
Engage

Dear Lord Jesus, may Your Name be praised in all generations. Help us today to be awakened from our ruins and return to You in passion for Your purposes and plans. Revive and guide us with Your Holy Spirit to choose rightly and walk in holiness and righteousness. In Your Name we pray. Amen.





WELCOME

Welcome is the first “W” in a Cell Group (CG) session. Each person may be going through many daily situations leading up to a CG session. Hence, it is good to bring the CG with a practice of releasing the daily situations we each may be going through. CGs are encouraged to get creative about Icebreakers and/or activities that help its members to be present with one another. Here are some suggestions to shake things up a little and inject some fun and freshness into how we do this.

Suggested Icebreaker Activity/Questions

For CGs with new visitors

- What are the differences between Malaysia’s Merdeka Day and Malaysia Day? How did you celebrate both occasions?

For CGs with existing members

- Name the various groups / sub-groups of Orang Asal in Malaysia.

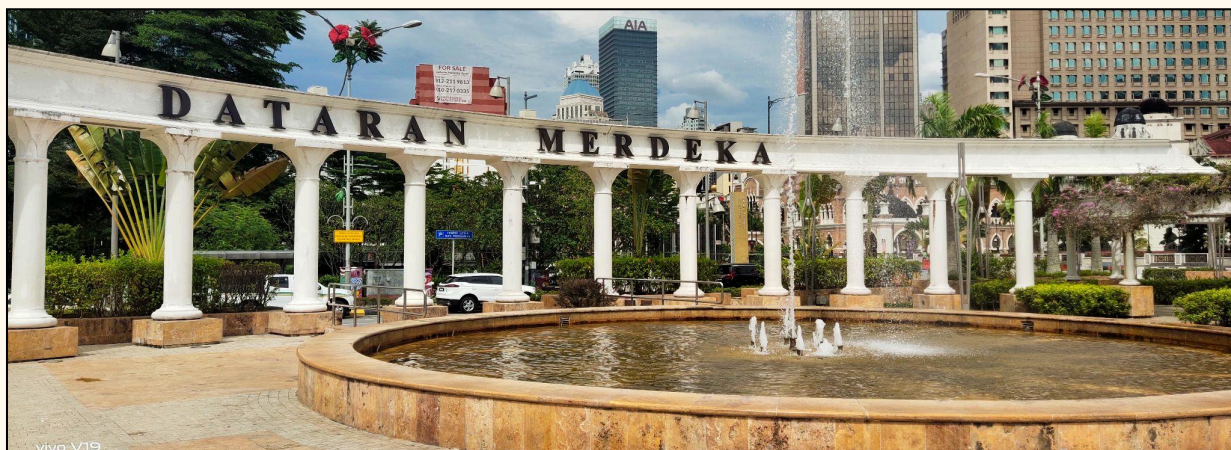


Photo by DUMC's Engage team



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.

Awakened: From Ruins to Revival #3:

The Day of the Lord

Pr Janan Goh

(Joel 3)

Reading Joel 3:1-2

*In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,
I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.
There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, My people Israel,
because they scattered My people among the nations and divided up my land.*

Reading Joel 3:14-18

*Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!
For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.
The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.
The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the
heavens will tremble.
But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.*

*‘Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, My holy hill.
Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her.*

*‘In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the
ravines of Judah will run with water.
A fountain will flow out of the Lord’s house and will water the valley of acacias.*

Introduction *Joel 1: 15; Joel 2:1-2, 32*

God's judgement had fallen during prophet Joel's time as seen in Joel 1:5-12 when disaster struck. The prophet forewarned the people of the urgent need of true repentance (Joel 2:11b) in brokenness. For finally the Day of the Lord is drawing near; (mentioned 5 times in Joel). So, what will we choose at the Valley of Decision? The day of Darkness - which leads to destruction from the Almighty will come. But Deliverance for all who call on the Name of the Lord will be saved. Where we stand now decides our terror or refuge when the Day of the Lord comes. For it is on the same day that darkness and deliverance will take place.

BIG IDEA: Wake Up, Return to the Lord, Choose this Day!

