

4Ws for Week 43, 22 – 28 Oct 2018

WELCOME (15minutes)

Choose one of the following icebreakers:

(If you have first-time guests, begin with a round of introduction and warmly welcome the new visitors.)

1. **Balloon Finger Balancing**

Try balancing a balloon at the tip of your finger. Have a competition to see who can do it for the longest duration. The balloon must not be held, only balanced, and it must not be tapped. The finger must be in direct contact with the balloon at all times. Good for focus, concentration and physical movement.

2. **Disappointment**

Everyone sits in a circle. Everyone, including the cell leader, is to complete this sentence on a piece of paper (anonymously) **"I am [most] disappointed with... The reason is..."**

Collect the pieces of paper, mix them around in a box, then invite each person to take a piece of paper. One by one, each member reads out the disappointment stated on the piece of paper he/she has picked and the corresponding reason. No one is to comment on what the person says, just listen and move on to the next person until all the disappointments have been read out. At the end, the cell can guess who is associated with each disappointment. *(CL, can consider praying and ministering to those whose disappointment are still unresolved.)*

Transition to Worship:

Our Lord and our God, as we enter this time of worship, help us to cast all our cares and troubles on You. Let us focus on You and not on the circumstances around us. May you reign in our lives and in our hearts!

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Forever Reign (E)
- 2) Blessed Be Your Name (G)
- 3) What A Beautiful Name (D)
- 4) Build My Life (D)

Do give some time to wait upon the Lord for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Encourage the release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit - words, visions, tongues and interpretation of tongues - to minister to the people who are present.

Transition to Word:

Lord, we thank You for the privilege to come into Your presence to praise and bless Your name. As we meditate on Your Word, help us to obey and apply Your truths in our daily living so that we can grow to be more like You. In Jesus name, Amen!

WORD (45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Ps 106:3 (NIVUK)

³ Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.

Sermon Title: The Greatest Show on Earth

By Apostle Lawrence Khong

on 20 & 21 Oct 2018

Introduction

God has called SP Lawrence and FCBC to enter the realm of the Arts and Entertainment to redeem it for the glory of God. It is to be one of our key callings in our lives, both as a church and as individuals. All of us in FCBC should consider it an honor that God has entrusted us with this responsibility of redeeming the Arts and Entertainment for the Lord. Thus, this message is about understanding the two reasons why it is such a great honor and privilege for FCBC to enter the realm of the Arts and Entertainment. The two reasons are:

- 1) God has the greatest show on earth
- 2) God has made us stars in the greatest show on earth

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. God has the greatest show on earth. It commenced during creation. Let's read Genesis 1:1-3. What do you think it says about God and His creative work in creation?

Genesis 1:1-2 (NIVUK)

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light.

A1. The heavens and the earth was birthed in the creative mind of God while the earth was still without form. Just like in the production of a theatre show or drama, the creative team of God, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit developed the plot, the sets, the music and the lighting plan. God said, *"let the show begin, turn on the lights"* and indeed there was light (v3) - the light that shone over the whole universe was then turned on!

After that, God brought in the sets – the sun, the moon, stars, the land, the sea, the plants and the animals. And then God presents man and woman created in His own image.

Read Job 38:7 on how the heavenly hosts responded at the creation of the world, *"⁷When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy."*

Down the centuries, God's show has always been spectacular. This is what Psalm 19 declares:

¹The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

²Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

³They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.

⁴Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world...

God is a drama King not because He is egomaniac but that He wants to share His glory with all His creation. He spared no expense in displaying His greatness and beauty; and to share His riches and grace towards His creation and to man. And God's creation is indeed a display of His beauty, His perfection and His taste. Thus, in this greatest show on earth, God is the protagonist i.e. the leading character!

Q2. But we knew that the Antagonist came. He is the devil, Lucifer who became Satan because he subverted God's glory. What did he do? And what did God do to subvert the devil's plan?

A2. Satan oversaw worship in heaven – the creativity, music, sight and sound. He upstaged God as the center of attention and worship. The first man and woman fell by choosing his evil way. Thus, Adam and Eve had to be cast out of the presence of God not because God stopped loving mankind but because God is holy, and He cannot allow evil to be in His presence.

The plot now changed in this greatest show on earth. From that point onward (when Adam and Eve fell), the greatest show on earth becomes the great rescue plan to bring salvation to mankind. It is a plan to subvert the devil so that men and women will return to God. God's great show now involves showing man how gracious and how good a God He is.

