. Such aspirations are stronger among Malaysian Gen Y-ers compared with their peers from other countries. And it is especially prevalent among Malaysians in the finance sector; specifically, among students and employees aged 36 and below.*

**Pray:**

* Our country will take the retention of the skilled workforce seriously.
* As Christians, we will always seek God’s will whether to stay in Malaysia or leave.
* The young will be wise in weighing all possibilities in Malaysia before considering leaving.
* Our government will be fair to Malaysians when awarding scholarships, grants and jobs within Malaysia.
* Malaysian students will learn to be independent and not totally depend on parents and the governments for a secure job and education.

***He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant. For the sake of your name, LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. Who, then, are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose. (Psalm 25:9-12)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: USA WITHDRAWAL FROM TPPA**

*WASHINGTON - The new U.S. administration of President Donald Trump said on Friday its trade strategy to protect American jobs would start with withdrawal from the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact. A White House statement issued soon after Trump's inauguration said the United States would also "crack down on those nations that violate trade agreements and harm American workers in the process." (Reuters)*

**Pray:**

* USA will maintain and improve bilateral ties with Malaysia and many developing nations.
* Malaysia will learn to be independent from USA and continue to foster good relationships with ASEAN and other countries.
* God is always moving in USA regardless of who leads the nation.
* The world will continue to learn to live in peace and unity.

***Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty. (Proverbs 22:16)***