

ST PAUL'S



CHURCH

As for what was sown on
good soil, this is the one
who hears the word and
understands it.

Matthew 13:23b

24 & 25 April

Easter Four

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all who put their trust in him: raise us, we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek the things which are above, where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-8

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:18-23

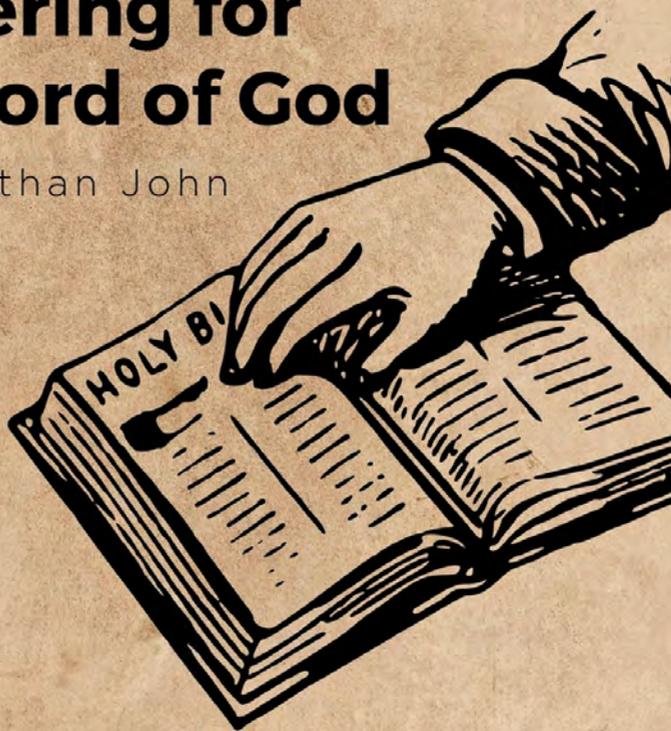
Sermon Topic

**A Community Hungry
for God's Word**

by Rev Jeremy Ponniah

Hungering for the Word of God

By Arulnathan John



Since joining St Paul's Church six years ago, I love to come early every Sunday before the service begins to pray and soak in the ambience around me as the congregation members file in.

I am encouraged to see a growing number of congregation members who take down notes while the sermon is preached, either by writing them in their notebooks, or making digital notes in their smartphones or tablets.

This reminds me of the scrutiny the Bereans placed upon Silas and the Apostle Paul visited their city and preached the Good News to them.

“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (Acts 17:11).

The growing number of ministries in St Paul's Church, ranging from cell groups and home visitations to reaching out to migrant workers and nursing home residents, also show how we apply the Word of God by ministering in areas of need in Singapore and beyond.

Such passionate service arises only when people hunger and thirst for righteousness and the Word of God, and want to know more of it and how to apply it in their daily lives.

While taking sermon notes and participating in ministry are steps in the right direction, God's people should always strive for the utmost for His highest. Nehemiah 8: 1-8 shows how, after having been cut off from worship of the LORD and reading the Scriptures during their years of exile, the Israelites turned with one heart back to Him and were eager to apply His Word.

Here are three Ds for becoming a community that is hungry for God's Word.

Desire: The Israelites asked Ezra to bring the book of the Law and share it with them as they were hungry to hear the Word of God (Neh 8: 1-2). We must earnestly seek the Word of God with the same urgency and intensity we apply to our search for food and drink.

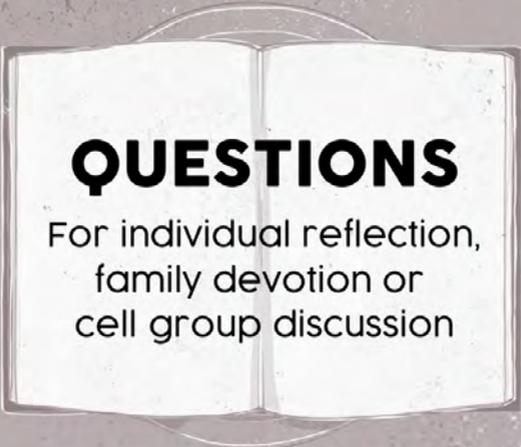
Decision: When the Israelites heard Ezra read the Book of the Law, they listened attentively and responded with “Amen, Amen”, acknowledging the truth of the Word that was shared with them. They made no excuses but responded with heartfelt worship to show their desire to follow the right paths.

(Neh 8: 3-6)

When hunger for God's Word is accompanied by the appropriate action – listening to the Word, prayer, obedience – realisation of wrong and Godly repentance follows.

