

PMC SERMON “LIVE IT OUT” GUIDE

Date: 11 January 2015

Text: Luke 2:1-7; John 11:33-35

Title: The God Who Understands Us

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Series: The Gospel I Love

[**For Group Leaders:** The following serve only as a guide. Please feel free to adapt according to the needs of your group.]

1. SERMON RECAP

(Visit pmc.org.sg to listen to the sermon and download a copy of the Powerpoint slides)

- a. There is not a single human emotion or struggle that Jesus, the Son of God, did not experience when He lived as a human being. (Heb 2:18, 4:15)
- b. Our God is one who is deeply involved and greatly interested in our lives. In fact, He wants to be so involved that He becomes one of us. (Luke 2)
- c. He is the God who talks to us, listens to us, & eats with us. He is willing to laugh with us and cry with us (John 11:35)
- d. God knows our weaknesses and understands our struggles. Although He was perfect and sinless, He did not judge us. Instead, He comes to us as the God who understands us.
- e. We can approach God’s throne of grace and mercy for help. Jesus calls us to come to Him boldly, with confidence. (Heb 4::16)

2. LIVE IT OUT

- a. Last week’s LIO guide suggested we speak to a friend or colleague about the meaning of life.
 - i. If anyone in your group managed to do so, ask him/her to share the experience.
 - ii. Pair up and practise sharing with someone the meaning of life. Let the rest of the group members observe and give feedback. Ask another pair to share if there is time.
- b. (Divide into groups of 3 for this part)
Has anyone ever told you one of the below?
 - “You are a good listener and I know I can trust you”
 - “Thank you for making time for me”
 - “I am touched by your generosity”
 - “Thank you for supporting me in prayer”In your groups, share details of what you did to evoke such a response.

- c. *"People don't care what you know until they know that you care."*
This coming week, ask the Lord for an opportunity to do one of the below:
- i. Bring a friend to the throne of grace (Heb 4:16); in other words, pray for your friend regarding a need he/she might have. (It need not be a long prayer!)
 - ii. Show interest in the life of someone, and listen attentively to his/her story (e.g. family, hope & dreams, fears & struggles).

3. PRAY *(this part is intentionally repeated from last week)*

- a. As a group, commit to sharing Christ with one person in 2015.
 - i. Take a few minutes to pray and ask God for a name.
 - ii. Share this name with your group leader so that he/she can record all the names down.
>> Say a little more about each name given, e.g. colleague, single mum, free-thinker etc ...
 - iii. As a group, pray through these names and ask God for opportunities to share the Gospel with them.

4. GOING DEEPER

- a. Many believers struggle with God. They ask:
 - *Why doesn't He see and do something about my pain?*
 - *Why can't God fix my problems?*
 - *Why doesn't He at least tell me why I am suffering?*
 - i. Discuss how Heb 2:18 and 4:15-16 might help to bring peace and hope to suffering believers.
 - ii. As a group, list other bible passages that might help to counsel a person who is undergoing trials and troubles (e.g. Rom 8:28).

[Suggestion: if you have a Bible app, do a search on "suffer"]

- b. Explore the meaning of Heb 2:10-12:

"In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises."
