

# FOCUS



CHURCH *of* CHRIST  
PASIR PANJANG, SINGAPORE

## Sunday Morning Worship



13 February 2022

### The Journey Of Abram

By John Lim  
Live @ 11am

Today begins our first Sunday at our temporary location at Grand Copthorne Waterfront! It is a season of change, exciting unknowns and a chance to rediscover the meaning of church in a new environment.

Fortunately, we are not the first to enter a journey of unknowns. Scripture is full of such journeys where God lead unsuspecting people on journeys beyond their wildest imaginations. While we know them as "the call of Abraham", it was not actually Abraham's story, but that of the faithful, gracious, and powerful God who led him to greatness.

As we look at the journey of Abraham (or "Abram", as he was originally named), let us find ourselves in that story. Where we go forth not by any power of our own, but by the sheer grace and providence of God. PPCOC's relocation is first and foremost the story of God's glory. So let's play our part and give Him what He deserves.

# Sunday Morning Worship

## Order of Worship

Welcome and Briefing

Give Thanks To The Lord

Call To Worship

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4

Here I Am To Worship

Sermon

That's Why We Praise Him

Announcements

Scripture: Psalm 112:1-6

Shepherd's Prayer

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Congregational Response

Communion & Giving

## Reflection Questions

- 1 What are some "journeys" that you have taken in your own life that were the result of God's call? How have you gotten to know God more through those journeys?
- 2 When God called Abram, there were a lot of obstacles to him going - his old age, leaving everyone and everything he knew behind, even changing his religion to follow God. What are some obstacles that you are facing in your own life? How is God calling you to overcome them?
- 3 How will you pray for the church as we begin our own journey into the unknown?

# Giving

Last Week's Giving: **\$11,169.96**



General Fund  
S76SS0008AGFD



Missions Fund  
S76SS0008AMFD



Building Fund  
S76SS0008ABFD

If you plan to make a contribution via cheque, please make sure it is payable to "**Church of Christ, Pasir Panjang, Singapore**". Please ensure that you write the full name so that the cheque can be processed smoothly.

# Upcoming Events



**13 Feb | 9:30am**

## **Adult Bible Class**

"God In The Center"

Numbers 1-4

By Lim Cher Yam

## **GEMS Bible Class (Kinderkids)**

"God Created The first Man & Woman"

Genesis 2:2-3, 7-25

Contact Josephine Seow (9170 4343)

## **Youth Bible Class**

"Markan 'Bao'"

Gospel of Mark

Contact John Lim (8689 2008)

## **GEMS Bible Class (P123)**

"The Narrow Door; Honour At The Banquet" (Luke 13:22-30, 14:7-14)

Contact Joanne Foo (9683 8266)

## **GEMS Bible Class (Cradle Roll)**

Contact Audrey Lee

(9855 4957)

## **GEMS Bible Class (P456)**

"Parable Of The Sower"

Mark 4:1-20

Contact Rosalind Lee (9621 9006)

## **GEMS Bible Class (Toddlers)**

Contact Koo Hwee Yee

(9173 2365)

## **P6 Apologetics Class**

What Is The Bible And

Can We Trust it?

Contact Catherine Leow (9270 1717)

## **GEMS Bible Class (Nursery)**

Contact Agnes Lim

(9858 5935)



**14 Feb | 7:30pm**

## **Gladiolus Place Devotional**

Contact Lucy Kwan (9838 3131)



**16 Feb | 7:30pm**


## **Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom @ 8:30)**

"Be Filled With The Spirit" (Eph 5:15-21)

By Lim Lian Chye

# PPCOC

@ GRAND COPTHORNE WATERFRONT

	Only vaccinated persons can attend worship & Bible classes (does not apply to children below 12 years).		Singing with mask on is NOT permitted. Congregational response is permissible.
	Group sizes must be kept to 5 persons (e.g. only 5 people can sit together in a row).		Refrain from using hotel WiFi to free up bandwidth for live-streaming of worship and Bible classes.
	Comply with safe management measures by the hotel.		Do not mingle or gather at the foyer/along the corridors in between Bible class and worship.
	Look for ushers for assistance if you are unsure of the location of rooms or hotel facilities.		Do not bring or consume outside food and beverage within the hotel.
	Scan SafeEntry devices/QR codes at the entrance to each room you enter/exit.		The church is liable for damage or breakage of hotel property. Please handle items with care. If you break or damage anything, contact the church staff. Let us be good stewards of this place that God has given us!
	Please take care of your own belongings. The hotel is not liable for any damage or loss of the church's / members' property.		Do not mingle within the ballroom!
	All activities (worship, Bible class, etc) are to stay within the respective rooms. No spilling over into the foyer or corridors.		
	If you test positive for COVID-19 during the week after attending the Sunday services, contact any of the Ministers as soon as possible. The church will need to inform the hotel accordingly.		

