



Lively Stones I PETER 2:5

Holding forth the word of life

Issue 4, 2020

19 April 2020

Young Teens Promotional Sunday 2020

The Wonder Of The Human Brain

The human brain is the subject of ever-widening scientific wonder. In a book entitled "Disciplines of a godly young man" by Kent Hughes, he writes that the brain's ten billion cells (neurons) are only a shadow of its complexity, because each cell sends out tens of thousands of tentacles that connect again to tens of thousands of neighbouring cells, each of which is constantly exchanging data impulses. The complexity intensifies as we understand that each data signal can then take one of a possible twenty thousand different paths per cell and so on, so that the possible number of combinations grow beyond our comprehension.

The staggering fact is that the total number of possible pathways through the brain exceeds 10 to the power of 80 which is more than all the protons and neutrons in the universe. From the perspective of computations, the human brain is the most complex system in the cosmos. Think of this, there is more electronic equivalent in one human brain, housed in a cranium, than all the radio and TV stations in the entire world put together. The human mind does not miss a thing. It is capable of giving and receiving the subtlest input - from imagining a universe in which time bends to composing a Bach fugue or transmitting and receiving a message from God himself - feats no computer will ever accomplish.

The amazing potential of the human mind reaches its apex in the possibility of possessing the very mind of Christ through the agency of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 2:16 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." Phil 2:5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus". The above 2 verses give biblical confirmation that we have been created with minds that are able to know God and his will for our lives. How amazing! And Rms 12:2 says "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." No computer will ever be able to think God's thoughts, nor be able to know the heart of God or to do his works. But each and every believer possesses a mind which has this capacity, indeed, it was created for this - to have the mind of Christ. Knowing the potential that each one of us possesses should drive us on to ask ourselves why we are created such? Who are we made to be?

Scripture tells us that we are made in God's image. Genesis 1:26-27 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." From the above we know that we are made in God's image and are to rule or manage creation.

But from the time of Adam's fall into sin, the human race has been corrupted, living in sin and spiritual darkness as can be seen in Ephesians 4:18-19 "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." And in Genesis 6:5 "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." We are then told that God destroyed every living thing by the flood save 8 souls and pairs of animals in the ark.

Today many of our teens in the Sunday School have come to believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, in Jesus who died for our sins, who was buried and was raised on the third day. How should this faith in Christ then change the way we live and behave? And who should we understand ourselves to be? Let us answer these questions with the five points of Who, What, When, Why and How.

1. Who am I now that I believe in Christ?

John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

Gal 3:26 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

The bible says that if we receive Jesus he empowers us to become God's children. We have been adopted as His children. We can now call God our Heavenly Father. And so we pray the Lord's Prayer starting with "Our Father who art in Heaven". As His children we certainly have privileges like His constant love, care, presence, protection and provision through His invisible interventions in our lives. Heb 13:5, Phil 4:19.

2. What does it mean to become children of God?

Eph 1:4b "that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"

Ephesians 4:22-24 "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

It means a new identity. An orphan who is adopted takes on his adopting father's name. Living with a new family comes with family rules (God's laws) and blessings. Keeping God's laws are achieved with the help of his Holy Spirit. John 14:14-16 "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;" These verses tell us that if we love God we will keep his commandments. And God will grant us any thing that we ask of Him. Do you believe it? Or do you think it is too good to be true? We must first understand that if we truly love God and obey Him, then it would also mean that we would ask according to His will. Therefore He will grant us our requests.

Now I am certain that there many who struggle with the new man and the old man as I myself do. The old man warring against what the new man should be. There are both victories and defeats in our daily battles and oftentimes can be disheartening when we fail, but the struggle must go on.

Philippians 2:12-13 tells us

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” As children of God, our salvation is secure in the Lord, but whilst here in this present mortal life, it is God’s will that we trust Christ, to exercise faith and obedience, in believing that Christ has kept the law perfectly for us whilst daily relying on the Holy Spirit to walk in obedience. Thus, we are able to do the right that we are supposed to do as His children. Applying John 1:9 when we fail. Till the day we see Christ or our last breath is breathed we remain faithful to Christ.

