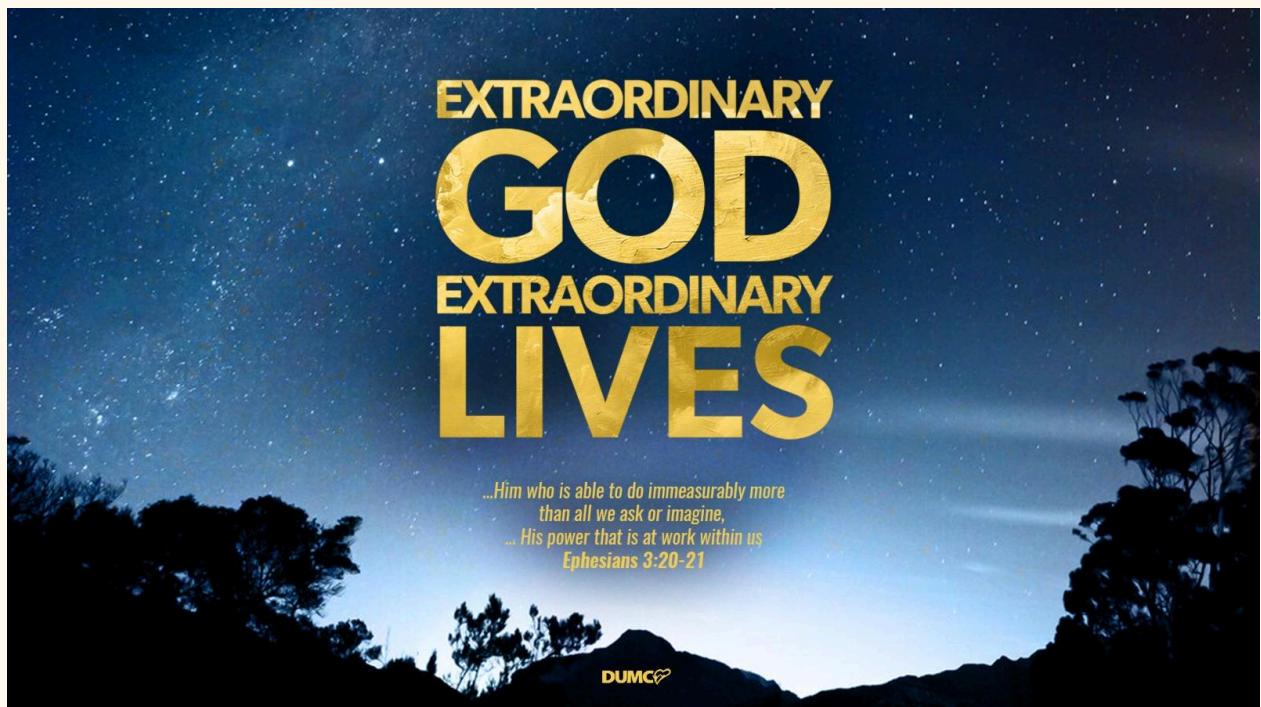

Engage

Dear Lord, You are a God of justice, mercy, and compassion. Open our eyes to the needs around us especially of the poor, the hurting, the forgotten. Stir our hearts, Lord, that we may not turn away, but respond with love and action. Teach us to be Your hands and feet in the world, bringing hope where there is despair, and light where there is darkness. May DUMC be a reflection of Your heart, a beacon of care in our community. In Jesus' Name, 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

- Which is your favourite mall in KL? Why?

For CGs with existing members

- How would you react if God were to appear as a burning bush to you today? Or, what was your ‘burning bush’ scene like where you had a special conversation with God?



Photo by Jessica Arends on Unsplash



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.

Act. Love. Walk

Pr Sophy Lim

Exodus 3:7-12

The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

Micah 6:8

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

Introduction

Our country has been a refuge for many refugees of wars and countless asylum seekers. There are 12 to 16 thousand stateless individuals in Malaysia with 300 thousand reported in Sabah alone. These foreigners have come to our country seeking refuge and a new life but face discrimination, religious restrictions, have limited access to education or work and are usually exploited. Would God care about them too? Let us not forget about the poor, homeless, marginalized and vulnerable. In KL alone, there are reportedly 1500 to 200 homeless. Would God care about them too?

