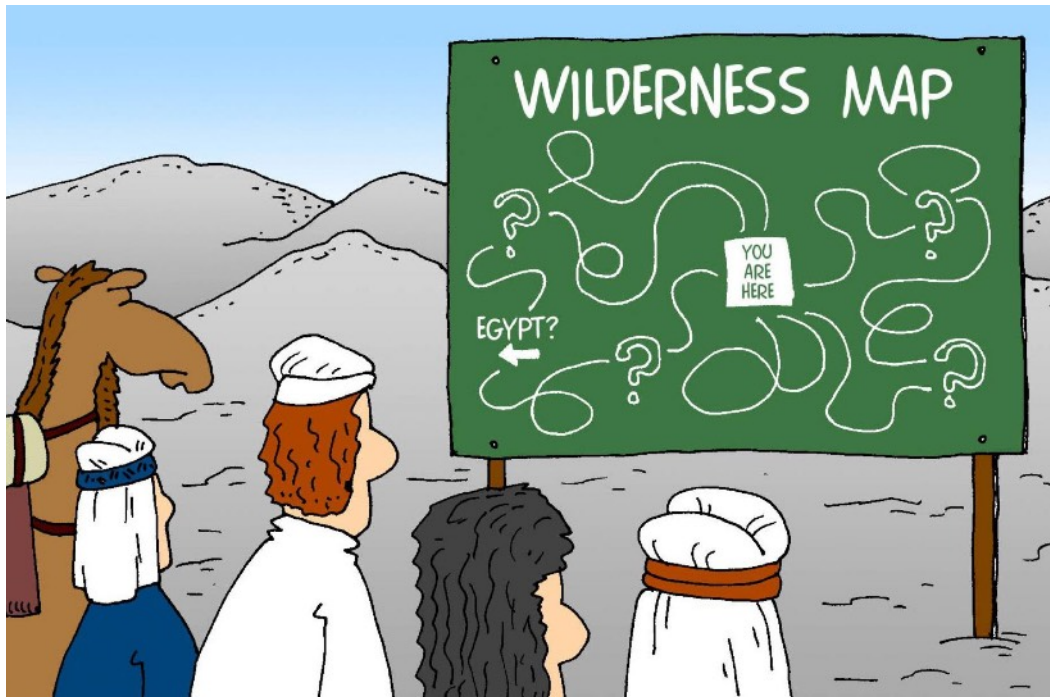


# THEOLOGICAL LECTURE SERIES

## LENTEN SPIRITUALITY:



## THE ROAD BACK TO GOD

**The** 40 days of Lent coincides with Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted for 40 days and nights, and was tempted by the devil. The season of Lent signifies a time to repent, reflect on our behaviour, our heart posture towards God, and to turn back to Him.

Rev Dr Simon Chan led us through the examination of Psalm 51, King David's plea to God for mercy, forgiveness, and cleansing (from committing adultery with Bathsheba and plotting the murder of his servant, Uriah the Hittite), and pointed out three steps on taking the road back to God: Confession of sins, Restoration of fellowship, and Manifesting the fruits of repentance.

### Step 1: Confess our sins (vv 1-6)

#### Confession is based on the mercy of God

We need to understand that our confession to God should not be driven out of fear of His judgement, but out of the recognition of His unfailing love. God is a loving God, but He is also just, and He will not indulge our sins - because He is just, we must confess, and because He is merciful, we *can* confess. Confession also has to be done with complete honesty before God (v3), and ultimately, we are sinning against God when we sin against people.



## Step 2: Restoration of fellowship (vv 7-12)

### Cleansing, Fellowship, Joy

God desires to come to us as we turn to Him. He fills us afresh with the Holy Spirit and meets us in our honest confession. The restoration of fellowship with God leads us to experience the sweet joy of His presence through the Holy Spirit, and experience anew the joy of our salvation. Restoration consists of three steps: Cleansing, Fellowship and Joy.

#### Cleansing: v7,10

Cleansing involves dealing with sin, to remove them with the blood of Christ, and to pray for God to renew our spirit so that we are empowered against falling into sin again.

#### Fellowship: v9, 11

Fellowship refers to meeting with God and having His presence with us. Our relationship with God should not just be for a functional purpose.

#### Joy: v8, 12

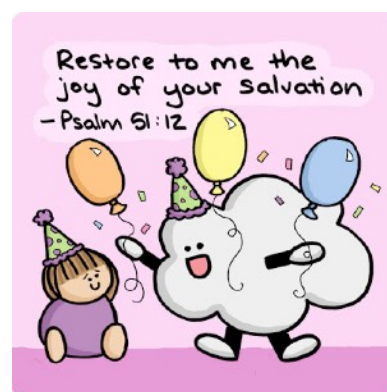
God takes delight in us when we repent, and in response, we experience again the joy of our salvation.

## Step 3: Manifesting the fruits of repentance (vv 13-19)

### Personal Resolve and Social Stability

#### Personal Resolve

Real repentance will always show in the new resolve to live differently - personal resolve involves the transformation of the heart and the translation into outward actions.



