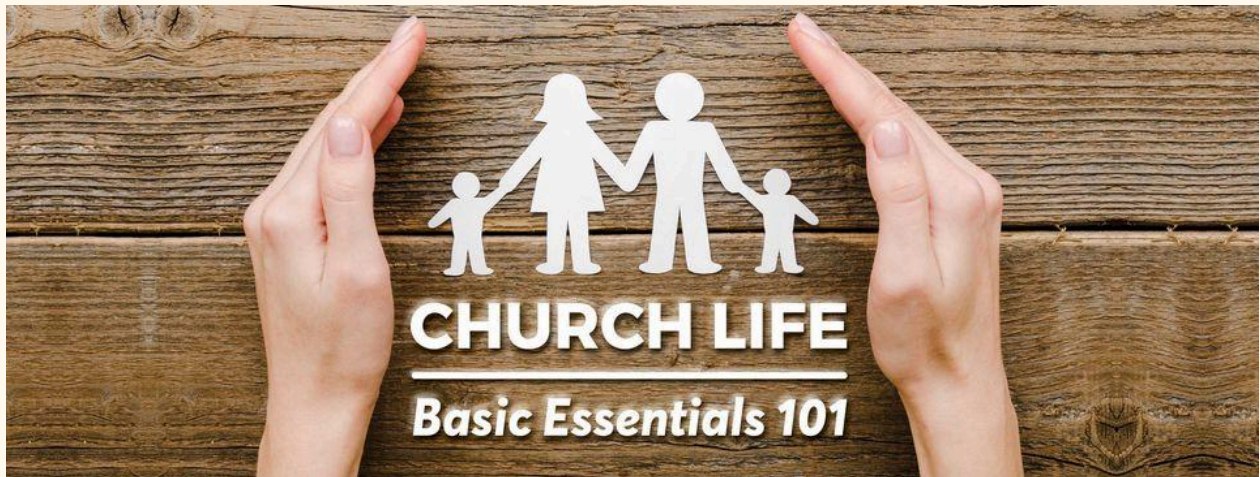

Ignite

Dear Lord, Your church must be one of the most important things in my life, because it brings me closer to You. I ask for Your blessings on it, and we lift it up to You. Thank You, Lord, for allowing us to be a part of this congregation and a part of You. In Jesus' Name, 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.

Church Life 101 #1: Why Belong to a Church?

Senior Pastor Chris Kam

Ephesians 4:11-13;

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Mark 1:1-3

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way’ – ‘a voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”

Introduction

Baptism is not a personal affair as we belong to a Christian family. Pastor Chris has been in church for 34 years. During this time, he has seen many church members come and go. There are many churches in Klang Valley and Pastor Chris is good friends with pastors from various churches. The pastors acknowledge the wandering sheep in their midst yet they let their members go with blessings, in the hope that they will grow with God’s family wherever they settle in.

What are your reasons for choosing DUMC?

In 2020, Pastor Chris preached a series about the Local Church. The four main points were Spiritual Authority, Safe Home, Equipping Station and Global Mission. The Call to the Church is the same to all churches regardless of denomination, that is:

- **The Great Commandment** [Matthew 22:37-40](#)

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

- **The Great Commission** *Matthew 28:19–20*

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

DUMC’s tagline is ‘Love God, Serve People and Make Disciples towards Christlikeness’.

1. History – What we did

DUMC started as a small care group. The Care Group was implemented at the very beginning of the church. We have moved 5 venues since then.

In 1986 there was a move of the Holy Spirit. In 1993, DUMC officially became a cell church. This basis is what caused DUMC to grow exponentially to this day.

Some of DUMC Milestones include:

- 1980 – Planting of DUMC
- 1986 – Pivotal move of the Holy Spirit
- 1993 – Strategic adoption of Cell Church
- 1996 – Chinese Congregation
- 2001 – Bahasa Congregation
- 2005 – Nepalese Congregation
- 2010 – Tamil Congregation
- 2010 – Myanmarese Congregation

DUMC sent pastors and leaders to Faith Community Baptist Church (FCBC), Singapore to learn more about the cell church model and how it works. DUMC also played host to cell church conferences.