# PPCOC

@ GRAND COPTHORNE WATERFRONT

**Bible Classes**  
9:30am -  
10:30am

**Paradiso**  
Chinese  
Congregation

**Cardinal**  
Nursery, Kinderkids  
GEMS P4-6

**Swallow**  
Toddlers, GEMS P1-3  
Apologetics Class

**Galleria 1**  
Youth

**Galleria 2 & 3**  
Adults & FFF

Cradle Roll

**Worship**  
11am - 12pm

\*There may be room changes due to prior bookings by other parties. We will inform members in advance of these changes. There will be special signs to direct you to the correct rooms.

**Paradiso**  
Chinese  
Congregation

**Cardinal**  
Deaf Ministry  
Spillover Room

**Swallow**  
Spare Room

**Galleria 1-3**  
English  
Worship

Cradle Roll

# Family News



## Welcome Brother Tristan Lim!



We rejoice with the angels in heaven over the baptism of brother Tristan Lim, second son of Larry and E Lin (and photographer in the making!) Do surround this new brother in Christ with your prayers and love and support!



## Call for Teachers

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."  
Proverbs 22:6

WILL YOU BE ONE OF  
THE GEMS TEACHERS?

We are in urgent need of teachers for the Cradle Roll up to the P456 classes. Come, be part of a team who sows the seeds of God's Word in willing hearts and young minds.

Please contact Sis Rosalind Lee (96219006) to indicate your interest.

**G E M S**  
**C L U B**



# Bible Class: Intro to Numbers

By Lim Cher Yam



## The Census

The fourth book of the Pentateuch, Numbers, was written by Moses around 1450-1410 BC.

The book draws its name from the census made of the people, a necessary step toward their organization and future government as a nation. The Lord had instructed Moses to number, or count, all the Israelite males “from twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war” (Numbers 1:3). Moses counted the Israelite males twice, once at Mount Sinai before they began their journey towards the wilderness and later in the plains of Moab near Jericho before they entered the Promised Land (Numbers 26).



# Bible Class: Intro to Numbers

The book also documents priestly instructions for handling the Ark of the Covenant and the tabernacle; and spells out the placement of the tribes when they camped. But through it all, we cannot doubt God's unfailing direction over the nation.

## Events

The events of the book began in the second year after the Israelites left Egypt, as they camped at Mount Sinai around 1444 BC (Numbers 1:1). The narrative ends about thirty-eight years later in the plains of Moab by the Jordan river opposite Jericho (Numbers 36:13) in 1406 BC.

The book records the Israelite's long wandering in the desert of Sinai, their time at the oasis of Kadesh-Barnea, and their eventual arrival at the banks of the Jordan River across from the Promised Land.

## The Main Message

The message of Numbers is directed toward the younger generation of Israelites who were children of former slaves in Egypt. Although it was just a short distance from Egypt to Canaan, it took the Israelites about 40 years to get there. The book of Numbers tells us why.

Except for Joshua, Caleb, and Moses of the older generation, everyone twenty years old or older at the time of the first census at Mount Sinai died in the wilderness, due to their rebellion, disobedience and disbelief (Numbers 14:22-30). Even Moses, the great prophet and servant of the Lord, was not exempt from God's wrath when he disobeyed God.

More than just a history lesson, God reminded Israel that He does not tolerate rebellion, complaining, and disbelief without invoking consequences. He taught His people how to walk with Him, not just with their feet through the wilderness but with their hearts in worship, hands in service, and lives as witnesses to the surrounding nations. He was their God, they were His people, and He expected them to conduct themselves in a manner befitting His people.

# Bible Class: Intro to Numbers

The teaching of the book has lasting significance for Israel and for the church today (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11). God does display his wrath against his errant people, but his grace is renewed as surely as the dawn, and His redemptive purpose will not be thwarted.

The people of Israel tested God's patience, and He in turn tested their endurance and faithfulness. Though the people failed many times, God showed His own faithfulness by His constant presence leading the way: through a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

## **Lessons And Applications:**

1. The book teaches important lessons about God fulfilling His promises and our need to trust and obey the Lord and sustain His chosen leaders.
2. Numbers presents a sobering reality: the God who entered into covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15; 17), who delivered His people from bondage in the Exodus (Exodus 14-15), who brought Israel into covenant with Himself as His "treasured possession" (Exodus 19; see especially verse 5) and who revealed His holiness and the gracious means of approaching Him (Leviticus 1-7) was also a God of wrath. His wrath extends to his errant children as well as to the enemy nations of Egypt and Canaan.
3. Planning is wise if we face a major task. A census or count of the people was needed to prepare them for future tasks. The first census organized the people by tribes for their journey ahead. The second census, in Chapter 26, counted the men 20 years and older who could serve in the army and prepared them for war.
4. Rebellion against God brings bad consequences. Instead of believing Joshua and Caleb, the only two spies who said Israel could conquer Canaan, the people did not trust God and refused to cross into the Promised Land. For their lack of faith, they wandered 40 years in the desert until all but a few of that generation had died.

