



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b> Spiritual Parenting (1 Thessalonians 2:8-12)	<b>SPEAKER</b> Elder Low Kok Guan
<b>THEME</b> Family Relationships	<b>DATE</b> 17 & 18 Jun 2017

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## GROWING TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH

In his letter to the Church at Thessalonica, Paul talks about his journey as their spiritual father, demonstrating how he walked with them in their faith, and urging them to prepare for the King's return. It is in light of Jesus' impending return that Paul beseeched them – and us – to be *imitators* of him (1 Thess 2:14a; 1 Thess 1:6), to build strong relationships, and to bring all glory to God.

This week, Elder Kok Guan dives deeper into the ways we can help one another grow in the Lord, and how we are to be spiritual parents to others.

## WHAT SPIRITUAL PARENTING LOOKS LIKE

In **every** chapter in 1 Thessalonians, Paul speaks about the Second Coming of Christ (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:17-18; 5:23). With repetition comes a sense of urgency; there is a pressing need for us – *especially* the spiritually mature – to parent the next generation.

Using the life of Paul as a reference, Elder Kok Guan takes us through what it means to be a “spiritual parent”.

### 1. NOT JUST SAY WE CARE BUT SHARE

In 1 Thess 2:8, we see that Paul shared

- **The Gospel of God** – the good news of Jesus; and
- **His life** – his testimonies, what God had done for and in his life

**It's important for us not just to share the good news but our lives as well, because the Gospel is not just words. More than that, it is a demonstration of life transformation, of the power of the Holy Spirit!**

***“If we know the gospel can change lives and determine our destiny, how can we NOT share?”***

Elder Kok Guan tells the story of how he was able to share the gospel with his colleague. But this opportunity was not a discrete event in itself. Rather, it was the result of his constant fellowship and demonstration of care for her. Do these opportunities occur daily? Perhaps not. But showing care must happen every day!

We stand between life and death. We are the vessels that bridge this chasm to bring them to God. Elder Kok Guan urges us to love, listen, pray and care for the people around us. So that when the opportunity comes, we may share the gospel.

## 2. NOT JUST TALK BUT WALK

Paul worked hard in both his private and public life, and he wasn't afraid to speak about it (2:9). And in the sight of God *and* man, Paul was **holy, righteous** and **blameless** (2:10).

- **Holy:** Paul fulfilled the duties God entrusted to Him; he imitated Christ
- **Righteous:** Paul lived with integrity, intentionally working up his practical righteousness to the Lord
- **Blameless:** no one could fault him for anything he had done

***“We cannot be mere hearers, but doers of the Word, to spur one another on in our walk.”***

In his time of need, Elder Kok Guan experienced love from the brothers around him. They demonstrated the conviction of their beliefs not just through their words, but actions.

## 3. NOT JUST NOW BUT WHAT'S NEXT

Being a parent is scary. Because it's not just about dealing with the now but with what is to come.

Elder Kok Guan reminds us that this world is not our home. When we mentor others, we do it with the end goal in mind – **to glorify God**. While meeting felt needs is important, be it issues relating to relationships, our jobs, ministry, and so on, we must keep in mind to **encourage, comfort, and urge others to live lives worthy of God**.

## STARTING TIPS

Elder Kok Guan imparts to us **five handles** to assist us on our journey of spiritual parenthood.

- a) **Confidentiality:** Build trust around mutually-agreed terms of discretion and share at the level that you are comfortable with.
- b) **Come prepared:** As a mentor, pray before the session; mentees, complete your homework beforehand. *Everyone is responsible for his or her own growth.*
- c) **Commitment:** Focus on those God entrusts to you for the long haul. Stop only when the objectives have been met or if the season is over. Don't give up.
- d) **Communication:** Keep in contact and talk frequently.
- e) **Christlikeness:** The yardstick to see if sessions are effective is to look out for **life change** in the person.

But beyond these handles, the way to get started on your journey is simple:

**JUST START DOING IT.  
AND THEN KEEP GOING!**

# QUESTIONS

Share about someone who has disciplined or mentored you. What did you learn from him/her?

*Elder Kok Guan has called us to be spiritual parents to the future generation. What are some challenges as you journey with others? How will you deal with doubts or inhibitions that are holding you back from doing so?*

*We are called to reach out to the next generation. Of the three areas mentioned in the sermon, which area would you like to grow in in order to be a role model for them?*