



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Celebrating Our Nation

**SPEAKER** SP Chua Seng Lee

**THEME** Celebration

**DATE** 9 & 10 Aug 2025

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

As 9 August is Singapore's National Day, SP drew our attention to Jeremiah chapter 29 verses 4 to 7, which outline God's instructions to the first wave of Jewish exiles who were taken to Babylon as a result of Judah's disobedience and idolatry. SP drew a parallel between these people and ourselves as Singapore residents, showing how God's instructions for His people then are still applicable for us today.

## CELEBRATING OUR NATION

In the text, God's instructions included building houses, cultivating produce, having children and praying for Babylon. The word *shalom*, which means 'welfare', appears three times in verse 7 alone. From this, we can infer that God wanted the Jews to settle down, become a blessing to their new home and receive blessings in turn.

These instructions are still applicable for us, as:

- a. We are similarly living in exile (i.e. this world is not the Promised Land)
- b. We live in a broken world that holds values contrary to those of our King and His Kingdom

Hence, we should strive to apply the principles in these verses in our lives today.

### 1) Increase our spiritual influence

In verse 5, God tells the Jews to settle down in Babylon, build houses, grow produce and have children. God's intent is for the Jews to exert a greater spiritual influence on their new home by growing their population. Similarly, as Christians, we grow our spiritual population so that we can grow our spiritual influence in our community.

To do so, SP advised us to attend BBTC equipping classes (e.g. the upcoming Maturing Disciple Track course) and to find a mentor so that we can grow in our spiritual lives.

We should also mentor spiritual sons and daughters and cultivate relationships in our social circles. That way, more lives can be transformed by Christ.

## 2) Improve our social and spiritual impact

In verse 7, God instructs the Jews to 'seek the welfare of the city'. Likewise, we should strive to make Singapore's welfare a reality. SP encouraged us to get involved in our country's charity and social spaces so that we can increase our spiritual impact. One way is through supporting Bethesda Care Services and helping our church be a blessing to the community and the less fortunate.

We are also called upon to be the salt and light wherever God has placed us—at work, school or in our neighbourhoods. SP encouraged us to avail ourselves to God and to pray for wisdom on how He can use us to improve the places we inhabit.

In digital spaces, we can be intentional with our digital influence, using it to post edifying content that shapes values and supports mental wellbeing.

## 3) Intercede for our city

In verse 7, God also instructs the Jews to 'pray to the Lord on the city's behalf, for in its welfare you will have welfare.' Therefore, we should also remember to intercede for Singapore. The best gift we can give to Singapore is our prayer.

Love Singapore's 40 days of prayer can help us deepen our prayer life. Even after this year's 40-day series, we should continue to make prayer our personal discipline and personal time with God.

SP encouraged us to pray for our national leaders, for the church in Singapore, for BBTC, Bethesda Care Services and for the upcoming Miracle Weekend.

## CONCLUSION

We can be a blessing for Singapore by:

1. Increasing our spiritual influence—by growing ourselves spiritually through equipping classes and a mentor, and mentoring others in turn
2. Improving our social and spiritual impact—by serving the poor and meeting the needs of the people around us, and
3. Interceding for our city—praying for the wellbeing of our nation.

Verses 8 and 9 warn that we will face deception in the form of false promises of quick fixes and instant sanctification. That is the word of the devil and not God's will for us.

God's will is for us to settle down and become a blessing for others here on Earth. We have to continue to save the lost. As we allow God to mould, grow and change us, we become more like Jesus.

Righteousness starts with the people of God. Our godliness and Christlikeness can be our nation's greatest blessing.

# QUESTIONS

1. Who has God placed in my life that I could mentor, disciple or spiritually influence? How can I build these relationships, or within my community, that points them to Christ?

2. We are called upon to 'seek the welfare' of our city. Which social causes move your heart? How can you play a bigger part in helping the less fortunate and meeting the needs of the people around us?

3. We are called upon to intercede for our nation. What are your prayers for Singapore in these turbulent times? Share them with each other and pray for our nation as a cell group.