BIG IDEA: DUMC's 3rd Mission - To advocate community engagement in our nation, bringing God's love and justice to a needy society.

How would God feel and think about Malaysia today?

1. About God *Exodus 3:7-12; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; Matthew 26:11*

The burning bush is one of the most significant events recorded in the Bible. But amidst the awesomeness, holiness, sovereignty and miraculous wonder, we may have missed the centrality of relationship in the passage. God was having an intimate conversation with Moses where He poured out His concern for the suffering Israelites. His heart for His people was so great that He was sending Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

God is telling us who He is:

He is a seeing God (*I have seen the misery*);
He has heard (*I have heard their cries*);
He is concerned, He cares (*I am concerned about their suffering*);
He will do something (*I have come down to rescue*);
He wants us to share His heart and participate (*I am sending you*);
And He promises to walk with us (*I will be with you*).

He is the same now as He is then. He is an unchanging God (*"For I the Lord do not change"*). He is an extraordinary God who cares for all including refugees and those in need.

2. Our call as a church and a follower of Christ *Micah 6:8*

God's call for us as a church and as disciples of Jesus is to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with Him.

a. Act Justly: Justice and Spiritual Order *Psalm 10:17-18; Proverbs 29:26*

God is just. He defends the afflicted, the fatherless and the oppressed. But what is justice? Justice is presented not only as fairness but as a foundational principle of social obligation and community flourishing. When we observe justice, we enable community flourishing which brings out the full potential and best in life.

We are called to reflect justice as is evident throughout Scripture. Not worldly justice but Biblical justice that references Scripture's moral framework, not cultural trends. This justice is rooted in the love of God for His people. The Old Testament commands us to care for the fatherless, the poor and the foreigners (e.g. Leviticus 23:22). The New Testament advocates sharing resources to help those in need. The book of Acts provides glimpses of how the early Christians share with each other and care for widows in the daily distribution of food (e.g. Acts 2: 44-46, Acts 6:1).

b. Love Mercy: Mercy as the Foundation of Truth *Hebrews 4:16; Matthew 5:7*

The Biblical meaning of 'Mercy' goes beyond forgiving. It comes from the Hebrew root of '*Hesed*' (חֶסֶד) which represents lovingkindness, steadfast love, covenantal loyalty and compassion. In Greek, it is '*Eleos*' (ἔλεος) which means divine mercies. Therefore, Biblical mercy points to an intimate relationship with God that is filled with love, kindness and compassion. It speaks about divine mercy and the grace that only God can give.

Truth introduced through mercy brings freedom and transformation. It opens the door for spiritual growth. In contrast, truth without mercy can alienate and burden people. Jesus said in the sermon of the mount "*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy*". Are we reflecting God's love for others? Do we have any known or unconscious prejudices or stereotypes about certain people groups or races that hinder us from bringing God's love and justice to a needy society?

c. Walk Humbly: Humility as a Lifestyle Rooted in Grace *Proverbs 22:4; James 4:6-10*

Humility begins with having the fear of God. It is realizing that we are unable to solve complex multifaceted people problems by our own strength. Only God can do it. It is only possible by the grace of God - the fusion of justice and mercy - perfected by Jesus' sacrifice, death and resurrection. Thus, we are to engage by remembering the people in our prayer and intercession, by sharing resources and expertise and by advocating for justice.

Conclusion

Our God is the extraordinary God who sees, hears and cares for the poor, marginalized and vulnerable.. He is the living God. Our saviour, redeemer and shepherd. He is never distant nor cold but ever present and near. As we celebrate life in the upcoming DUMC 45th Anniversary Celebrations, may we extend our hand in obedience to God - bringing the message of hope to those in need. Let us act justly, love mercy and walk humbly as He gives us more grace.

For more information on DUMC's Advocacy & Social Concern ministry, click [here](#).



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.



