## GOSPELLIGHT.SG

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### Caging generations INTO A LIFE-CHANGING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

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### The Throne I Never Owned

Article by Melanie Lim

### The Illusion of Control

"You will be like God" (Genesis 3:5). These words, whispered in Eden, marked

humanity's first rebellion. When Satan tempted Eve with the forbidden fruit, he dangled the illusion of autonomy—a counterfeit promise that she could seize her own destiny, rooted in the lie that God could not be trusted.

This desire to sit atop the throne of control persists today. As women, control is often the silent idol behind our struggles. We orchestrate our lives—managing homes, careers, relationships, and ministries convinced that meticulous planning guarantees perfect outcomes.

"Responsibility clenched too tightly becomes idolatry. True stewardship accepts duty but yields outcomes to God."

#### When Control Becomes an Idol

Control masquerades as responsibility, whispering that diligence demands unceasing vigilance. We convince ourselves we're simply being conscientious—good stewards of what God has given us.

But responsibility clenched too tightly becomes idolatry. True stewardship accepts duty but yields outcomes to God; it works faithfully, then rests trustingly. Control, however, never sleeps. It's a false god, demanding all our energy but offering only anxiety in return.

#### **Shattered Illusions**

When I was diagnosed with cancer, this

illusion shattered. I had always prided myself on planning—painstakingly mapping out my days, my career, my future. But cancer respects neither plans nor timelines.

In those early days, I raged against the loss of control. I desperately wanted to know why this was happening and how to fix it. But the more I grasped for answers, the heavier my helplessness became.

#### Finding Peace in Surrender

It was in surrender that I found peace. I remembered Christ's prayer in Gethsemane: "Not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22:42). In that moment, I realized that control had never been mine. My role wasn't to orchestrate outcomes but to trust the One who holds my life in His hands.

This journey hasn't been a one-time act but a moment-by-moment choice. I still wrestle with the desire to control—to demand answers and plan for every outcome. The serpent's whisper still tempts me daily, urging me to grasp beyond my boundaries.

### The Call to True Stewardship

But God designed us for a different posture. Self-control—the fruit of the Spirit—directs our focus inward, calling us to "take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

When I fixate outwardly, obsessing over what I cannot control, I neglect the garden of my own heart. I exhaust myself trying to control what God never entrusted to me: outcomes I can't determine, hearts I can't change, and futures I can't see.

The antidote isn't chaos or passivity but active, surrendered stewardship—tending faithfully to what God has assigned while releasing the rest. It's remembering that He gives me choice, not control—holding my plans with open hands, trusting His purposes are always better.

#### An Invitation to Rest

Jesus invites us, "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). This rest, forfeited in Eden, is what Christ promises to restore. Sisters, what might it look like to accept this invitation today? Perhaps it's surrendering to God's timing in your career, releasing the anxiety that drives you to revise your resume for the twentieth time this week. Or entrusting your husband to God's guidance, silencing the urge to correct his driving or micromanage his parenting decisions. Or perhaps it's finding peace in knowing that your worth isn't tied to perfectly behaved children or mapping out every minute of their day.

Instead of grasping for control, God calls us to open our hands in surrender and fold them in prayer. For the One whose nailscarred hands hold the universe will never let us go. He who secured our eternity can surely be trusted with our earthly tomorrows.

*Melanie is a discipleship group leader and serves with the Women's Ministry Core team.* 

WOMEN'S MINISTRY QUARTERLY EVENT Ladies, You're Invited! \*\*

Join us for an enriching afternoon as we explore how principles of biblical submission can bring peace, purpose and strength to our daily lives.

Topic: Submission at Work and at Home
Date: Sat, 3 May
Time: 2.00pm - 4.15pm (inclusive of tea)
Venue: Shine Auditorium (L4)

Don't miss this time to fellowship and learn with other sisters-in-Christ!

Register <u>here</u>. Registration closes on 18 April 2025 or when registration is full, whichever is earlier.

For more details, contact women@gospellight.sg.

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Stay in the loop! Click <u>here</u> to join our WhatsApp Community for updates on Women's Ministry related matters. This is **NOT** a registration link for our events.

Save these dates!

Sat, 02 Aug 2025: 10.00am - 12.00pm (Followed by another scrummy lunch!)
Sat, 1 Nov 2025: 2.00pm - 4.15pm (Yes,

more tea!)