Determination: Desiring to follow the right paths is futile if there is no determination to obey the Master. The Levites and leaders of the people “read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading” (Neh 8:8b) so that they could follow the statutes of the Book of the Law.

May these three Ds helps us to fan the flame of God's Spirit among us so that we can be Spirit-filled and passionate Ambassadors for Christ in our communities and beyond!



QUESTIONS

For individual reflection,
family devotion or
cell group discussion

From Neh 8:1-8, what actions reveal the level of hunger among the people for God's Word? How would you assess your level of hunger for God's Word and what steps can you take to increase it?

The people responded to God's Word by weeping. Share your experience of being impacted by God's Word. What is the reason for the 3-fold exhortation to the people in Neh 8:9-11 not to mourn or be grieved?

The people responded to God's Word with complete obedience in Neh 8:12 & 16. This resulted from their understanding of the commands in scripture. Share the steps you can take to grow your understanding of God's Word.

A bonfire of sticks and branches burns brightly in the center of the frame, set against a dark, starry night sky. Sparks and embers are captured in mid-air, falling from the fire. The background shows a dark silhouette of a forested hillside under a twilight sky.

Next Week's Sermon

**A COMMUNITY
GROWING IN
PASSION FOR GOD**

Nehemiah 9:1-6

By Rev Ezra Sivakumar



Dear Members,

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved member, Elizabeth William. She has left a rich legacy and touched many lives through her sacrificial love and persevering spirit. She will be missed dearly. We pray that the Lord will comfort the family during this difficult time.

COMMISSIONING OF PCC LEADERS FOR 2021/22

We are commissioning the following PCC
leaders during service tomorrow. Please
uphold them in prayer.

Vicar's Warden: Georgie Ong

People's Warden: Benjamin William

Synod Representative:

Arulnathan John, Kan Mun Wai Benny,
Prasanah Kasiramu

Parish Councillor:

Adrian Jay Lim, Daniel Tan , Christina Liu,
Eric Tan Wee Teck, Xavier Kiruba Karan

HEY CHURCH!

We are shifting
Prayer & Praise to every
FIRST FRIDAY of the month.

And the best news...

**WE ARE BACK TO
MEETING IN-PERSON!**



**JOIN US ON 7 MAY, 8PM,
AT THE SECOND SANCTUARY**

There won't be Prayer & Praise on 30 April

SPCK Registration for 2022

**for church members will take place
from 28 April to 30 April 2021.**

**Children born in 2010 (Playgroup)
to start January 2022**

**Children born in 2019 (Nursery 1)
to start in January 2022**

**Children born in 2018 (Nursery 2)
to start in January 2022**

**Children born in 2017 (Kindergarten 1)
to start in January 2022**

**Children born in 2016 (Kindergarten 2)
to start in January 2022**



**call 62805418
for registration
& enquiries.**

**or email to
adminsupport@spck.edu.sg**



WE ARE LOOKING FOR

**SPC SOCIAL MEDIA
ADVOCATES**

FACEBOOK • INSTAGRAM • YOUTUBE

BE A PART OF OUR TEAM!

Contact Joanna at 81610926 or
joanna@stpaulschurch.org.sg

Floral



Arrangement

We are looking for members to both donate and help with floral arrangements. The roster for donations is posted at the entrance of the Main Sanctuary. The cost of flowers is set at \$60 per week.

Please feel free to write your names on the slots available and if you have any inquiries, please contact Ebe William at 9619 9947.

A photograph of a person with long, dark hair, seen from behind, wearing a dark t-shirt. Two hands are placed on their shoulders, one on the left and one on the right, suggesting a comforting or supportive gesture. The background is blurred, showing other people in a group setting. The overall tone is somber and supportive, with a dark teal overlay.

Pastoral Care

For those who require prayer or pastoral care, do drop us an email at contact@stpaulschurch.org.sg or contact the respective pastoral staff directly.

Rev Jeremy: 9477 5476

Pastor Leon: 9199 3815

Pastor Leroy: 9710 2900

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

ONLINE GIVING



INTERNET BANKING

St Paul's Church

DBS Current Account No. : 023-000684-7



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USING BANK APP

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UEN: T08CC4082E

Please indicate "S2 or CS" under Reference No. The code "S2" refers to the Sunday English Service and the code "CS" refers to the Contemporary Service. Other information like specific giving (e.g. mission, building, etc.) as needed. Names are optional.



GIVE BY CHEQUE

Made payable to "St Paul's Church" and mailed to our Church address - 843 Upper Serangoon Road Singapore 534683. Kindly indicate CS or S2 at the back of the cheque.