1. Deliberation: People and Nations Judged *Joel 3:1-16*

Why does God take His people's side? Joel mentions that on The Day of the Lord, God's judgement will be upon the nations that persecuted and scattered His people, dividing up His land. It becomes His personal grievance. Similarly, God will restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem (His people) .

2. Decision: Separation on the Day of the Lord. *Joel 3:14*

On the Day of the Lord, the valley of decision is likened as a threshing sledge which separates the grain from the chaff. All humanity will be present for this separation as God judges everyone.

3. Destruction: Day of the Lord for His enemies. *Joel 3:4, 7, 8*

On the Day of the Lord, God will cause destruction upon His enemies by avenging His people with what they had done to His people. This came to pass when Alexander the Great destroyed the two kingdoms Tyre and Sidon which had earlier plundered and destroyed Judah and Jerusalem.

4. Distinction : Day of the Lord for His people. *Joel 3: 17-21; Matthew 25:31-46*

God will restore His people and sanctify them as He is holy. God is the ultimate 'Avenger'. In the parable of sheep and goat, Jesus will separate people one from another: the sheep to His right and the goats to His left. He distinguishes the sheep by the works they had done in His name for the least and the lost.

5. Deliverance: This is the Day of the Lord promised. *Joel 3:1, 18-21; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; John 3:16*

The Day of the Lord will come for all of us. It can either be :

- a) Darkness where those without Christ will enter into eternal darkness, or
- b) Deliverance where “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved.” The same inevitable day that terrifies, also rescues.

6. Decision: Choose wisely. *Joel 3:14*

Are you choosing Ruin or Revival today? For who knows when the Day of the Lord will be?

Conclusion *Joel 3: 14-18; Joshua 24:15*

Let us heed prophet Joel’s advice and look forward to God’s promises in eternal life. Wake Up! Return to the Lord today.



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.