As we get this ministry rolling, our priority will be all the wonderful ladies (18 years old and above) who are currently worshipping with us at Gospel Light, so let's come together to grow, support each other spiritually, and have a blessed time!

#### **CHIT CHAT! (NEWCOMERS EVENT)**

Are you new to Gospel Light? Did you discover us through a friend, our online services or social media? We'd love for you to get to know us better! Chit Chat is an informal social session onsite where you get to mingle with our Pastor, Elders and leaders. Ever wondered what kind of church we are and where are our roots? What does our mission and vision statement mean? Save the date and we look forward to a great time of chit chat!

Date: Sun, 20 Apr 2025 **\_**Time: 11.45am - 1.15pm **T** Venue: Gospel Auditorium (L2) Lunch is provided.

**Connect with us – <u>Register</u> now!** Registration closes on Sun, 13 Apr 2025.

If you want to find out more, <u>email</u> Sue.

- ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING (ACM) Our Annual Congregation Meeting will take place on
- Date: Sat, 29 Mar
   Venue: Shine Auditorium (L4)
   Time: 10.00am 12.00pm, with
   breakfast from 9.00am onwards at L1
   foyer
   \*For Members and Associate Members
   only.

The Church Committee will be holding sessions for members who wish to seek clarifications on the proposed changes to the Church Constitution.

 Date: Sun, 16 Mar
 Session 1: 9.45am - 10.15am in Hall 1 (L2)
 Session 2: 11.30am - 12.00pm in Hall 2 (L2)

### ATTENTION PARENTS OF 7-13 YEARS-OLDS!

In today's fast-paced world, kids grow up quickly—but as parents, we can make a lasting impact when we lean on God's Word and step out in faith. At this pivotal age, children seek role models and face peer pressure. How can we guide them in their choices? Why do some embrace the Gospel while others turn away?

← Join us for an engaging, hands-on session hosted by the Family Life and Children's Ministries, equipping you with practical biblical insights. Last time, 48 parents attended and found it invaluable—don't miss this opportunity!

Date: Sat, 5 April
Venue: Light 1 & 2 Auditorium (L3)
Time: 10.00am - 12.00pm

### **DON'T MISS YOUR FULL-TIME MINISTRY** CALLING!

Your journey starts here.

Step into a life-changing season of growth and discovery with Gospel Light's Internship Programme-designed for those with a heart for shepherding, pastoral care, and kingdom service. Walk alongside experienced pastors, shepherds, and operations leaders, gaining hands-on church ministry experience, spiritual mentoring, and a deeper understanding of God's calling for your life.

If you're standing at the crossroads of your future, take this opportunity to explore where God may be leading you. Your calling is worth discovering.

Find out more and take the first step, register today.

### LIGONIER CONFERENCE SINGAPORE 2025

Gospel Light is honored to be the venue host of Ligonier's first-ever conference in Asia.

#### **Theme: The Holiness of God**

Our holy God dwells in unapproachable light. Even the angels cover their faces in His presence. Yet, in His mercy, the Lord has chosen to redeem a people for Himself. Christians are called to reflect His holiness—growing in Christlikeness and proclaiming the good news of salvation to

all.

About Ligonier Ministries Founded by Dr. R.C. Sproul, Ligonier Ministries is dedicated to equipping believers with the deep, timeless truths of the Christian faith through the teaching of gifted pastors and theologians.

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Speakers
Sinclair Ferguson
Michael Reeves
Joel Kim
Chris Chia

Date: 19 - 20 Sep
Venue: Gospel Light Christian Church
<u>Register now</u> and view the full schedule.

### SAVE THE DATE - KIDS BIBLE CAMP 2025

Date: 12 and 13 September Stay tuned for more details!





THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY IS PERSONAL, BUT NOT PRIVATE. WE NEED ONE ANOTHER IN OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS.

TRUE CONNECTION AND VULNERABILITY ARE FOSTERED IN SMALL GROUP SETTINGS, ALLOWING FOR DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS



COME AND EXPERIENCE THE WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD'S PEOPLE IN A SMALL COMMUNITY TODAY.

## CLASSES + MINISTRIES

### **MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

Membership in Gospel Light is only for baptized believers of the Lord, and must be of age 16 and above. Attendance at both membership classes 1 & 2 is a prerequisite for membership application. Classes will be conducted on-site. Register <u>here</u>. Registration closes on Sun, 30 Mar.

