



Lively Stones | PETER 2:5

Holding forth the word of life

23 February 2025

Address by General Superintendent

Why did the apostle Peter call the believers Lively Stones in his epistle?

1 Peter 2:5 KJV

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Lively simply means living which is easy to understand, which is what we believers are, while we are still alive here on earth. Stones on the other hand, some may not take to. But Peter is using an analogy of the Church of Christ as a building where Christ himself is the chief corner stone as written in Isa 28:16, Eph 2:20, 1 Pet 2:6.

In the construction of a building, the chief corner stone is essential as a foundational piece that is accurately cut and precisely laid at the right place before the rest of the stones are added on. Otherwise the building would not stand firmly to withstand the forces of movement and occupancy.

The rest of the stones are added on and placed in to fit. And so as believers, this analogy teaches us the privilege that the master builder has bestowed on each one of us. Having believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ, Peter says in

1 Peter 2:1-5 KJV

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, [2] As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: [3] If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. [4] To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, [5] Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Teaching us that after coming to Christ, we are to lay aside all our evil ways that once possessed us. These evil ways he describes the first as malice, the Greek word "Kakia" meaning badness, depravity, malignity, trouble, evil, naughtiness and wickedness. These nouns surely describe what we used to be before coming to Christ, and in many of us they still surface in our everyday lives to our disdain.



Lively Stones | PETER 2:5

Holding forth the word of life

23 February 2025

The second thing Peter instructs us to lay aside is guile, the Greek word used is “dolos” which means decoy, trickery, craftiness, deceit, subtility.

Then he also teaches us to lay aside hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking which includes speaking bad about others and spreading of rumours.

All the above evil deeds, we used to practice as a way of societal life before coming to Christ, but now having tasted the grace of Jesus in forgiving us, restoring us with God and making us a new creature in Him, we are to lay aside all these evil practices. Yet, it is a struggle to do so. I’ll be first to admit, I too struggle and am convicted in my conscience every time I commit the above.

If not for the Word of God which instructs me in the way to live and which teaches me to confess and repent of my evil ways, how else can I be a living stone for Christ?

And so Peter instructs that just as newborn babes who yearn for pure milk, so every believer should yearn to study and consume the pure milk of the Word that we may grow thereby.

May I urge and encourage every Lifer, to come and study Gods Word together with us. In so doing are we then able to be as what Peter describes, Lively stones that we should be. Lively to be able to offer spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

These spiritual sacrifices would be services rendered to the Lord. As we grow in the knowledge of the Word, we serve God firstly by worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth. Knowing how great a salvation He has blessed us with, how magnanimous His grace and mercies are toward us, how gentle and loving His ways are towards us, should drive our hearts and minds to desire to worship Him with all our heart, mind and strength. And so every Sunday should be the Christian’s favourite day because it is when the whole “building” or body of Christ come together for communal worship of Christ our chief Cornerstone.

Subsequently other forms and areas of spiritual sacrifices would be our willingness to reject the ways of the world and to learn and practice God’s ways as taught in scripture. Putting aside all former evil ways as described earlier and putting on Christ (Rms 13:14) to serve Him and others through our actions and speech that is with grace and love just as Christ is towards us.



Lively Stones | PETER 2:5

Holding forth the word of life

23 February 2025

The younger departments of the Sunday school, namely the Nursery, Junior/Primary and Young Teens regularly come together to sing praises before their bible classes. Our 16 year olds take turns to play the piano or guitar and to lead during these “mini worships”. The older teens are planning to go on a Mission trip to Batam in May 2025. An Adult Ladies class goes to Batam annually to conduct bible classes at the three sister churches. Some of the men from the Mens’ Sunday school class go out for evangelism fortnightly.

These are examples of spiritual sacrifices we may offer to the Lord as Lively stones. 1 Pet 2:5 also declares believers as a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. So whilst we struggle with the laying aside of our former evil ways, studying God’s Word regularly will reinforce and remind us that our service to God must be in Christ. Relying on what Christ’s atonement has achieved for us. The righteousness of Christ imputed in us. Exercising faith in Christ alone as we serve him in ways described above, only then is our service acceptable to God when we have confidence in Christ our Cornerstone and not in ourselves.