DUMC is a cell church. This means that if the church is to be closed due to persecution or the recent pandemic, the cell leaders will assume the role of the pastor and the church will still meet in cells.

The DNA of the church today consists of:

- Discipleship : It is important. We can do discipleship by doing life together.
- Missional : We can reach out regardless whether locally or overseas.
- Cell Group
- Experiential : It is when you can experience God’s presence in your life.

- Family : We are intergenerational. Both the young and the old can worship God together.

2. Theology - Why we do what we do

The Early Church Model *Acts 2:42-47*

In Acts, we see that the Early Church was Growing spiritually. There were wonders and signs. People were sharing their belongings with one another. They loved meeting together daily in the temple courts and homes. The church was an amazing witness to the community. Many were being saved.

Jethro's Principle of Organization *Exodus 18:17-23*

Exodus 18 shows how Jethro advised Moses to divide the large groups to thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Likewise, DUMC follows this principle by breaking down the roles of a Senior Pastor, District Pastors, Zone Pastors, Zone Leaders and Cell Leaders.

Body Ministry *Ephesians 4:11-13*

Body ministry refers to DUMC equipping God's people for the works of service. Ephesians says that Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Methodist Heritage of Holiness and Accountability

Similar to Jethro's principle, John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement also breaks down his organizations to Societies (50+), Classes (10-12) and Bands (6). John Wesley went one step further. He ensured that the bands are accountable to each other in every aspect of their life. Once the leader was confident, he would then issue a ticket which allows the ticket-holder to partake communion.

Kingdom of God *Mark 1:1-3, 14-15, Exodus 23:20, Malachi 3:1, Isaiah 40:3, James 3:16, John 1:14*

Heaven and Earth were once together during creation. Due to the sin of Man, heaven and earth were separated. Since then the only way to communicate with God was by giving sacrifices in the synagogue until Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins.

When Jesus ascended, he sent the Holy Spirit to dwell with us. We as the church represent the Kingdom of God. By understanding the Kingdom of God, we can become missional in spreading the good news about Christ to others.

3. Practice – How we do it *Ephesians 4:11-16*

The philosophy of ministry statement

Cell Groups (CG) become the basic building blocks (or communities) for all Church ministries. The Church is formed from them and is the sum of them. CGs never grow larger than 15 people and multiply as they reach this figure. There are no other activities which exist in competition with the cells. Everything in the Church is an extension of them and flows from their combined strength.

Our philosophy of ministry is in accordance to Ephesians 4:11-16, which in essence requires that all members or regular worshippers of DUMC to be part of a CG so that they can be involved in the ministry of edification (inwards) and evangelism (outwards), i.e. works of ministry.

Characteristics of a cell church

1. Everyone belongs to a Cell Group (Basic Building Block)
2. The Cell Group exists hand-in-hand with the corporate worship.
3. The Cell Group is the church (micro-church)
4. The Cell Group will be multiplied into two when it grows to more than 15 members.
5. There is no regular activity that exists in competition with the CG.
6. Every member is a minister. (Ministry is not confined to leaders and pastors)
7. The Cell Purpose can be summarized as Edification and Evangelism.

People join DUMC for a number of reasons, such as the desire to serve, to get married in the church, to go on mission trips, or to get baptized. If someone wants to be part of DUMC, they must join the membership process.. It starts with filling in a membership form that requires a signature from the Cell Leader. Then, they need to attend prerequisite courses and the Baptism and Membership Encounter Weekend (BMEW) before being Interviewed by the Zone Pastor.

Conclusion

According to David Pawson there is a 4-step process in “The Normal Christian Birth”. He summed it up with the acronym **RuBBeR**;

- R - Repent towards the Father
- B – Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ
- B – Baptized in Water
- R – Receive the Holy Spirit



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.

Suggested Icebreaker Activity/Questions

- Which of these things have you done in the recent month - attend DUMC Celebrations in-person, went on a Cell Group outing, visited a friend or relative at the hospital, travel outstation for a short holiday or none of the above? What's on your current to-do list?
- What excites you about being in a Cell Group?

