

SEED

FEBRUARY 2021

THE YEAR OF

Reproduction

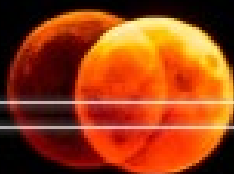


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SUNDAY BETTER WITH YOU

*Selagi hari masih siang,
menjelang sore...*

INDONESIAN SERVICE:

10 AM

KIDS SERVICE: 10 AM

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE:

4 PM

ET SERVICE: 10 AM

LIVE STREAMING:

10 AM & 4 PM

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THE SEED THAT WE SOW

BY NOVITA SUNG

Children, Oh how I love kids. Even though I have yet to be a mother, my longing is for my future kids and every kids to grow up knowing and loving Jesus. The question is, are we willing to take the time to nurture them in Godly manner?

As much as I know, even as adults, we need to be constantly exposed to the gospel to remind us of His love, grace and mercy. We built our relationship with God by regularly learning His Word and praying to God. The more we spend time with Him, the more we get to know Him through His Word, the more we realised that we are sinners in need of a saviour. Our hearts are renewed and transformed when we understand the cost that He has paid to save us. His resurrection gives us assurance that He will always be there with us, interceding for us. This truth, the Gospel, is not a one-day revelation. It is the constant meditation of the Word of God that reminds us of the love of God and the goodness of God.

With that in mind, how much more we need to regularly sow the Word of God in our children's lives. They get to know Jesus through us being consistent and true with our own faith, diligently saturating them with the Word of God. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God." (Romans 10:17)

This reminds me when I was still a kid, my parents would always remind me to greet the elderly before I have my meal, to brush my teeth before I went to sleep and etc. The constant reminder of the good manners stays true to me till now. I believe godly manner is as essential as general manners. What we sow in our children's lives will not go in vain.

I am not saying that this will guarantee that your children will not grow up astray. However, as parents, the best that we can do is to nurture them, pray for their salvation and leave the rest to God's sovereignty.

THE YEAR OF Reproduction

BY PS SEMUEL YUSUF



Dengan hati yang penuh rasa terima kasih kepada Raja atas segala raja dan Tuhan kami, kami menyambut Anda semua keluarga ROCK Sydney ke Era Baru dan Tahun Baru 2021, **The Year of Reproduction.**

Berkat kasih karunia Tuhan Yesus yang sangat melimpah, kita semua bisa melewati tahun 2020 yang sangat berat dan penuh dengan badai kehidupan yang sangat mencengkam. Walaupun badai Covid-19 masih belum reda sama sekali, tetapi saya mengajak kita semua untuk menoleh ke belakang, yaitu pada tujuan utama pada jaman pertama kali Tuhan menciptakan manusia untuk menjadi perpanjangan otoritas kerajaan Sorga yang berkuasa disemua alam semesta ciptaan-Nya.

Genesis 1:28 (ESV) 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Ayat ini merupakan dasar dari tema kita tahun 2021 adalah The Year of Reproduction. Tuhan mau kita bertumbuh, berkembang dan berlipat ganda sehingga kita menghasilkan buah yang manis dan lebat untuk kemuliaan-Nya. Bertumbuh, berkembang dan berlipat ganda adalah karakteristik dari orang yang kehidupannya dinamis, efektif dan berdampak. Mari kita bahas secara singkat firman Tuhan

1. God bless them

Tuhan tidak hanya memberkati pria saja atau Tuhan tidak hanya memberkati wanita saja, tetapi memberkati kita semua sebagai ciptaan-Nya yang serupa dengan gambar Allah. Selain itu, Tuhan juga memberkati persatuan antara pria dan wanita dalam hubungan suami-istri yang sah di hadapan Tuhan. Kesatuan pria dan wanita dalam satu tubuh adalah kesempurnaan karya ciptaan-Nya.

2. God said to them

Ini adalah perintah Tuhan untuk umat manusia. Setelah memberkat mereka, Tuhan juga mengucapkan perintah-Nya kepada umat manusia. Berkat Tuhan adalah kekuatan dan itulah yang memungkinkan manusia untuk melakukan perintah Tuhan.

3. The specific command of God to humankind

Lima hal yang utama yang diperintahkan Tuhan kepada umat-Nya.

