



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The Prayer that Changed Everything	SPEAKER	DSP Edric Sng
THEME	A Disciple-Making Church	DATE	27 & 28 June 2026

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' twelve disciples argued about who was the greatest (Matt 18), struggled with fear (Mark 14), were rebuked for their lack of faith (Matt 8:26, Matt 16:8), failed to perform miracles (Matt 17), slept instead of praying in Gethsemane (Matt 26), denied Jesus (Luke 22) and one even betrayed Him. Yet these same ordinary flawed men would go on to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

What transformed the disciples from ordinary followers into bold witnesses for Christ? Many things that seemed important were not enough on their own - amazing sermons, witnessing signs and wonders, having a great mentor, participating in regular cell groups, or attending camps and retreats. While these were valuable, the ultimate turning point began at Calvary.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE DISCIPLES

a) Personal Experience of the Passion of Jesus brought them to the place of *brokenness*

The disciples' transformation began through their personal experience of the Passion of Jesus - His suffering, death, and resurrection. Peter, who confidently declared that he would never deny Jesus, went on to deny Him three times. Confronted with his own failure, Peter was brought to a place of brokenness, humility, and repentance (Matt. 26:33–35; Luke 22:59–62). After His resurrection, Jesus lovingly restored Peter by asking him three times, "Do you love me?" before recommissioning him to "feed my sheep" (John 21:17). Similarly, the other disciples encountered Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Their personal encounter with the Passion of Christ brought them to a place of brokenness before God. True transformation begins when we recognise our own weakness and encounter the grace and mercy of Jesus through the Cross and the risen Christ.

b) Prayerful Expectation of the Promise of the Father brought them to a place of *breakthrough*

After Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem and devoted themselves continually to prayer (Acts 1:12-14). In obedience to Jesus' command, they waited expectantly for the Father's promise - the gift of the Holy Spirit, who would empower them to be His

witnesses (Acts 1:4, 8). This was the prayer that changed everything. As they prayed together with faith, unity, and expectancy, God prepared their hearts to receive the promised Holy Spirit. Their prayerful expectation of the Father's promise brought them to the place of breakthrough, demonstrating that God works powerfully through those who wait on Him in prayer.

c) Pentecost Encounter with the Power of the Holy Spirit brought them to a place of *boldness*

The breakthrough came on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). As the disciples gathered together, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them. They were filled with the Spirit and began speaking in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. From that moment, everything changed. Their Pentecost encounter with the power of the Holy Spirit brought them to the place of boldness.

Peter, who had once denied Jesus, stood before the crowds and boldly proclaimed the Gospel (Acts 2:13-14, 23-36). He preached Christ's death and resurrection without fear and called the people to repent and be baptised. The result was extraordinary - about 3,000 people were saved in a single day (Acts 2:38-41). The transformation continued in the days that followed. Peter healed a man at the temple gate; Peter and John testified before religious authorities and spoke the word of God boldly despite threats and opposition (Acts 3:1-6; Acts 4: 7-20; Acts 4:29-31). Peter had gone from "I dare not speak about Jesus" to living as "I dare not stay silent about Jesus". The power of the Holy Spirit transformed fearful disciples into courageous witnesses for Christ.

CONCLUSION

Jesus Christ has done His part through His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. God the Father has done His part by sending His Son and fulfilling His promise of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit continues to do His part by empowering believers to live boldly for Christ. The question that remains is: **Will we do our part?**

Like the early church, we are called to gather constantly in prayer (Acts 1:14). Prayer changed everything for the disciples and it still changes everything today. Let us pray, seek God and be empowered to boldly preach the Gospel and turn Singapore Godward.

QUESTIONS

1. Many believers love Jesus but struggle to be a witness for Christ and share their faith. Do you relate to this? What fears or obstacles do you face in speaking about Jesus?

2. Which stage of the disciples' transformation do you most need right now: brokenness, breakthrough, or boldness? Why?

3. The disciples' transformation happened as they devoted themselves to prayer and waited upon God. What is one practical step you can take to become more devoted to prayer, personally or together with others?