

# F+BC TODAY

U N L E A S H I N G   T H E   G O S P E L

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## F+BC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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f i g y O U T H

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**MAIN SERVICE**

| Physical & Youtube |

Sundays 8:45am / 11:15am

**YOUTH SERVICE**

| Physical |

Sundays 8:45am

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

For Ages 3 to 12

(Preschool to std 6)

Physical Classes

8:45am / 11:15am



# Moving Life Group Offline

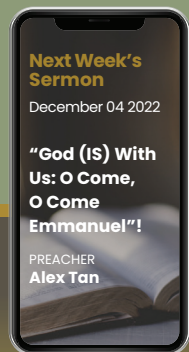
(Contributed in June 2022)

Our Life Group (LG), Christians in Action (CIA), finally met again for physical LG in mid-June. We were 25 adults and children on a cloudy Saturday afternoon, with showers of laughter, chatter, play, and energy.

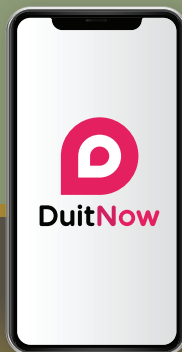
We last gathered as an LG at a restaurant to celebrate New Year at the beginning of

Retracing further, the last time we met at someone's home for fellowship was in September 2020. So much has happened since.

Being an LG with young families, we have a number of children under the age of 7. It was delightful (and a little shock to the system) to see how much the "babies"



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have grown. They now join the kor kors in running around and are able to hold conversations with each other. Some even made plansto meet up the next day at Sunday School.

CIA has also grown in numbers. We had the joy of welcoming new members during the pandemic, and for some, this was their first time joining us for in-person LG. CIA also grew organically. We added 3 "pandemic babies" to the tally, and there's another one on the way!



Personally, it was good to be back in fellowship with fellow believers again. This LG meet-up was my first social "event" in almost 5 months, since having a newborn earlier this year. It was also lovely that the LG finally got to meet the youngest member of the CIA family.

Gathering together again in person showed me just how poorly digital platforms have been able to foster authentic community life. For one, online social networking doesn't engage our sense of touch, taste, or

smell. And while video conferencing platforms such as Zoom enable us to see and hear one another, it has many limitations.

The best internet connection cannot replicate a face-to-face connection. There is nothing like a warm hug, live music, hearty laughter unfiltered by speakers and the 'mute' button, children buzzing about, generous spreads of food, and experiencing (or offering) hospitality. There is nothing like being physically and fully present with one another.

We have entered a new season now as our country has opened up and many pandemic-related restrictions have been lifted. However, so much of what was "normal" has changed and the reality of Covid-19 continues to influence the way many of us live. Seeing that I have young children, this is true for me and my family. But the Bible tells us to not give up meeting together. The oft-quoted verses from Hebrews 10:24-25 encourage us in this manner:

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Whatever season we're in, we can each take steps to plug ourselves back into the church community again. May God work in our hearts to rediscover the joys and blessings of Christian fellowship, and being present with one another.



**By Rachel Chua**  
Rachel attends the CIA Life Group



# Devotional: God Takes Requests

## Ezekiel 4:14-15

Then I said, "Not so, Sovereign Lord! I have never defiled myself. From my youth until now I have never eaten anything found dead or torn by wild animals. No impure meat has ever entered my mouth."

"Very well," he said, "I will let you bake your bread over cow dung instead of human excrement."

## Observation

This was God's third task to Ezekiel in chapter 4. To represent what Israel would go through during their time of siege; when their supply of food was scarce and cut off. But the focus that I have from this short exchange was Ezekiel's exchange with God himself.

Despite God's instruction for Ezekiel to use human dung to cook bread, Ezekiel spoke back and reminded God that he is a priest and the Lord's servant and he has been kept clean throughout his years on earth.

God agrees to Ezekiel's concern and changes the terms of how he is to cook the bread.

## Application

#1. Serving the Lord isn't always black and white. Yes, the Lord is a vastly superior entity, well above us but that doesn't mean he does not care about his creation; his servants. Bring our concerns to God and who knows, he might consider what we have to say.

#2. Our God is King and creator of all things, but our partnership with God is not so as a master and slave, but a father and child. We need not be afraid when approaching our Father, we need not be afraid when approaching our God.

#3. If we have a concern, verbalize it to God, and don't think "for God knows, I need not say, for he knows my thoughts" Speak up, don't keep it in.

## Prayer

O God, you know my weaknesses, yet I know at times you are waiting for me to verbalize them, to bring them to action. You want to interact with us and you've provided us opportunities to have exchanges with you, yet at times, we take you as this giant king that we dare not approach. Remind me O Lord, to put down my pride and approach your throne; not as a slave, but as your child. In Jesus' name Amen.

By Ivan Khoo

Ivan serves in the Youth ministry and Campus Ministry with roles such as the discussion



## PrayerSpotlight

### Sunday School

1. Pray for the children who have stopped attending or have not been regularly attending SS, especially those children in Kingdom Kids as attendance has dropped significantly since the resumption of physical classes in July. For the Lord's protection upon the children and to remove the hindrances causing their absence so that they can join back our Sunday School again.
2. Pray for the upcoming Christmas Event to be held on 17 Dec 2022 for both Gospel Kids and Kingdom Kids children to come together to celebrate Christmas as the last event for the year. For the Committee involved in the planning, preparation, and overseeing of the program.
3. Pray for Bro. David Lim, our invited guest performer who will be presenting his magical tricks and sharing the Christmas message with the audience comprising SS children, their parents, family members, and invited guests. For seeds to be sowed in the hearts of those children and adults especially from non-Christian families hearing the Christmas message for the first time when shared by Bro David.