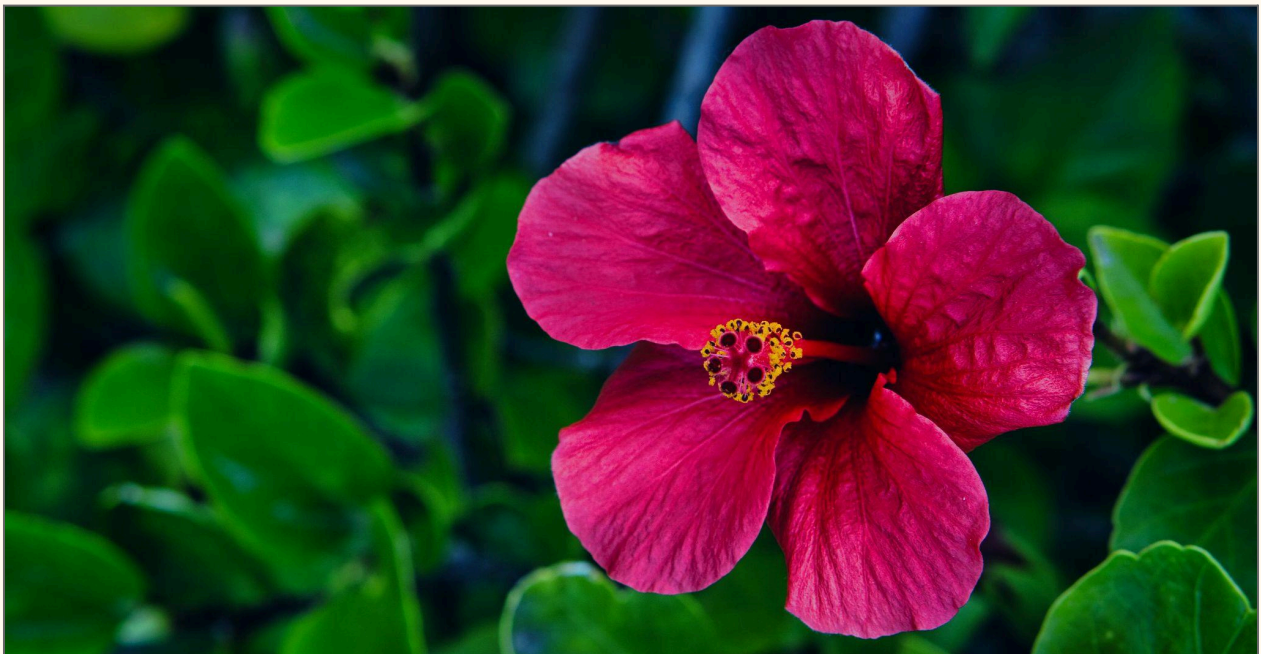


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Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- How prepared are you for the Day of the Lord? What are some things that you dread about it and things that you are looking forward to?
- What do you hope for when you think about your home country / state / town?

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- How are you living your life so that others will know that you are a “sheep” and not a “goat”. How would you recognize a fellow “sheep” in your marketplace or neighbourhood?
- Joel 3 calls the people of God to be awakened from their sins and that they would repent, otherwise destruction would befall upon them. Share stories of how you or someone you know experienced a downfall in life because of their unrepented sins. Sitting in CG, you probably repented. What or who helped you decide to return to the Lord?
- Joel 3 seems like a hard read, as it would be for other books from Old Testament prophets. What are your views on who God is? What new insights have you learned about Him through the sermon series on the book of Joel?

EPL Emphasis

A question or activity to help anchor our focus back on
[E]vangelism/[P]rayer/[L]ead

- Many people are still living in darkness and are in need of deliverance. How can you, as a CG, extend help to the least and the lost? Perhaps, take time to plan to do something meaningful in the last quarter of 2026.
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SERMON REFLECTION



Photo by Denys Gromov on Pexels

Looking back to the years of the 1970s, I missed the carefree days where my friends of many racial backgrounds would play and participate in each other's ethnic cultural celebrations without fear but with trust and respect among friends. The *muhibbah* spirit of sharing and caring has been replaced with suspicion placed by leaders who use the divide and rule concept. It is indeed sad to see friends of different ethnic backgrounds keeping to themselves instead of sharing love and care for each other.

As a follower of Christ, my family and I have indeed been living in a neighbourhood where we still try to keep the spirit of *Muhibbah* through gatherings held by our community security association committee. We gather for potluck meals to celebrate the New Year, Chinese New Year, Hari Raya, Deepavali and even Christmas. I pray and thank God each day for the people of God who still go carolling at homes and also in malls.

This Malaysia Day, I pray that all brothers and sisters in Christ will gather to pray for the spirit of God's love to shine through us to our neighbours who are yet to know the Lord. If we are willing, the Lord will make a way for us to show His love to the least and the lost here in our neighbourhood and wherever we are present. That the people of this country will realise we are Malaysians together as one. Let us not look at our differences but move forward united.

Contributed by Michelle Chuah



MISSIONAL

Note to CGL: Inspire and encourage the Cell Group members to participate in the activity suggested below (from our CrossFields, Missions department) together to cultivate a culture of being a missional church.

CrossFields

**MISSIONS
PRAYER
MEETING**

3 Oct 2026
9.15am
**Room 103,
Dream Centre**

Join us for breakfast at
the Garden at 8.30am

A shared time of worship, stories, and prayer for God's global work



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.

Murut People

- People, to put their full faith in Jesus, not shamans or talismans, and for youths to rise up and spread the Gospel.
- Good education, teachers, resources, and opportunities for youths to develop their God-given potential.
- Unity among churches, villages, and generations, and for Christians to demonstrate Jesus' love through practical care.

Mission Team

Alan Ho (Team Leader), Tan Hong Looi (Assistant Team Leader), Ong Teng Jin, Siew Wei Yee, Susan Wong, and Wendy Lim will be on a mission trip to Sabah from 13 to 17 September 2026.

Pray for:

- Open doors and responsiveness to God's Word as they share the gospel with those they encounter.
- Protection, provisions, health, and safety for the team members.
- Wisdom and giftings in carrying out God's assignments and in serving the people they meet.