3. When do these things happen?

Luke 23:42-43 “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

2 Cor 6:2 “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”

Romans 10:9-10 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

From the moment of conversion when a person believes in Jesus Christ he is saved. But there is also a warning against rejecting Jesus as found in Hebrews 3:7-12 “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”

4. Why does God save me?

John 3:16-18 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Ephesians 1:5-6 “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

Ephesians 1:12 “That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

Firstly, the apostle John tells us that it is because of God’s love for us that He saved us. Secondly, we are saved according to the good pleasure of his will, so that we can praise Him for His Glory and Grace. And so a major preoccupation of the children of God is in worshipping Him for who He is, praising him for his creation work, and for his wonderful work of our salvation.

5. How do we know the way to live in a way that pleases God?

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Psalms 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Earlier we considered how our minds have been created to be more capable than the best of computers, how we are able to receive thousands of thousands of data and to process them. People of the world allow their minds to be exposed to all kinds of worldly stimuli from the internet, movies, TV, worldly music, social media, etc, but as children of God who have been chosen (Eph 1:4) to be holy and without blame in Him in love, we must guard our intake of information and to feed ourselves with his Word so that it may be a guide for us towards godliness. The importance of the Word of God can never be over emphasised as we see in John 1:1-4 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men." Here we learn that God's Word is God, who made all things and in whom is life and the light of men. Knowing the importance and significance of the Word (the Bible), we should make reading and meditating on the Word of God our utmost priority in daily life. And as Jos 1:8 and Ps 1:2 teach, we should meditate (that is to think deeply) on it day and night so that we may be filled with godly wisdom that must then change and affect the way we walk and talk. It is no wonder our Lord rebuffed Satan in the wilderness when tempted by him to turn stone into bread with Mt 4:4 "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

May every Christian be encouraged and motivated to study God's Word with passion and determination and to meditate on it day and night because it is God's command to do so. Furthermore, doing so reaps great reward in pleasing our God and receiving his blessings. But let us check ourselves that we do so because we love the Lord who first loved us and gave himself for us.

Psalms 119:97 "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

Psalms 19:11 "Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

The Sunday School has a class for every age, from nursery to senior adults who are 70 and beyond! Classes for ages 13 years and above also have video conference lessons conducted during this period where physical gathering is discouraged. So you may join an online Sunday school class between the 8am and 11am online worship services. If you would like to join a class, please contact me via whatsapp or telegram.

Dn Terence Tan
Young Teens department superintendent
92975560

Testimonies

Secondary 1 Boys Class

Secondary Sunday school has been very fun. The Bible truths book is helpful as it helps summarise parts of the bible we are learning about and explain some of the verses I have difficulty with. My Teachers, Mr Woon and Mr Ong are good at interpreting the chapters in the bible to teach me what it means.

Peter Sam Chow

I used to dread the long hours of sermons. My eight year old mind would be bored to death by the long dramatic phrases the pastor used that were engaging, that was before I joined Sunday school. A children friendly way that helps them to learn the gospel, learn more about God and worship him is Sunday school. To me it was the foundation of my faith before I reaffirmed my faith. It was the very thing I looked forward to with the engaging stories from the Bible and art and craft. I really appreciated the short but interesting sermons that kept me awake. Up till now I still remember those impacting moments that set me on the right track. Without this foundation, I would not be who I am today.



Gabriel Tan

I remembered the time where sunday school was just a time for me to just be with my sunday school friends and if my friends where not there, sunday school would mean nothing to me. Over some time, i realised that these sunday schools were to help me understand GOD's word better and it was for my own good. I then thought over again of my behaviour and reflected on how i could improve my behaviour how i could spend a good time during sunday school. Ever since then, i have been looking at sunday school at a new angle and i have enjoyed listening about the gospel ever since then.

