

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. Quick Draw

1. Everyone in the group will pair up with someone
2. Both pairs will stand facing each other and will be given 10 seconds to observe each other
3. After 10 seconds is up, the cell leader will call for everyone to face in the other direction away from their pair (such that both pairs are standing with their backs facing each other)
4. In that moment, both parties will have 5 seconds to change/shift/remove any visible feature or part of their body
5. After 5 seconds is up, both parties will be called to turn and face each other again
6. Both parties need to identify what is the part that has been changed

2. Big Fish, Small Fish

1. Everyone will sit in a circle
2. There are 2 phrases, accompanied by 2 hand actions in the game
 - a. **Phrase 1:** Big Fish
Hand Action 1: Hands in front of you with both palms facing each other, about **10cm** apart
 - b. **Phrase 2:** Small Fish
Hand Action 2: Hands in front of you with both palms facing each other, about **30cm** apart
(It is deliberate that the hand action for "Big Fish" is a small one, and the hand action for "Small Fish" is a bigger one)
3. One person will start the flow by saying either "Big Fish" or "Small Fish" (along with the correct hand actions). This has to be done in a seamless manner with minimal delay between players.
4. The next person will continue the flow by saying the opposite phrase and action.
i.e. A says "Big Fish" – The flow is passed to B
B says "Small Fish" – The flow is passed to C
C says "Big Fish" – The flow is passed to D
D says "Small Fish"
5. If someone wants to reverse the flow, they will return the same phrase and action.
i.e. A says "Big Fish" – The flow is passed to B
B says "Small Fish" – The flow is passed to C
C says "Small Fish" – the flow is returned to B
(The flow cannot be passed back more than once.)
6. The game will continue until someone makes a mistake.

Transition to Worship:

Sometimes in life, we find ourselves either just moving with the flow, or sometimes we make mistakes and we need to start all over. However, the God we serve is a good God! Regardless of the circumstances we find ourselves facing in our lives, we know that God is forever faithful and He will forever be in control of every situation in our lives!

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Forever Reign (E)
- 2) Blessed Assurance (G)
- 3) Great Are You Lord (D)
- 4) Fullness (E)

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:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the Grace and Mercy that you have shown in our lives. Thank you for teaching us through the example of your Son Jesus on how we should live. Strengthen us, help us grow and teach us to be more like you. In Jesus name! Amen.

WORD (45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: 2 Chronicles 12:6 (NIVUK)

The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is just"

Sermon Title: Naturally

By Rev Daniel Khong

on 10-11 Nov 18

Scripture Passage:

Colossians 3 (NIVUK)

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

²¹ Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favouritism.

Introduction

As believers of the Lord Jesus Christ and recipients of the Gospel, we are also ambassadors of the Gospel. If we want to fulfill the Great Commission, it is not enough that we only believe, it is essential that we live out and demonstrate the Gospel. The messenger is a crucial part of the message.

How can we naturally demonstrate the Gospel?

- 1. Be EXCELLENT in the things we do**
- 2. Be EXEMPLARY in the way we live**

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. Since we will never be perfect, it's ok if I do not try my best. True or False?

A1. Absolutely False!

Philippians 4:8 (NIVUK)

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters. Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.

We need to strive to be excellent in all that we do as it is an act of worship to the Lord and we get to demonstrate the Gospel to people with the way we live our lives – by having a spirit of excellence.

The prophet Daniel is an example of someone who had and lived out a spirit of excellence. His excellence not only raised him up to a position of importance and influence, but it also led people to worship and honour God.

Q2. I don't think I am a very talented or a very spiritual person. Asking me to be excellent in what I do seems to be a very difficult task.

A2 Excellence is sometimes misunderstood to be about talent, but it is not. All of us CAN have a spirit of excellence because we have the Holy Spirit with and in us. If we try to rely on our own strengths, then for sure, trying to possess a spirit of excellence is a difficult task.

We need to lay hold of and believe that excellence is something that accompanies us because we have the Holy Spirit in us. When we go about our daily work, we are not just working for our bosses or company, but we are representatives of God. As such, when we are faced with tasks at work, we should be praying and seeking the Lord for His divine direction on how things can be done.

Q3. No one has any right to judge, I do not live my life to please others and God looks at the heart and He knows my intentions.

A3. While it is true that God looks at the heart, but the people around us cannot see our heart. If our hearts are truly changed, and we are to reach out and share the Gospel to them, we need to “wear our transformed heart on our sleeves”.

God has set the standard for us when He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for our sins. Jesus followed through the will of the Father. While we are not better than others, God holds us to a higher standard. We need to desire to live out that standard and live out the Gospel for others.