Photo by Priscilla Du Preez  on Unsplash

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- Share the most recent time when you encountered a stranger in need and was stirred to help them. Describe some dilemma that you may have felt at that time. How did it make you feel (e.g. sad, confused, fearful, anxious, etc)?
- Look up the 3 mission statements of DUMC (<https://dumc.my/about/>). Which could the CG invest time and effort to do more of in the coming months? What are some practical steps which the CG can embark on?

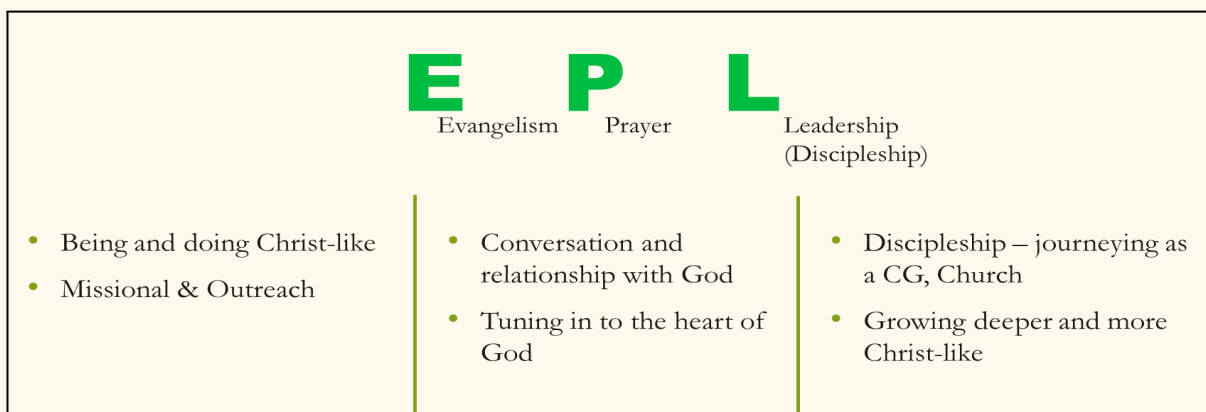
Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- What assumptions or prejudices might you carry - perhaps unknowingly - about the poor, the needy or the outcast? What can we do as a cell group to advocate and live out Micah 6:8?
- Who are the 'needy' or marginalized in your neighbourhood that you or the CG may have overlooked? How does the command to "*act justly, love mercy and walk humbly*" prompt you to take action?
- Reflecting on God's character and actions in Exodus 3:7-12, when has it been the hardest for you to believe that God is real or present? How did He meet you in that space?

EPL Emphasis:

An activity to help anchor our focus back on [E]vangelism/[P]rayer/[L]eadership.

- Do a prayer walk in KL with your family or as a CG after DUMC 45th Anniversary Celebrations. Pray and intercede as the Holy Spirit opens your eyes to the needs in the city.





SERMON REFLECTION



Photo by Lucas Andrade on Unsplash

We are in an odd paradox post COVID, where the world has somewhat shrunk due to increasing virtual engagements but we find ourselves distant and detached. We are acutely aware of the pain and suffering in the world but also less intune with the needs and the reality around us. We care about the on-going Ukraine-Russia war, the conflicts in the Middle East and the oppression crisis of stateless refugees. We care, are concerned and participate in doing our part to alleviate world crises but restricting involvement to what we see online. Not wanting to engage in close proximity less it infringes on our sense of personal boundaries.

I was reminded this week of a certain lady who is seen frequently roaming our neighbourhood. She appears homeless, rambles unintelligently to herself and is sometimes seen pushing a rattling trolley, filled with a hodgepodge of odds and ends - half used bottles, household parts and things that looked rescued from another life. I find myself walking to the other side of the street whenever she walks in my direction, much like the Pharisee who walked to the other side of the street in the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-32. I unconsciously hold my breath when she walks past my car while waiting at the traffic light.

