



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	God's People Ready for Battle
Topic	Heads of Families-Communities of Faith
Speaker	SP Daniel Foo
Date	9 th and 10 th January 2016

Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: What it means to be Father - Leaders

This sermon focuses on the first of four key characteristics of God's people who are ready for battle: the Heads of Families-Communities – Father-Leaders. These are leaders with a father's heart, in contrast to leaders who are selfish, insecure, unkind and self-absorbed. They refer to our biological families, our leadership in BBTC as well as individuals who influence and impact lives. In this message, the speaker talks about the seven key roles for Father-Leaders.

Heads of Families-Communities of Faith: The Seven Key Roles

Role 1: They Provide **Spiritual Leadership**

Spiritual Leadership is about influencing people to **become disciples of Christ** and **disciple-makers**. It is about going beyond sharing food photographs on social media to real-life sharing of Scripture. John 10:2-4 tells us that a spiritual leader, such as a pastor or an elder, leads from the front as life models.

A spiritual leader helps his community/family do battle in the four arenas below:

1. The Battle for Truth / Worldview: This is the battle of our Belief System which can only be won when we are filled with the **Word** of God.
2. The Battle for the Souls of Men (2 Corinthians 5:14): This battle can only be won when we are filled with the **love** of God.
3. The Battle to tear down demonic strongholds (James 4:6-7): This battle can only be won when we are filled with the **Spirit** of God.
4. The Battle in our own public square as effective salt & light (Proverbs 28:1): This battle can only be won when we love **righteousness** and hate wickedness.

Role 2: They **Feed** the Lambs and Sheep

According to John 21:15-17, feeding the lambs and sheep is about nutrition. A child has to grow up with proper nutrition to have strong immunity against illness. In the same way, one's responsibility as a spiritual Father-Leader is to feed the believers with proper spiritual nutrition, i.e. the Word of God.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 tells us that we have to be "diligent" to teach our children and bring them up in the fear and knowledge of the Lord. Diligence involves intentionality on the part of Father-Leaders.

Role 3: They **Pray** for the Family-Community

The Father-Leader establishes the Family-Community altar where he brings the people together to intentionally acknowledge and invite the presence of God into the fellowship of believers, as well as to forge bonds by praying for each other.

It is the responsibility of every believer to arrest toxic behavior wherever we are. This requires courage, wisdom and favor that God will guide and lead us through it all. The outcome of Job's regular prayer covering for his family (Job 1:5) was that God created a hedge of protection around him,



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blessing everything (Job 1:10). Similarly, if we are fully plugged into the body life of BBTC, we will be blessed! When there's unity, God commands the blessings! Hence, we need to build an altar and pray to God constantly, whether in our workplaces or in our homes so that we can release the Shalom of God everywhere we go.

Role 4: They Minister to Each Other in the Family-Community

At the family altar, we share our experiences with the Lord, about what God has been speaking to each of us, and about what is happening in our lives at the moment. We minister to each other by being accountable on updates in our lives and by working on building strong connectivity with people in our circles.

A strong Family-Community is built:

- a) On **Love**: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a gives us the definition of the love of God.
- b) On **Effective Communication**:
 - Through *Accountability and Covering (A&C)*
 - Through *Praying and Communicating (P&C)*All accountabilities must be reciprocated by prayer covering, starting from the cell group all the way to the pastoral staff.
- c) On **Strengthening and Enlarging Common Spaces**: by participating in activities and events together, thereby building shared experiences.

Role 5: They Train and Equip the Family-Community for Battles in Life

In Genesis 14:14-16, Abram had 318 **trained** servants that enabled him to rescue Lot. Likewise, we have to be trained and equipped to be effective priests and kings. We have to be continuous learners about everything in our lives because the day we stop learning is the day we backslide.

As we grow older, we need to learn and impart this knowledge to others because our God is a tri-generational God: the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Psalm 78:5-6). In BBTC, the elders are the generation of Abraham, there to provide stability and spiritual prayer covering. The Isaac generation runs the church and they will, in turn train and equip the younger generation Jacobs.

When we attend service, we need to come with an expectancy to engage and connect with God through the **anointed worship**; we need to come with an expectancy to hear the **anointed Word** of God. Regardless of who the speaker is, there will be takeaways from the Lord that will help us grow stronger spiritually each time we are fed the Word of God. There is no shame or fear as we come to the **anointed altar** to rededicate ourselves or to have someone to pray with and for us.

Role 6: They Direct the Family-Community to Serve the Lord

We cannot stay in our comfort zone and be consumers; we must also serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15). As we are blessed and equipped with life skills and tracks, we must have this four outputs: to serve, evangelize (share Christ), disciple others and go on mission trips. In BBTC, there is a need for us to enlarge our leadership base and increase the bench strength, such as having the Isaac generation provide covering over the younger generation for a start. Let us all establish a war room in our prayer closet and become a prayer warrior this year!

Role 7: They Bless the Family-Community

God is the greatest Blessor of all. When we are plugged into the Word of God, we will be blessed, protected, cared for and loved by Him – for if He is on our side, who can be against us? Hence, we need the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God and be connected with the Holy Spirit so that we can receive the peace of God (2 Corinthians 13:14).



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Conclusion

God calls for every one of us to be committed Father-Leaders over our community. None of us can be father-leaders unless we personally receive and experience the love of our Father God. Only then, will we be able to reflect His merciful and gracious heart, in loving the unlovable and serving the Lord in true humility. It is out of the overflow of His love in our lives that we become effective father-leaders!

Questions

1) Summarise the 7 key roles for father-leaders. Why are these roles inter-dependent?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2) Share an instance or season in your life where you have been blessed by the presence of a Father-Leader. Which role was your Father-Leader fulfilling then? How different would things have been without that person?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) As we receive from the Father-Leaders in our lives, we are also expected to be Father-Leaders to other people in our Family-Communities. What is one thing that you want to improve on as a Father-Leader this year and what will you do about it?

(Fill In Answer Here)



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