# Bible Class: Intro to Numbers

5. God does not tolerate sin. God, who is holy, let time and the desert take the lives of those who disobeyed Him. The next generation, free of the influence of Egypt, were prepared to be a separate, holy people, loyal to God. Today, Jesus Christ saves, but God expects us to make every effort to drive sin from our lives.

6. God has appointed and anointed men and women for special work in his kingdom. Challenging the anointed of the Lord is a dangerous proposition because it sets us up against God and his program for His people! The rebellion of the people against Moses and his leadership is a recurring theme in the book. It reaches its crescendo in these two chapters – Numbers 16 and 17.

The rebellion lead by Dathan, Abiram and Korah was dramatic and a very divisive stand against Moses. God acted decisively in quelling the rebels, destroying the leaders and the rebellious people. He confirmed Moses and Aaron as His chosen men to lead the people.

7. God sometimes speaks to us in amazing ways (Numbers 22): You might be surprised at when, where and how God speaks, so keep listening for His voice.

God used a donkey to warn and keep the prophet, Balaam from destruction. But Balaam was blinded by his hasty actions and greedy attitude.

## Conclusion

Modern readers can take away from Numbers not only a thorough history of Israel's early days but also a renewed sense of God's delight in obedience. The journey of the Israelites through the wilderness earned the apostle Paul's notice when he penned his first letter to the Corinthian church. "These things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved" (I Corinthians 10:6).



## History of Valentine's Day

(quoted from christianity.com)

“Valentine’s Day began as Saint Valentine’s Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine. The feast was first established by Pope Gelasius I to honour one or two saints named Valentinus for being martyred on February 14.

Those familiar with this connection believe there to be a single man, but there were actually three saints bearing the name Valentine or Valentinus. Two were from Italy and one was from Africa. Two were clearly beheaded, while the third one’s martyrdom is only “supposed” by some.

One Valentine's story is that he was a temple priest who was imprisoned for ministering to Christians when they were being persecuted by the Roman empire. While in prison, he fell in love with a young woman (possibly the jailer’s daughter) and sent her a farewell note (from “Your Valentine”) before his execution. One version of the story states that the young woman was blind, and Valentine healed her, while other stories leave that part out.”

As the world celebrates Valentine Day, this week’s nugget focuses on love. Many couples search passionately for cards, gifts and special places to express their love for one another. I wonder: how do we as God’s children express our love to our loving heavenly Father and our saviour, Jesus Christ? Do we love the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit much more than our Valentine?

So here are a few thoughts to help direct our thoughts and meditations towards the Love of our life – God.

Jesus stressed the importance of putting God first, before all the things we desire for. He told us to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33), He also said: “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24).

“Mammon” is an uncommon word in English. It means “material wealth or possessions especially as having a debasing influence” (Merriam-Webster’s 11th Collegiate Dictionary).

According to Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, “mammonas” was “a common Aramaic word for ‘riches.’” Jesus was not referring to the mere “possession of money, but the unshared service of it as a slave serves his owner.

Self-interest and preservation is the common human failing that breaks this command in Matthew 22:37-39. Pride places self above God. Our common human failings of forgetfulness and neglect (Deut 8:11-19).

There are many desires and temptations that can lead us to disobey the First Commandment. Anything that we put as higher priority than God is indeed loving God less. Even our good times can test our commitment to put God first. How we about our trials shows Him whether we always put God first? Every event in life is the road, God’s Word is the guard rails of faith towards a blessed life.

## Reflection questions:

1. How have the cultural celebrations influence our lifestyles?
2. Do we know what the original significance of such celebration? Or are we merely doing so to be trendy? If not, what is your motivation for celebrating Valentine’s Day?
3. If God is truly our “Valentine”, what will we do to reciprocate for the amazing love, God has continuously showered upon us. Make a list of God’s loving acts for we are His “valentines”.

## Prayer

Father God, we pray that the events of life will not so easily sweep us away. At times, we sheepishly follow the trendiness of the occasions without seeking you first. Give us wisdom as we seek to rely on You. Help us model the living faith of Jesus. We know that Jesus loves us dearly, giving His life in exchange for the ultimate gift for us – eternal life with You, our Father. Help us to place you first in all we do, to live, to serve and to love you as our ‘Valentine’! Bless us with love, peace, happiness, and favour wherever we go. In Jesus’ majestic name, Amen!

# Connect With Us

## Prayer Requests/ Feedback



<http://bit.ly/35FTEyp>



## Meet Our People

### Elders

Simon Goh

Peter Lim

Lim Swee Aun

### Deacons

Dennis Law

Lim Kok Hin

Vincent Lim

### Ministers

Tan Beng Chuan

Patrick Ong

John Lim

### Pledge and Building Fund Committee

Peter Lim

Jim Kawi

Grace Mariaraja