- a. **Be fruitful**, untuk membuat hidup kita menghasilkan kualitas terbaik dari buah kehidupan yang melimpah di setiap musim kehidupan.
- b. **Be multiply**, supaya kehidupan generasi penerus kita memiliki kualitas yang sama atau bahkan lebih baik dari kita.

- c. **Fill the earth**, untuk membuat buah kita dan generasi berikutnya menyebar ke ujung dunia.
- d. **Subdue the earth**, untuk memiliki kekuatan dan anugerah Tuhan untuk mengendalikan semua berkat untuk memuliakan Tuhan dan tidak dikendalikan oleh berkat yang kita miliki.
- e. **Having dominion**, sejauh kita telah memberikan kembali kepada Tuhan, maka Tuhan akan memberi kita kekuatan-Nya untuk hidup di bumi dengan kekuatan kerajaan Tuhan (memiliki kekuasaan atas semua ciptaan-Nya) untuk hidup sebagaimana Yesus hidup saat dia di bumi.

Inilah tujuan penciptaan umat manusia di atas muka bumi yaitu memiliki kehidupan untuk memenuhi seluruh bumi dengan karya terbaik dan juga berkuasa atas semua ciptaan Tuhan yang lainnya. Semua rencana Tuhan ini dihambat oleh kegagalan Adam yang tergoda oleh karena rayuan iblis, sehingga semua kekuasaan yang Tuhan berikan kepada Adam untuk menguasai dunia dan segala isinya diserahkan kepada si ular tua. Tetapi, rencana Tuhan untuk membuat manusia berkuasa atas alam semesta tidak dapat digagalkan oleh siapa pun. Bapa Sorgawi mengutus Sang Putra yaitu Tuhan Yesus untuk turun ke dunia dan menjadi Adam terakhir

Seperti ada tertulis: “Manusia pertama, Adam menjadi makhluk yang hidup”, tetapi Adam yang akhir menjadi roh yang menghidupkan - 1 Korintus 15:45

Adam terakhir, yaitu Tuhan Yesus Kristus mengambil semua yang hilang dari Adam pertama dan dari tangan iblis yang secara bertahap mengembalikan kepada anak-anak tebusan-Nya. (Roma 5:15-19)

Setelah lahir baru di dalam Tuhan Yesus Kristus, secara bertahap namun pasti, kita semua anak-anak Tuhan Yesus diberikan kembali kuasa untuk hidup di bumi dengan otoritas dan kuasa dari kerajaan Sorga. Kita juga diberikan kuasa untuk mengajar dan mendidik keturunan kita dengan semua hukum kerajaan Sorga.

Didiklah orang muda menurut jalan yang patut baginya, maka pada masa tuanya pun ia tidak akan menyimpang dari pada jalan itu. - Amsal 22:6

Kehidupan generasi masa depan tergantung pada seberapa efektifnya kita sebagai orang tua dalam melatih anak-anak kita saat ini. Kita sebaiknya berhati-hati dalam mendidik, melatih, dan membesarkan anak-anak kita karena keberhasilan atau kegagalan kita akan memberikan akibat jangka panjang kepada kedua belah pihak. Bagaimanakah cara kita mendidik anak-anak untuk hidup benar di hadapan Tuhan dan mengasihi Tuhan dengan segenap hati mereka?

1. Memberikan makanan rohani yang bergizi.

Dan jadilah sama seperti bayi yang baru lahir, yang selalu ingin akan air susu yang murni dan yang rohani, supaya olehnya kamu bertumbuh dan beroleh keselamatan, - 1 Petrus 2:2

Pertumbuhan rohani tidak terjadi secara otomatis, tetapi memerlukan latihan dengan cara menerapkan dan menaati firman kebenaran sehingga secara bertahap kita semakin tajam mengenali perkara yang baik dan yang jahat.

2. Memberikan teguran yang menyehatkan iman.

Kesaksian itu benar. Karena itu tegorlah mereka dengan tegas supaya mereka menjadi sehat dalam iman,... - Titus 1:13

Teguran yang tegas harus didasarkan pada kebenaran dan kasih Kristus. Kata “tegas” juga berarti jelas, terang benar, dan nyata. Kita diminta untuk menegur secara transparan apa saja yang salah dan mesti diperbaiki. Gunakanlah kata-kata yang positif dan membangun supaya kita semakin bertumbuh, menyerupai Kristus dan buah Roh-Nya semakin nyata dalam kehidupan kita.