#### Social Stability

In Psalm 51, King David recognised that his sinful actions would affect the nation. As children of God, we have the responsibility to the larger community. We are supposed to be salt and light, not to just live and die to ourselves.

Rev Dr Simon Chan reiterated that it is not just during lent that we should turn back to God. Honestly self-examination should be a daily practice. At the end of each day, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any sins we need to deal with, and move towards repentance.

Reflection written by Mandy and Bo Cheng

# YOUNG ADULT



# CELL GROUPS

## Young Adult Ministry

Besides combined fellowship events that occur once every quarter of the year, our young adults typically meet up in their cell groups. 2017 has seen group of youths newly inducted into our Young Adults Ministry, making a fourth cell group, led by Ying Ting and Jixian. The cell groups typically meet up once every other week for a time of worship, bible/book study, sharing, and prayer. Additionally, the pastoral staff have also increased the number of theological lectures conducted by speakers from Trinity Theological College (TTC). These lectures are targeted at the young adults, with the objective of increasing their exposure to theological topics such as Lenten Spirituality, and John Calvin and Postmodern Spirituality.



## See what our YAs have to say about their CGs: X'Cell – Bo Cheng

In the year 2016, X'Cell has experienced revitalisation in our fellowship with God through bible study, prayer, and get-together sessions. On every 1st & 3rd Wednesday evenings of the month, we would gather in the cosy church conference room to have devotion and personal sharing while munching on delicious snacks contributed by everyone. My participation in cell group



**“My participation in cell group activities has brought me so much closer to my brothers and sisters in Christ.”**

- BO CHENG

activities has brought me so much closer to my brothers and sisters in Christ. As a cell group, we constantly encourage one another with words of love and genuine concern. I feel very loved when I hear the cell wanting to carry one another's burdens, and to live lives dependent on each other. As the letter 'X' in X'Cell reminds us of Christ (greek: Χρήστος), I am thankful to God that He has brought us together closer than ever before, and He constantly works in everyone to be more Christlike. Amen!

## X'Cell – Mandy

It has been so heartening to see how X'Cell has grown over the course of the year. Members have grown closer to one another, and their commitment in coming for cell week after week is so encouraging. I thank God for sustaining us, and I pray for X'Cell to continue to be a place where we can all share openly and grow together in the word.



**“Members have grown closer to one another... their commitment in coming for cell week after week is so encouraging.”**

- MANDY



## Berea - Avery

Cell group is one thing that allows me to share my thoughts & musings in a safe and close knit environment - to learn from one another and also a great way for me to get my thoughts in order. One thing that I particularly like is getting to know members of my CG better and as time goes on, you get to



see a very real and quirky side of them that you might not know. Cell time also allows us to fellowship together more as each of us might be busy with our regular post-service activities and ministry commitments. For those that are not in a CG yet or have not been attending regularly, I would encourage you to find one that you are comfortable with and also to attend more regularly. Committing to CG is not difficult and you will find that you will gain so much more out of it to have a CG family that supports you and keeps you accountable in your spiritual walk with Christ.

## Berea - Jinqing

Since I joined the Berea CG about five years ago, I have grown significantly. Back then, starting off as a new Christian, I was very thankful for the safe environment I had in CG to learn about God and His Word, and to experience the mutual support we had for one another. It is my hope that there will always be unity and love within all CGs, and that we will continue to serve one another through the community. Let us continue to keep each other and our leaders in prayer.

**“...you will find that you will gain so much more out of it to have a CG family that supports you and keeps you accountable in your spiritual walk with Christ...”**

- AVERY

**“...I was very thankful for the safe environment I had in CG to learn about God and His Word, and to experience the mutual support we had for one another.”**

- JINQING





## Cyprus – Xin Ning

Cell group has been initially awkward, but I adjusted well thanks to the brothers and sisters in it. I have a great time in cell and it is comfortable for me to share my insecurities and also ask

**“I have a great time in cell and it is comfortable for me to share my insecurities and also ask many questions about Christianity.”**

- XIN NING



many questions about Christianity. I also like how everyone is accepting of the opinions of one another. I think it helps us to understand one another more and help others and therefore it brought us closer in friendship and our relationship with God. I feel happy that I joined this cell group and I thank God for the wonderful people around me.

## Go Forth! – Jixian

The youngest cell group to grace Chen Li is called Go Forth! 去吧! The name echoes Jesus' commands to go forth and make disciples of all nations. The youth of our members lets us devote our energy into studying the word with a contemporary perspective, and we wish to be enduring in professing our faith to the world. Even though we are new, we have bonded over many meals and discussions encouraged by the inquisitive young adults. As we go on from here, we hope this CG becomes a place where anything can be shared and fellow members are as close as family. Go Forth!

**“The youth of our members lets us devote our energy into studying the word with a contemporary perspective...”**

- JIXIAN

## Our Theme Verse:

“Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

- Genesis 12:1-3

