



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b>	Shine Like Stars	<b>SPEAKER</b>	Ps Nicky Raiborde
<b>THEME</b>	Critical Concerns Beyond the Souls of Man	<b>DATE</b>	28 & 29 September 2024

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Ps Nicky began by telling us that as we walk with God, each of us must have three types of encounters with God: (i) Truth Encounter – the word of God has to come alive in our lives i.e. letting the Word of God transform our thinking in all areas so that we are aligned with God; (ii) Power Encounter: We need to experience the power of God working on our behalf through the Holy Spirit. Whenever we face difficulties, we can walk in the power of God, as we are anointed by the Holy Spirit just as Jesus was anointed in Acts 10:38; Letting the Holy Spirit dwell in us will result in an outflow (iii) Personal Encounter: This is not a one-time event, it is a constant encounter in our lives. It is a personal encounter of your identity of who we are with God and more importantly, who God is to us. He reminded us that as parents, we need to build this foundation in the lives of our children.

Jesus said in Matt 5:14-16 that “You are the Light of the World”. Thus, God has anointed us to be the Light of the World, for us to “Shine like Stars” amid chaos and darkness Phil 2:14-15 (HCSB).

## HOW GOD DOES THINGS (HCSB)

To “Shine Like Stars”, we need to first look at how God does everything.

### 1. Potential and Promise

God does everything according to your God-given **Potential** and based on a **Promise**. This could include resources, gifts and/or talents that are already inside of us which He can use based on a Promise. Every time God comes to us for something, it is because there is a potential that He would like to use. We may not see or recognize it in us, but He will bring it out of our lives.

### 2. Plan and Purpose

God does everything according to a **Plan** based on a **Purpose**. In Jeremiah 29:11 we were reminded that God has a plan for us. God does everything according to His plan according to His Purpose. Thus, while we may not make sense of a God-given assignment or opportunity, we must believe in God’s Plan for us and that His Plan always has a Purpose. As such, it is important for us to remain faithful to God’s purposeful plan.

### 3. Pattern and Principle

God does everything according to a **Pattern** based on a **Principle**. This means that God has a way of doing things. We were reminded that it is not important for us to just do the right thing, but for us to do it according to God's way. His pattern is based on a principle of Truth. To help us appreciate what this means, Ps Nicky gave the example of the children of Israel and Moses. The children of Israel learnt about the **acts of God** whereas Moses learnt the **ways of God**. Therefore, to learn the pattern, we need to learn the ways of God through the scriptures.

### 4. Process and Placement

God does everything according to a **Process** based on **Placement**. In addition to the potential, plan, and pattern, there is also a process where He puts you at a place right where you need to be in your life. In this process, God is shaping and preparing us for something that was about to happen. Ps Nicky shared the example of Esther who was placed at the right time, at the right place where she was being shaped and prepared for the opportunity where she could "shine like a star" (Esther 4:13-14). Esther was able to step out and obey because she learnt:

- Through the mentorship of Mordecai (Esther 2:7) who took her in as his daughter. God uses different people to help us grow and mature. Similarly in the church and cell groups, it is not about attendance but more about mentoring and helping each other grow in the Lord just as Paul was a mentor to Timothy. In this regard, Ps Nicky shared a framework for growing through Mentorship - TRAC.
  - **Target:** Do we have growth goals for various areas in our lives: spiritual, mental, relational and physical?
  - **Roadmap:** What is our roadmap to achieve those goals?
  - **Accountability:** Who will hold us accountable for those goals?
  - **Check-Up:** When and how to evaluate progress
- She listened to the Holy Spirit who guided her to follow Hegai's advice during her stay at the palace when she was going into the presence of the King in Esther 2:15. We were reminded that that we all have the Holy Spirit in us; just like Paul who was directed by the Holy Spirit to go to Macedonia in Acts 16:6-10. Listening to the Holy Spirit means being opened to the fact that God may sometimes close doors in our lives; it is also about adopting a posture of obedience to what God wants.
- She led with favour – She obtained grace and favour from the King who loved her and made her Queen (Esther 2:17). Favour is when God chooses to bless us based on grace. It positions us for increased influence, supernatural turnarounds, limitations broken, spacious space, dreams awakened, missed opportunities and new divine possibilities.

## CONCLUSION

Like Esther, we should learn to step out and obey knowing with faith, that whatever God has prepared us for, He has already given us the potential to face them. Failing to do so means we would have missed out on God's purpose for our lives. Let us remember that if there is no focus on what God has called us to do, we are merely doing the "right thing" and not what God has called us to do.

# QUESTIONS

1. In your walk, share about how you have had a Power Encounter, Truth Encounter and/or Personal encounter with God and what that has done for you.

2. Ps Nicky gave us some interesting ideas on how we can help believers to grow in our church He talked about mentoring, leveraging our gifts and talents and multiplying those to build God's kingdom etc., What are some factors holding you back from contributing to those areas?

3. To step out and obey God takes courage. What is a situation in your life right now where God is calling you to step out and shine for Him? How will you begin to do so?