3. Bertumbuh dengan sehat dan kuat dalam Tuhan.

sehingga kita bukan lagi anak-anak, yang diombang-ambingkan oleh rupa-rupa angin pengajaran, oleh permainan palsu manusia dalam kelicikan mereka yang menyesatkan, tetapi dengan teguh berpegang kepada kebenaran di dalam kasih kita bertumbuh di dalam segala hal ke arah Dia, Kristus, yang adalah Kepala. - Efesus 4:14-15

Pertumbuhan yang sehat ditandai dengan dua hal utama, yaitu dalam segala hal dan ke arah Kristus. Tuhan ingin semua hal yang telah diberikan dalam diri kita (talenta, potensi, karunia, sifat, karakter, kasih) bisa bertumbuh dengan baik. Pertumbuhan yang sehat tidak akan menjadikan diri sendiri sebagai pusat atau tujuan, tetapi semuanya diarahkan kepada Kristus sebagai Kepala.

Akhir kata, Tuhan mengajak kita untuk mengembangkan talenta dan potensi yang Tuhan telah tanamkan di dalam pribadi kita, supaya kita menjadi tangguh, kuat, mencintai Tuhan, tidak mudah goyah oleh berbagai badai kehidupan, dan juga dapat menikmati segalanya yang kita butuhkan dari persediaan-Nya yang melimpah supaya pertumbuhan dalam segala hal tersebut membuat hidup kita semakin terarah kepada pribadi Kristus. Amin.



Maturity Matters

BY PS FERDINAND HARATUA

There's a popular saying that says: *maturity does not come with age, but experience*. Maturity is much more than just getting old, those wanting to grow into maturity must be intentional about their growth. There is some truth in it, you will not automatically become a mature Christian just because you have been a Christian for many years.

When the apostle Paul writes to the church in Colossae, he tells them that his goal is to *"present everyone mature in Christ."* Paul wasn't just interested in converting people into Christianity, he wanted them to grow into spiritual maturity. A commitment to Christian faith is a commitment to growing into maturity, that is, into Christlikeness.

Am I spiritually mature? How do we know if we are spiritually mature? There are three things we may use as a litmus test: *suffering, selflessness, and security*.

ON SUFFERING,

Paul writes to the church, *"I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake."* (Col 1:24) Spiritually mature Christians, though they do not seek suffering, they don't run away from it. How is it even possible for Paul to rejoice in suffering? It is possible because Paul's suffering is for the sake of others, not for himself. We can rejoice in our suffering when we have a purpose for our suffering, especially when we suffer for the sake of others. Litmus test #1: *Do you have a tendency to run away from suffering? When was the last time you suffered for the sake of others, for their spiritual growth?*

ON SELFLESSNESS,

Paul encourages Christians to, *"do nothing from selfish ambition, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."* (Phil 2:3-4) Selflessness is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. We are often told to set goals, while setting goals is not bad in itself, these goals often are about our pursuit of personal success, it's never about the success of others. Litmus test #2: *What is your goal that is about the success of others who are not your family?*

FINALLY, ON SECURITY,

Paul testifies, *"I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose."* (Gal 2:21)

Paul can be successful in the matters of suffering and selflessness because he finds his security in Christ's death and resurrection. There is no amount of suffering and selflessness that could have saved Paul. He understands that his salvation is eternally secured because of what Jesus' has done, not because of his obedience. This truth frees Paul to rejoice in his suffering and in living selflessly.

Spiritually mature Christians understand while they are **saved by grace through faith alone**, it doesn't mean they would just sit back and relax. Paul works hard in helping others grow into spiritual maturity. He writes, *"For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."* (Col 1:29)

Sometimes, it is easy to be selfless in helping others when it is quick and convenient. But the word "toil" means working hard on a hard task that requires a lot of patience, a task that could take years, even a lifetime. What was Paul's secret? He told us his secret; Go back and read the last verse again. Paul says, *"with all his (Jesus) energy, that he (Jesus) powerfully works within me."*

Litmus test #3: *Are you 100% certain of your salvation? What is your fuel and motivation to be selfless, to be generous, to do anything that Jesus commands?*

TEACHING KIDS

BY JEFFRY OSCAR

As parents, we often like to keep things under control in our house. This is including how we raise up our kids. However, there is a fine line between controlling and teaching our children. The notable difference is controlling is mostly for the parent's benefit and teaching is mostly for children's benefit.