God loves visually dramatic stories and He uses these visually dramatic events to subvert the evil deception of the devil in destroying our lives by rebelling against God. The whole Old Testament (OT) sets the climax of the dramatic unfolding of the greatest show on earth. God has subverted the devil on the cross. But God did not do it privately or quietly. Jesus died publicly and in a most graphic manner through crucifixion – one of the cruelest forms of execution the world has ever seen. The cross was designed for someone to die in the most painful and slowest way possible. Why? **So that man can see the horror of God's judgment against sin. And so that man can understand the wrath of God and the finality and terror of hell.** Indeed, God who knew no sin became sin on our behalf and God had to release on Jesus, the horror of hell so that we may obtain grace, mercy and redemption for our sins.

Application Questions:

From the discussion so far, we see that the first reason is that God has the greatest show on earth.

- This show is a show about His greatness and majesty in creation.
- It is also a show that demonstrates God's forgiveness and redemption of man from his sin.

The second reason is that **God has made us stars in this greatest show on earth.**

Q3. Consider 1 Corinthians 4:9 and Philippians 2:15-16. How do you understand your role and responsibility in this?

1 Corinthians 4:9 (NIVUK)

⁹For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings.

Philippians 2:15-16 (NIVUK)

¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

A3. All of us have a role to play in this divine theatre to be the stars that shine for the Lord. But in this message and specifically for FCBC, God wants us to understand that He has given FCBC the role of turning on the lights on the stage to share about His love and to subvert the devil's plot of deceiving the world. Satan is the king of the creative arts. He himself is the most beautiful creature that God has created. However, his pride to want to be God brought his downfall. Now, he is using his creative arts to deceive the world. It is for this reason that God has given a

special mandate to SP Lawrence and FCBC to enter the arena of the Arts and Entertainment to subvert the evil scheme of the devil.

All of us are actors in God's greatest show on earth to subvert a culture that is filled with the deception of the devil. We go in as sheep among wolves but although we act as sheep, we are lions in sheep clothing. We can live out the presence and power of God and we can change our culture around us as we win people to the Lord. This is true in the Business Gate, Education Gate, Family Gate, Government Gate, Media Gate, Religion Gate and **the Arts and Entertainment Gate** also. This is what God is teaching the team in Gateway Entertainment (GE) to do. The devil has subverted the creative arts. GE is going in to subvert the subversion. This may not be done by preaching the gospel explicitly, nevertheless it is still seeking to redeem the Arts and Entertainment for the Lord. The apostle Paul when he was preaching to the Jews he kept quoting from the OT. But when he was sharing Christ with the Greeks in Athens, he never used one verse of the Bible. He only quoted from the Greek philosophers e.g. Acts 17:28. The apostle was coming from a position of being relevant to the Greeks in Athens by communicating with them in a way that they understood.

Q4. How do you think you or the cell can be more engaged in Gateway Entertainment?

A4. Consider the following areas that you can actively participate in:

- Financial contribution.
- Going as a team to support and pray for the shows.
- Constantly keeping SPs and the team in GE in our prayers.

Family Altar Time (F.A.T.)

(Cell Leader: Encourage your members to be faithful in keeping the weekly F.A.T. and refer them to this segment of the 4Ws for suggestions for their F.A.T. A possible time for the F.A.T. is after a meal together, say during the weekend.)

Use any of the icebreakers in the WELCOME segment above and select worship songs that are meaningful to your family. If they are old enough, ask your children to select the songs and lead worship, and take this opportunity to teach them skills in waiting on God, praying, and leading with a servant's heart and as a willing vessel for God.

After worship, you may wish to:

1. Discuss last Sunday's Family Bible Study in the Living Life journal, or
2. Review your children's take-home materials from GKidz or
3. Review and discuss this week's memory verse, or
4. Familiarize yourself with the **Introduction** and the **Discovery and Understanding Questions** of the **WORD** segment above before you lead in the following discussion.

Question: What is your favourite movie, TV program, play or music video? What can you remember from it, e.g., plot, character(s), scene(s), special effects, lines, music or song(s)?
[Let your family members share freely. After they have all shared, comment on the power of media, arts and entertainment and how it shows through the impact it has made on them as evidenced by what they can remember.]

Question: Think about Scriptures, when God has a message to communicate to His people, how does He do it?

[Let your family members share freely. Share some of the salient points in A1, A2, A3 and A4 above. Highlight in particular His use of stories, visuals, dramas, dreams, signs and wonders and comment on how creative God is and how these elements are also what make arts and

entertainment programs so powerful as a way of communicating a message. Comment that the pulpit of the world is no longer in the church but the pulpit of the world is in the movies, the TV programs, the theatre shows, concerts and new media.]