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- When did your journey in DUMC begin? How did you end up in your current Cell Group?
- What would your "BIG IDEA" be for the weekend's sermon?



Photo by Amer Mughawish on Unsplash

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- What are the reasons that help you decide to join and remain in DUMC?
- What do you understand from the phrase, "to belong"?
Do you feel like you belong in DUMC, or your Cell Group? Why or why not?
- Do you have a sense of permanency in this church? Why or why not?
- In what ways has your Cell Group helped you anchor in DUMC? What do you think it would be like if there was no such community available for you?
- In what ways can you help others anchor themselves in a Cell Group? Is there someone you know who needs that?

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

- Discuss the merits of DUMC Philosophy of Ministry Statement. Is your Cell Group aligned to it?
- In the 4 steps of the normal Christian birth, are you missing any step? What can you do to address that? Discuss how the Cell Group can help you.
- A practical approach to retain membership in church or a Cell Group is to make the 'exit' more narrow compared to the 'entry' point. In what ways can your Cell Group improve so that members won't leave?
- The DNA (Strategic Distinctives) of DUMC consists of Discipleship, Missional, Cell Group, Experiential and Family.
Do you carry this DNA in your life, or are there areas that you have yet to

explore and familiarize with? How can you contribute better in these areas?

THE SEVEN CHURCHES SERIES (April 30 - June 12)

A supplementary tool to help CG members take heed to the messages in Rev 2 & 3

Click [here](#) to access the **3rd video (PERGAMUM)**. *Subsequent videos will be released the following 6 weekends.*

Click [here](#) to access the **worksheet document** to the video.



SERMON REFLECTION



Photo by Skitterphotoon Pexels

At the time I am writing this, the movie *“Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness”* is the top movie to watch. The gist of the movie revolves around the question, “Are you happy?” This reminds me of Pastor Chris's question to us, “Are you okay, really?” As a *Marvel* fan, I liked the movie but many who don't follow the Marvel Universe, will be lost. The movie continues from where other related Marvel movies and series left off. I can understand this frustration because this movie fails to introduce the characters or provide a flashback so that those watching the movie will be familiar with Dr Strange, Wanda and America Chavez.

This weekend's sermon is a flashback of the church and what it believes in. I have heard piecemeals of DUMC once in a while during AGW's or the New Year Celebrations. This sermon is a good reminder to those who have been in the church long enough and a good introduction to those who are new to DUMC. I pray that today's sermon will edify you and motivate you to stay with this 42-year old family.

The Bible is full of flashbacks. Deuteronomy is a detailed flashback of Exodus. The first four gospels in the New Testament gives the reader a full understanding of who Jesus is. I cannot imagine a Bible with only Matthew and immediately followed by Acts. You certainly will not be able to grasp a full understanding of who Jesus is.

I first heard about DUMC when Pastor Daniel visited Canning Garden Methodist Church. I really liked how CGMC and DUMC worked with each other. The youth group I was with also joined DUMC once they went to study or work in KL. My first visit was in 1997 after my SPM and I stayed on with DUMC when I moved to KL in 1999. I officially joined the church as a member in 2006 and I have not looked back since.

DUMC has certainly been with me through the good and bad times in my life. I joined a cell group which has multiplied a few times since. The cell group has also been with me when I had jobs away or outstation. I had a spiritual family to constantly check on me and see whether I am okay and doing fine. DUMC also allowed me to serve in the writing team even while I was working in Johor and Penang. My cell group has also been an encouragement to me when my father passed away in January 2022.

I pray that this weekend's flashback has given you a clearer picture of DUMC and what it believes. I am really blessed to be a part of this amazing family and I pray that you will be too.



PRAYER



Photo by Ben White on Unsplash

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.

DUMC new members (from baptism and membership).

Pray that:

- God will help them to continually walk in love and by faith in His Word.
- God will grant them the spirit of wisdom and revelation in God's Word.
- They will constantly experience the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and His people.
- God will give them compassion for the lost and the least.
- God will help them to deepen their commitment to His work in DUMC.
- They will better understand God's will and divine purpose for their lives.
- They will strengthen their heart and remain faithful when challenges arise.