Consider this scenario: You decide to take the kids on a summer day to a new playground. Apparently the playground has a great water feature which excite the kids. This is a great media for kids to explore and have fun with the water feature. The problem is, you were planning to head to nearby shopping centre, after the playground trip, for a weekly groceries run. Letting kids play with water means you will need to drive 20 minutes back home to change their wet outfits and then drive out again for the groceries. Apart from slightly wet car and hassle in travelling back and forth, the family have the time to do this. Would you let the kids play or just ask them to stick with the dry play area?

Another different scenario is when we have a teenager who ask us if they can go for a date with their high school friend. What are the limitation that we are trying to impose to them? Are they unconsciously for our own benefit (e.g. prestige of our family, etc.) more than it meant to protect them? (I think this is something that we can answer more honestly in our heart than out loud from our lips).

There might be no right or wrong on the response to above scenarios as there are too many variables at play which become the main reason, as a family, we choose to do what we do.

Maybe a good check between controlling and teaching is, for every single 'No' to our kids, we will need to be able to explain to them clearly the reason behind the 'No'. The essence of teaching is more for them to understand the reasons of each action than asking them to blindly follow a rule. If they are reasons, behind our 'No', where we are too ashamed/proud to explain to them, it is a good time to take a step back and see if we are trying to control them more for our own benefit than it is to teach them for their own benefit.

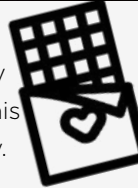
Having said that, a lot of time parents have invested their life and energy so that children are ready to face the world when they grow up. There can be so much distraction in doing this that we forgot the most important thing on whether we have taught them to face God one day. When comparing temporary life and eternal life, the latter should take a priority, do you agree?



MY FIRST FOREVER VALENTINE

BY JOSHUA TIE

Ah, the month of February. The month that you have either been looking forward to or have been dreading. The month where Cadbury and roses (perhaps Cadbury Roses?) sales go through the roof! All this is thanks to our culture's association of February with Valentines' Day. February is deemed, the month of love.



Whether you hate or love Valentines' Day, I'm pretty sure most of you SEED readers today would have either received or given something in the month of February that is related to Valentines' Day. You may have gifted something to your high school crush, may have received something from your university sweetheart or spent that little bit of your energy and hard earned money with someone you fancied. In fact, you don't even need Valentines' Day to do all this.

I guess Valentines' Day was a good excuse or reason to collectively 'act' on the feelings that we have about the person that we have in mind. But outside of Valentines' Day, if we truly are interested in someone we can't help but to think about that person all day and night. So much so that our behaviours also change (whether we're aware of it or not), in that we're willing to change what we do, how we dress, how we present ourselves, what we say and even think about their interests before we take any action.

As Christians, our behaviours ought to also change upon knowing and being reminded of the Good News, that is the Gospel. For we were given the greatest gift throughout all history, in that God gave his one and only Son, Jesus - so that we who believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. By this act, we are given his Spirit that enables us to love others just as God loves us. Valentines' Day is one day in the year, our earthly love is limited to our lifespan, but God's love is eternal. When we know how much we are loved and what has been done for us at Calvary, we can't help but to want seek Christ even more and have him as the centre of our joy. When we study and work we can't help but do so in a way that pleases Christ.

When we talk and hang out with our friends and colleagues we can't help to do so in a way that honours Christ. As we live our lives with Christ as the centre of our hearts, our character, attributes, actions and behaviours are transformed to be more like him. We see the world in a different light and no matter what circumstances we are going through in our schools, workplaces or homes our responses will be that reflects Christ. We can have the confidence that Christ is with us and will never leave us. Our forever Valentine.



Hidup ini adalah kesempatan

BY WEN PO FOE

Bicara tentang hidup, kita seringkali berpikir tentang siapa kita, apa yang kita miliki, apa tujuan kita untuk dimasa depan dan masih banyak lagi. Semua itu bagus, namun hanya berfokus pada diri sendiri. Sejalan dengan perkembangan jaman dimana semua serba teknologi, maka kita mudah sekali masuk kedalam jebakan kesibukan dan persaingan.