There was one time when I double parked and was on my way to the mall to grab coffee to go. That same lady stopped some 20 paces from me, turned around, wagged her finger at me and barked out a string of syllables I couldn't quite catch. It raised all the hairs on my back. My mind raced immediately to my family's safety waiting in the car as she stood midway between me and our car. I was contemplating between fighting for my family's safety and running for my life. Fortunately, I recalled that they locked the doors when I stepped out of the car. So I ignored her and calmly entered the mall. I was relieved to find her nowhere to be seen upon my return to the car. The most recent encounter was while having lunch at a neighbourhood burger joint. She was seen loitering in the vicinity and visibly eyeing the Grab takeaway rack placed just within the encased glass windows of the establishment. Whether it was moved inside due to the worry of theft or for some other reason, one would never know. But for now, all she could do was longingly gaze at the rack of freshly made burgers. Able to see but not quite able to savour them.

She walked by a second time and stopped to look again. I felt compelled to purchase one for her but found myself stopping short. I was in a dilemma - afraid and uncertain with thoughts racing through my mind. What if she took my act of kindness as an insult and attacked me? What if she had some serious disease that I may contract upon close contact? I felt a small voice inside me whispering that there were always ways to discreetly show kindness. I could leave it on the bench outside with none the wiser. Instead, against the initial compulsion, I did nothing and chose to refrain. She never came back a third time. A pang of regret gnawed at me that I promptly shoved aside.

I do not know what she has gone or is going through but I now know that God's grace is always there for her. I can always act with love and show kindness in simple ways. I have resolved to free myself from any preconceived stereotypes and bias against her. My prejudiced expectation of foul-smelling sour scent may be grossly unfounded. Despite her disheveled appearance, jarring fashion sense and overdrawn lipstick, she appeared washed and freshly clothed. I pray that no matter what is going on in her life, God will make His love and grace known to her through His people, myself included.

Contributed by Darren Lim



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

7 JUNE 2025

9.15AM - 11.00AM

ROOM 103, DREAM CENTRE

Missions Prayer Meeting

As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you (John 20:21)

Let's step into the will of God by praying for the salvation of the nations, following the footsteps of Jesus as He came to seek and save the lost, and walking in step with the Spirit to go wherever He leads us.

 7 June 2025

 9.15am

 Room 103, Dream Centre

 *Breakfast will be served at the Garden at 8.30am*

Stay connected: [@crossfields.dumc](https://www.crossfields.dumc.org)



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.

Prayer Items for DUMC 45th Anniversary at Megastar Arena

1. Thanksgiving and Praise

- Thank God for 45 years of His faithfulness and guidance over DUMC.
- Praise God for the many lives transformed through the ministry of the church.
- Celebrate the unity, growth, and vision He has sustained.

2. God's Presence and Anointing

- Invite the Holy Spirit to move powerfully throughout the entire event.
- Pray for a tangible sense of God's presence during worship, interview and sharing time.
- Ask for open hearts to receive God's word and touch.

3. Speaker and Worship Team

- Cover the speaker (Pr Ann) with prayer for wisdom, clarity, and a prophetic word in season.
- Pray for the worship team to lead with anointing, unity, and sensitivity to the Spirit.
- Ask God to use every song, testimony, and word to glorify Him and minister deeply.

4. Logistics and Planning

- Pray for smooth coordination of all technical elements (sound, lighting, visuals).
- Cover the language interpreters, organizing team, volunteers, ushers, security and hospitality team in prayer for strength and joy.
- Pray for favour with the Mega Star Arena staff and all external vendors.

5. Safety and Protection

- Pray for God's protection over every attendees; physical, emotional, and spiritual.
- Cover the venue, transport arrangements, and surrounding areas in prayer.
- Ask God to thwart any plans of the enemy and cover the event in His peace.

6. Unity and Fellowship

- Pray that the event would strengthen the bond of love and unity across all DUMC congregations.
- Ask for a spirit of humility, celebration, and encouragement to fill every heart.
- Pray for meaningful connections and healing of relationships where needed.

7. Vision for the Future

- Commit DUMC's future into God's hands: next steps, leadership, outreach, and impact.
- Pray for a renewed vision and commitment among members to "Love God, Serve People, Make Disciples."
- Ask God to raise new leaders, missionaries, and kingdom workers through this milestone event.