The Christian walk is difficult enough and if we walk alone without guidance from Scripture and without mutual encouragement from fellowship we are bound to fail. So may I invite one and all to come to participate in a Sunday school class of your choice. We have classes from ages 18 months and beyond that run almost every Sunday from 9:40am till 1030am in almost all available classrooms on both properties on either side of Gilstead Road. To find out which classes you and your loved ones may attend, please call or text one of us.

Dn Russel Indran 91889980

Eld Terence Tan 92975570

In Christ,
Eld Terence.

Micah 6:8 KJV

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?



Lively Stones

I PETER 2:5

Holding forth the word of life



23 February 2025

Nursery/Primary Department Promotion Sunday 2025

**The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
Psalm 19:8**

It is an undeniable fact that our children are growing up surrounded by technology. We read many news reports about adults, and recently, children who are hooked on gaming or social media to the detriment of their health. Channel NewsAsia recently reported of a 12 year old girl who threatened to commit suicide when her iPad was taken away by her older sister in an attempt to break her addiction. Her habit was formed since she was a toddler when screen time was unmonitored. Her family did not realise the severity of her gaming addiction until years later. By then, she has already become a compulsive player who is totally isolated from the real world and has no friends in real life. Sadly to say, she is not the only victim and this number is climbing. Many refuse to unplug themselves as they find comfort and solace only in the cyber world.

On 21st January, MOH announced that guidelines on screen use will be introduced in schools as part of a new national strategy to protect our children's physical and mental health. Whilst this is a welcomed move initiated by the government, we know that parents also play a pivotal role in managing their children's screen time. Busy and tired parents turn to electronic devices to occupy their children to free up time to do chores or take a break, knowing well the harmful effects it could one day bring. But there is a BETTER way!

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes (Psalm 19:8). True joy and happiness comes from no other source, other than knowing God and abiding in His Word. Setting our life on the right path will only bring us blessings and not harm, for our Heavenly Father knows what is best for us.

In Sunday School, we partner the parents in teaching the Word of God to the little ones. And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15). But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Psalm 1:2-3). In this age where there are many distractions, the children need God's Word as a compass to direct their paths. God's Word is an unchanging truth for them in the midst of rapid changes. May our children find strength and comfort in God's promises as they diligently study His Word.

If your children are aged between 18 months (Pre-Nursery) to 8 years old (Primary 2), we welcome them to join the Nursery/Primary Department and be part of our Sunday School. We meet in the Life Meeting Hall every Lord's Day at 9.40 am for

a time of Singspiration. Thereafter, the children will be led to their respective classrooms to have Bible lessons with their teachers.

Dear parents, we encourage you to sign your little ones up for Sunday School. Please contact me at lingling_hannah@yahoo.com.sg to sign up. If you are interested in serving with us in Sunday School, do reach out to any of the Sunday School Exco members.

Yours in the Lord
Tan Ling Ling Hannah

Combined Singspiration of Nursery/Primary & Junior Departments
@ 0940 in Life Meeting Hall



Our Pianists and Song Leaders:

Grace Tay, Sharon Chan, Tan Cheng Yeen, Josiah Teo, Hannah Tan, Tabitha Tan, Sarah Seetoh, Tan Teck Ern, Elliot Ong, Julia Sng

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Psalm 8:9
O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:3

Our Pre-Nursery Class (18 months – 3 years old)



Venue: FEK Room 1

Teachers:

Cheryl Koy, Tan Cheng Yeen,
Lam Wei Ping, Lim Ming Li,
Karis Lee

Our Nursery Class (4 years old)

Venue: FEK Room 2

Teachers: Lyn Chow, Marian Wang,
Estelle Wong



Our K1 Class (5 years old)



Venue: Cry Room 1

Teachers: Yeo Li Chin, Yeap Shi Yi

Our K2 Class (6 years old)

Venue: FEK Room 3

Teachers:
Magdalene Foo,
Jacqueline Yee



Our Pri 1 Class (7 years old)



Venue: FEK Room 4

Teachers: Seah Hoon Wah, June Lee

Our Pri 2 Class (8 years old)



Venue: Church Branch Office

Teacher: Christina Toh

Testimonies from our teachers:

I am a relatively recent addition to the Sunday School Ministry. My yearning to serve in the ministry was initially challenged by my feelings of inadequacy to discharge my duty effectively, especially one so sacred as to teach our children to love Christ through the studying and obeying of the Word, prayers and fellowship. Nevertheless, I believe in the Lord's promise "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13), that we will receive all the power we need when we do His will and face the challenges that arise from our doing it. This gives me the courage to step out in faith and do it, trusting him for the strength I will need. It has been an edifying journey for me, one filled with joy and humility, as I sat with the children each week studying the Word of the Lord and giving praise to His mercy and grace.