#### **English**

Date: Sun, 27 Apr & 4 May Time: 1.30pm – 2.30pm
Venue: Hall 2 (L2)



### Date: Sun, Sun, 27 Apr & 4 May Time: 12.00pm – 1.00pm Venue: Hall 2 (L2)

# CLASSES + MINISTRIES

### **SILVER JOY (SENIORS) MINISTRY**

Every chapter of life is a gift from God. And our ministry for seniors celebrates that gift. Silver Joy isn't just a place for seniors to gather, it's a spiritual community of friendship and support. Invite your pre-believing friends, neighbours or family members.

Date: Every Wed of the Month
 Time: Refer to the table below
 Venue: Gospel Light Christian Church
 Upcoming events coming your way.
 Register to join us!

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Date	Programme	
19 Mar	Outing: Peranakan Museum * registration closed	
26 Mar	Rummikub Game (From 9.00am to 12.00pm)	

# Contact 9753 7964 for registration / enquiries.

# CLASSES + MINISTRIES

### EXPOSITORY BIBLE STUDY – GOSPEL OF JOHN

This Tue, 18 Mar, we will go through John 19:16b-27 to learn about the crucifixion of Jesus. The Zoom dial-in details for our session are as follows:

Date: Tue, 18 Mar 2025
Time: 8.00pm
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 851 8603 0760
Passcode: 211761





"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16



Wednesday 8PM | HALL 3 (ATTIC LEVEL)



Sunday 7.45AM | CRY ROOM SHINE AUDITORIUM LEVEL 4



Prayer List we can only move forward as a church by prayer. <u>Subscribe</u> to our weekly prayer list



Bereavement WE MOURN WITH MEMBERS WHO'VE LOST LOVED ONES. (ROM. 12:15) STAY UPDATED ON CHURCH BEREAVEMENT NOTICES.

### WORSHIP SERVICES

English @Shine Auditorium (L4) Sunday at 8.30am, 10.15am, 12.00pm <u>Watch</u> our livestream service at 10.15am only

Chinese @Gospel Auditorium (L2) Sunday at 8.30am and 10.15am <u>Watch</u> our livestream service at 10.15am only

Filipino @Gospel Auditorium (L2) Sunday at 2.00pm <u>Watch</u> our livestream service at 2.00pm

Youth @Gospel Auditorium (L2) Saturday at 4.30pm Subscribe to our announcement channel on <u>WhatsApp</u> or <u>Telegram</u>.

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Varsity @Light 1 and Light 2 (L3) Sunday at 2.30pm \*no service on 5th week of the month Subscribe to Varsity announcement channel

> Bahasa @Hall 1 (L2) Every alternate Sunday 10.30am For more info, please contact 9117 6000 / 9628 5061

**Telugu** @Gospel Auditorium (L2) Sunday at 5.00pm and 7.30pm <u>Watch</u> our livestream service at 5.30pm

### **CHILDREN'S** SERVICES

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#### **PLAYGROUP**

(12 - 35 months) @ Hall 3 (Attic) Sunday at 8.30am and 10.15am

#### PRESCHOOL

(36 months - 6 years) @ Eshkol Valley Premises (Attic) Sunday at 8.30am, 10.15am and 12.00pm

#### PRIMARY

(Primary 1 - 6) @ Light Auditorium (L3) Sunday at 8.30am, 10.15am, **12.00pm\*** 

\*12.00pm service held at Eshkol Valley Premises (Attic)

Join our <u>Whatsapp community</u> for regular updates

<u>Contact us</u> if you're interested to explore serving in Children's Ministry!



#### FULL GIVING DETAILS <u>HERE</u>



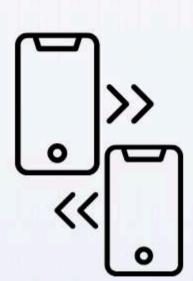
> PAYNOW Unique Entity Number (UEN) S88SS0082AGF1



Scan With Your Bank App

All offerings will be directed to the "General" fund. State "Missions" in the UEN/Bill Reference No. section if you wish to designate the offering to our mission work.





> Internet Banking Transfer DBS Bank 033-021695-5

> Cheque Make Payable to: "Gospel Light Christian Church" Write "<u>Offerings</u>" behind.

For internet banking transfer, indicate "General" or "Mission" to designate where the offering goes to

For cheques, you can further indicate on the reverse: "General Fund" 033-021695-5 or "Missions Fund" 001-042653-2.

Cheques can be deposited at any POSB or DBS bank into the church's accounts.