This is why FCBC through GE seeks to make an impact in the Arts and Entertainment circle through the shows that our Senior Pastors produce and bring to the nations.

Question: What can we do to support FCBC's efforts in making an impact in the Arts and Entertainment world?

[Let your family members share freely. Highlight that we can contribute financially, watch these shows whenever they are shown locally and rally people to watch them, go on trips to help and pray for the shows overseas, and pray for Senior Pastors and the GE team.]

End by praying for the upcoming shows in Bangkok and Shenzhen and pray for the salvation of your pre-believing family members, relatives and friends.

Transition to Works:

Indeed, let us go beyond ourselves and ask God to help us graciously and lovingly reach out to the people around us. Ask the Lord to break away any barrier that is hindering and preventing us from doing the work of God. Continue to persevere in these good works!

WORKS (15minutes)

1. 3x3 Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the strongholds that bind the people. Ask Him to set divine appointments for us to minister His power over them (words of knowledge, healing, helps, etc.). Pray for one another for boldness, courage and obedience to follow through.

2. Inviting Friends to our Services

Continue to encourage one another to invite pre-believing friends to our weekend Services. Make time to listen to 'The Voice of God' for prophetic utterances that speak to our pre-believing friends' circumstances as a prelude to inviting them. In addition, take some time to discuss, plan an activity and pray toward achieving the goal you have set as a cell.

3. Consolidation of New Converts

Consolidate those who have accepted Christ - contact them via phone calls; meet up with them over a meal; make house visits; introduce them to members of the cell and invite them to fellowship with the faith community during cell meetings and celebration Services. Make them feel belonged.

Introduce them to **LifeClass**. **LifeClass** is an exciting package of equipping that guides new believers through the foundations of their faith and leads them into a life-transforming encounter with Jesus. It does this through nine weeks of personal study, combined with fun and interactive classroom sessions of Bible teaching and an Encounter Weekend. It replaces the former Pre-Encounter Class, Encounter Weekend and Post Encounter. Please check out the Equipping page at our website or Mobile App. Visit <https://fcbc.org.sg/equipping/event-listing> for more details.

4. Destiny Weekends

Be equipped for your destiny of making disciples for Jesus! We have scheduled two weeks of intensive Destiny Training (DT), so you can now complete DT modules at a faster pace, without compromising on its effectiveness. Four different modules will be offered, so you may choose the ones most suitable for yourselves. Participate as a whole cell and make your learning journey more fun and enjoyable!

Course Schedule:

Course	Training Days	Session 1	Session 2	Sessions 3-5
DT1	Wed, Fri & either Sat or Sun	Wed, 24 Oct (TC)	Fri, 26 Oct (TC)	Either Sat, 27 Oct (ST) or Sun, 28 Oct (ST)
Course	Training Days	Session 1	Session 2	Sessions 3-5
DT2	Wed, Fri & either Sat or Sun	Wed, 31 Oct (TC)	Fri, 2 Nov (TC)	Either Sat, 3 Nov (ST) or Sun, 4 Nov (ST)
DT3	Wed, Fri & Sun only	Wed, 24 Oct (ST)	Fri, 26 Oct (ST)	Sun, 28 Oct (ST)
DT4 (Married)	Wed, Fri & Sun only	Wed, 24 Oct (GT)	Fri, 26 Oct (GT)	Sun, 28 Oct (ST)
DT4 (Singles)	Wed, Fri & Sun only	Wed, 24 Oct (GT)	Fri, 26 Oct (GT)	Sun, 28 Oct (ST)

Timing: Wed & Fri: 7.30-10pm

Sat: **Session 3:** 9.30-11.30am; **Session 4:** 12.30-2.30pm; **Session 5:** 2.45-5pm

Sun: **Session 3:** 12-2pm; **Session 4:** 2.15-4.15pm; **Session 5:** 4.30-6.30pm

- For further course details, go to <https://www.fcbc.org.sg/equipping/destiny-training>
- To register and check eligibility, please use this link: www.fcbc.org.sg/EquippingRegistration
- To check equipping status only, please use this link: www.fcbc.org.sg/eqstatus
- For further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us at email: Equip_admin@fcbc.org.sg or call at 64249400.

Announcements:

Please visit <https://www.fcbc.org.sg/bulletin/> or our FCBC app for more details.