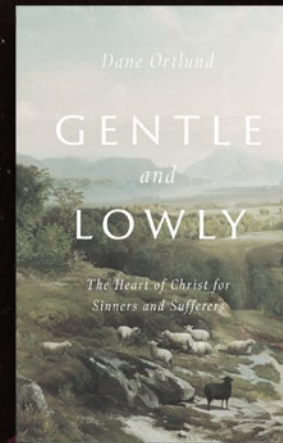
Cukup lama kami menunda untuk memiliki keturunan dan tidak sedikit yang beranggapan negatif tentang hidup kami mulai dari tidak bisa punya keturunan, ada masalah kandungan, dan yang aneh-aneh sekalipun, tetapi kami diam saja seolah-olah kami tidak mendengarnya.

Mengapa kami tidak segera merencanakan untuk mempunyai anak setelah menikah? Jawabannya adalah karena kami ingin fokus dahulu untuk keadaan finansial kami sehingga pada saat kami memiliki keturunan, kami bisa lebih banyak bersama si kecil, mengajarkan Firman Tuhan, bermain, jalan-jalan dan yang pasti kami bisa memberikan pendidikan sekolah yang baik walaupun mahal yang tentunya sesuai dengan dasar Firman Tuhan sebagai landasannya.

Dengan ada banyak waktu bersama si kecil, maka kami bisa memberikan yang terbaik yang dibutuhkan baik dari segi rohani, mental maupun jasmani. Yang paling utama adalah Firman Tuhan dan berdoa lalu tata krama dan mendorong talenta yang si kecil miliki.

Dengan kita menyesuaikan arah kehidupan si kecil juga pada saat yang bersamaan kami adalah pahlawan yang sedang mengarahkan anak panah tepat pada sasarannya. Kami ingin agar rencana yang Tuhan sudah tetapkan bisa terjadi dalam kehidupan si kecil sampai dia dewasa dan benar-benar bisa menjadi berkat.

Bukan hanya bicara soal uang, pasangan hidup dan masa depannya saja akan tetapi biarlah si kecil mengenal Tuhan nya secara pribadi dan bisa menjadi alat yang berguna bagi kerajaan Sorga selagi hidup di dunia. Dan itulah tugas kami sebagai orang tua, mentor, sahabat, edukator dan tempat perlindungan.



Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortlund

REVIEW BY PS YOSIA YUSUF

I was tired. I was weary. I was exhausted at everything that happened throughout the year. I opened this book. And I cannot stop reading. It was as if I was walking in the middle of the desert, with only the strength to take a few more steps before collapsing. When a stranger found me, took me to a resort, and nourished me back to life. Ortlund was that stranger and the book was the resort.

Equipped with the wisdom of Puritans, Ortlund explores the heart of Jesus. We are very familiar with the works of Jesus at the cross. We know what Jesus has done for us. We know that we are righteous not because of our own performance but Jesus' performance for us. But Ortlund wants us to go take a step forward from the works of Jesus to the heart of Jesus. What drives Jesus to die for our sins? What is his posture toward us? Is it one of mandatory acceptance or delight acceptance?

We are quick to say that Jesus loves us and forgives us of our sins. But deep inside our heart, we wonder if he is actually weary of us. Surely we have sin one too many for him to delight in us? Surely he cannot believe that we did it again? Surely he forgives us simply because he has too? Surely... And on and on our heart argues with us. And yet that is not the heart of Jesus. "For those united to him, the heart of Jesus is not a rental; it is your new permanent residence. You are not a tenant; you are a child."

As I read the book, I wanted to highlight every paragraph. But this particular quote captured my heart. "As truly God, Christ cannot become any more full; he shares in his Father's immortal, eternal, unchangeable fullness. Yet as truly man, Christ's heart is not drained by our coming to him; his heart is filled up all the more by our coming to him." Jesus is not tired of us coming to him with our mess. He is delighted when we come to him with our mess.

The biggest compliment I can give this book is that I intend to read it again this year. But slowly this time. And I have a feeling that I will continue to read this book again and again for many years to come. Every time I think I have gone one step too far, I need to be reminded of Jesus' heart for me.

Source:

https://www.koorong.com/product/gentle-and-lowly-the-heart-of-christ-for_9781433566134

- FEBRUARY -

5TH FEBRUARY 2021

**AMBASSADOR CELEBRATION:
7PM**

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19TH FEBRUARY 2021

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