Jeriel Kwok

Secondary 1 Girls Class



I thank God for Sunday school because I can learn so much more wonderful things like God's miracles and what he did on his time while he was on earth. Sunday school has also given me more opportunities to learn from the Bible and help me understand what the bible is saying as there will always be words that I don't understand written in the verses of the bible.

To be honest, Sunday school has really given me a whole new positive attitude towards the Lord. Now, I always look forward to every Sunday during Sunday school to learn more about Christ and all the wonder-

wonderful teachers I've had throughout my years in life-presbyterian church and for always being there for me and helping me to get to know our Lord God better.

Charlotte Lim

"Sunday school has helped me to learn about Jesus and his teachings to his disciples. I hope i can continue to attend as i enjoy it very much! thank you teachers!"

Finja Reinhardt

Secondary 2 Combined Class

Lesson: "Why Should I Develop Christlikeness?"

This lesson was about how we should apply the things we learnt about God in our own lives, to not only show other Christians good examples but to other non-believers as well, that they may see Christ working in us.

The Scripture text was taken from Romans 8:29, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." I learnt that the only way to have a Christian life that has victory over

sin is to have a Christ-like character. Our characters made in the image of God have been thoroughly tainted by sin, so much so that like in many other trials in our lives, God is the only way out. Only He can save us from a life of sin to live in a manner that is glorifying to Him. The lesson left an impression on me, as there are many times in my life that I fell into sin and was unable to return to having a healthy relationship with God by my own strength. I now know that it is only through Him that I can truly devote my life to Him.



Through the study of God's Word in the Sunday School lessons, I have been able to learn more about myself and my walk with God. I feel that I have grown in my knowledge of God this year. I hope I can grow closer to Him in the upcoming year, and that I can make the necessary changes in my life for me to glorify Him according to His will and to enjoy Him forever.

Ooi Zi Yang

Lesson: "Winning Over Worrying"

One of the most memorable lessons I had in Sunday School was "Winning Over Worrying".

I used to be very worried about my school examinations and homework and I was afraid that I would not be able to finish my homework before the due date. This had led to a lot of stress building up in me and I would have trouble sleeping. After learning about "Winning Over Worrying" in Sunday School, I learnt that I should trust God and that He has a plan for me. That day, I prayed that I will have a strong faith in God. I stopped worrying so much about my studies and trusted God.

Joanna Boey

Secondary 3 Combined Class



Sunday School has taught me many valuable lessons. During Sunday School, I get to learn about characters in the bible and deepen my biblical knowledge through reading the word of God. I also learn ways to apply God's word in my daily life, such as prayer techniques and how to cope with real life situations through experiences shared in class.

Jolene Tan

Secondary 4 Class

Attending Sunday school has always been dreadful for me, but as i grew older and mature, i realised that Sunday school is so much more than the Sunday school teachers teaching about bible stories that i have known of before. In the young teens department, we not only revisit the bible stories or accounts, but we dig deeper into the truth - God is love. Through the old and new testament, it shows evidently how God was gracious to the people in the bible. and how He is still ever gracious to us now. This truth brings comfort to me as i go through each Sunday school lesson, and as I go on about my daily life living in this corrupted and messy world, I'm reminded of this truth and it brings me so much comfort knowing that God is with me throughout my life. Thank God!



“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

¶1 John 4:8 KJV

Wei Xin

Sunday school has taught me many different lessons, be it memorising verses, to learning bible stories and it's application to our lives. It has been a good time for me to learn and grow spiritually, alongside my cohort mates, who go through the same stresses I do. Recently, we have learnt about Joshua further in depth, understanding 'The Way To Win'. One of the verses we learnt in the lesson was Joshua 22:5 “But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” This verse serves as a reminder to me to continue to follow God's word and his commandments, to obey and serve with all my heart and soul, regardless of how busy or tired I am from the week.

Isaac Ong