Marian Wang

At 9.30 am every Sunday, the Life Meeting Hall is abuzz with activity as the younger children gather for Sunday School. Some chat eagerly with their friends, others dig through their bags to prepare their offerings, and a few wave excitedly at their teachers. The hall then comes alive with the sweet, angelic voices of children singing hymns of

praise, their excitement and fervor palpable as they come together each week, ready to learn and grow.

As Proverbs 22:6 reminds us, *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Sunday School is an important ministry of the church - it is a sacred time where one not only learns God's Word but also enjoys fellowship with their peers in a safe, loving, and Christ-centered environment. The lessons, which include the sharing of Bible stories, memory verses, prayer, and discussions, are designed to make the Word of God accessible and relatable for the children. Apart from helping them grow in their understanding of God's truth and His love for them, Sunday School also provides a space for the children to grow spiritually as they are given opportunities to ask questions, share their thoughts, and build friendships grounded in faith. This ministry therefore plays a vital role in planting seeds of faith that, by God's grace, will continue to flourish throughout their lives.

We recently conducted our annual Sunday School staff dedication service, where we renewed our oaths as teachers. It was a sober reminder of the responsibility we hold in this ministry. One question posed to us during the service resonated deeply with me:

"Will you give prayer, time and initiative to the preparation of each lesson, get in touch with your pupils as and when necessary or expedient, and conscientiously attempt to improve your teaching and service in the Sunday School in every possible way?"

As a Sunday School teacher, every lesson I prepare is an opportunity for reflection and growth. After each class, I find myself asking, How can I better engage the children? Could the children understand the lesson easily? What could I have done differently? This has continually pushed me to improve and serve with greater purpose.

For me, preparation for each lesson begins with the Word. I approach it by reading closely, praying for God's wisdom, and clarifying any doubts I may have. While many of these lessons were taught to me as a child, teaching them has required a much deeper dive into Scripture. It is not simply about understanding the story but uncovering the truths God is revealing in His Word and how best to convey them to the children. The children themselves have been some of my greatest teachers. They ask the difficult questions, the ones that provoke me to reflect more deeply on Scripture in my own preparation. Their curiosity and innocence remind me of the privilege of guiding them in their faith. This journey of teaching has also changed the way I study God's Word. I now approach it with a deeper desire to learn, reflect, and discern what God is teaching me, so that I might faithfully share it with the children He has entrusted to me.

Having taught across different age groups, from primary school, kindergarten, and now nursery, each age group presents fresh challenges. Tailoring lessons to their understanding, attention spans, and needs has stretched me as a teacher and deepened my reliance on God's guidance. I have also been blessed to learn from my fellow Sunday School teachers, each with their own teaching style but sharing the same fervor for serving the Lord and love for their students. Their loving service and

dedication have shown me what it means to be a servant of God and a vessel of His love.

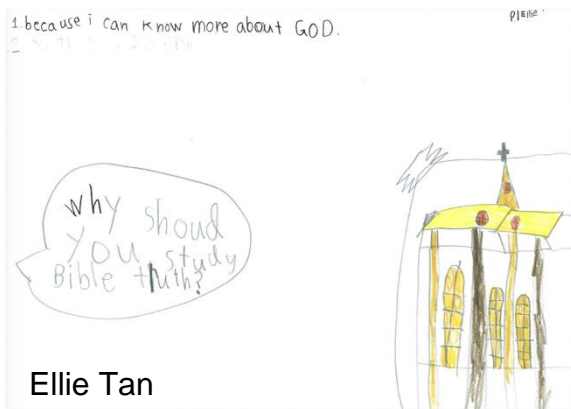
As the hymn 'Find Us Faithful' beautifully expresses:

*But as those who've gone before us,
Let us leave to those behind us
The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives.*

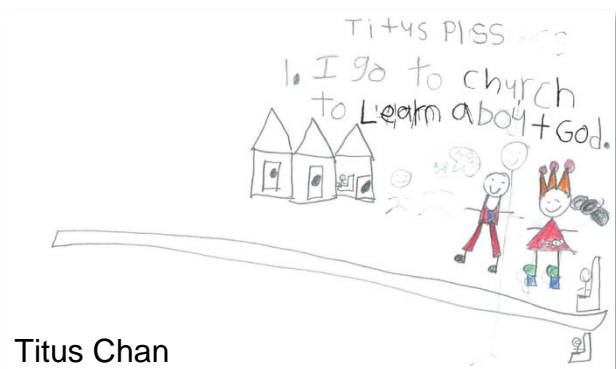
Having been deeply blessed to have learned from those who have faithfully served the Lord, I now count it a great privilege to be able to serve in the Sunday School Ministry. Watching the children grow, not only physically and emotionally, but most importantly, spiritually, has been such a rewarding experience. It is my earnest prayer that these little ones will come to love God's Word deeply and grow to lead godly lives. May we, as a church, continue to pass on this heritage of faithfulness, reflecting God's love and truth to the generations to come.

Estelle Wong

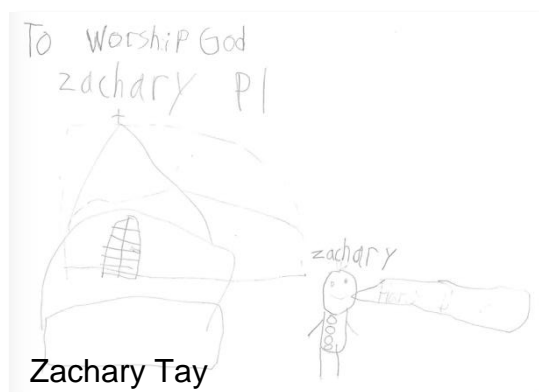
Let's hear from our Primary 1s ...



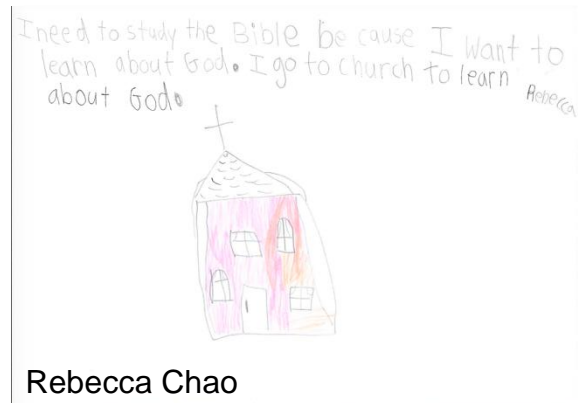
Ellie Tan



Titus Chan

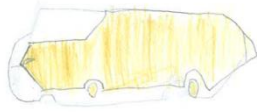


Zachary Tay



Rebecca Chao

1. because I want to learn about God
I read the Bible.



Luke Chang

1. because I want to learn about God
2. I come to Sunday school



Daniel Lum

Next, our Primary 2s ...

Dear God,
I like Sunday School because we can learn how powerful and mighty You are. I also like Sunday School because we can learn parables and what they mean and how to apply it in our daily lives.

Evangeline Ong

Matthias Chen

Dear God, I like Sunday school because I like to learn about you and obey you.

Hi Dear God,
I love Sunday school because we learn about you and we get to sing nice songs,
love victoria
xoxo

Charlotte

Dear God I like Sunday school because I learnt to not tell lies and learnt about God.

Marissa

Dear God,
I like Sunday because I like to learn about you, today I learn not to tell lies. I like to learn about how powerful you are. I like Sunday school because I like to learn about you with my friends,

Noah

Dear God,
I love Sunday school because I learn about you and read the bible. I like to learn about you.

Dear God,
I hope you feel okay despite the current Israel-Hamas war. May your people turn toward you and trust in you.
Best Regards,
Kei Ern

Dear God I like Sunday school because we get to hear stories about you and meet my friend.
Joseph