Application Questions:

Break into smaller groups, share, pray and minister to one another.

Q1. What do the people that we encounter think of you? Do you have a positive influence over them because of how you have lived out God’s transformed power in your life? Are you a testimony with the way you live?

Q2. What does it mean to you to be a follower of Christ? Is there enough “evidence” in your life for people to “convict” you of being a Christian?

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 either of the 2 icebreakers in the WELCOME segment above or any other icebreaker as you deem to be appropriate, 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.

Ask one member to read Colossians 3:1-11, another to read vv12-17, and another, vv18-25. Here in Colossians 3, Paul reminds us that we are God’s chosen people (3:12), and hence we should not live like we used to, in worldliness, but be transformed, living holy lives, pleasing the Lord. In this way, we are truly ambassadors of Jesus who demonstrate the transforming power of the gospel message. In last week’s message from Colossians 3, DSP Daniel Khong reminded us that we can demonstrate the gospel message by being excellent in the things we do (Colossians 3:17,23) and being exemplary in the way we live (Colossians 3:12-25).

Question: How can a spirit of excellence help us witness for the Lord?

[Let your family members share freely. Then explain that a spirit of excellence would open doors for us just as it did for Prophet Daniel (Daniel 1:19-20; 2:47-48; 5:12; 6:3), causing the kings whom he served to praise the Lord (Daniel 4:37, 6:25-27). Share personal examples of this principle. Clarify too that excellence does not mean perfection, and that excellence is an attitude and a matter of habitually striving to do/give our best.]

Question: How can an exemplary lifestyle help us witness for the Lord?

[Let your family members share freely. Then explain that an exemplary lifestyle will give you credibility as you preach the gospel. Otherwise, people will find us to be inconsistent and will not believe our message. In addition, an exemplary lifestyle honours the Lord and He will in turn honour us, anoint us and use us to be effective witnesses. Again, share from your own personal experience of this principle. Clarify too that an exemplary lifestyle is not sinlessness but sincerely seeking to live a godly life and humbly acknowledging and dealing with sin and repenting when we give in to sin.]

Question: Reflect on this – When it comes to study/work matters, do people want you to be in their team? Why or why not? Also, in terms of your values and lifestyle, are you just like all your non-Christian friends/colleagues, or do you live by a higher standard? Is there anything you need to work on?

End by praying for what was raised in response to the last question. Also, plan further and pray for the Christmas party you were discussing last week. Pray for opportunities to invite the ones you have been praying for and pray for their salvation.

Transition to Works:

We have just learned through today's lesson that we need to 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 barriers that is hindering and preventing you from doing the work of God.

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. Christmas Harvest 2018

Start planning and training members for the Christmas Cell Harvest.

Train members to share short stories of God's goodness in their life as follows:

- i. Pray and identify moments where God had made a difference in their lives according to the weekly themes such as: 'Joyful', 'Wonderful', 'Grateful/Thankful', 'Fruitful', 'Purposeful', etc.
- ii. Write and share this thanksgiving during cell meetings to practice.
- iii. Find 1 person a week to share their Thanksgiving. As an option, have them share their thanksgiving at your year-end Christmas Party.

Refer to the Christmas Manual Appendix G – "Thanksgiving Sharing" for pointers on crafting out your thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving theme:

- **November, Week 2: Wonderful** – Share about something you were praying for and how God went way above your expectations?

(You can download the Christmas Harvest Manual at this link -

https://www.fcbs.org.sg/sites/default/files/christmas_party_2018_manual_english.pdf)

Collection of Collaterals

- All English collaterals (John 3:16 Presentation Cards) will be ready for collection at all worship centres on the weekend of **17/18 November (TC and Suntec)**.
- For Cell Leaders leading **Chinese-speaking cells**, we have printed the Chinese version of the Leader's Manual and all Appendices for them to be collected together with the relevant collaterals. These can **ONLY** be collected from either **TC or GT**, on **Sunday** where our Chinese Services are held. There will be **NO** distribution of the Chinese resources at Suntec.
- Please **collect your collaterals personally** from counters specially set up at the centre's foyer.

Christmas Parties (For Families with Children)

- We will need you to get back to your G12 Leader/Team Pastor if you and your cell is running Christmas Party for families with children, by **18 November (Sunday)**.
- Please respond via this link: <http://bit.ly/familychristmasparties>
- There will be a **briefing** for you and your key cell members to give your support and help in running these parties.

Briefing details are as follow:

- Date/Time: **20th November (Tuesday), 8pm**
- Venue: **TC Chapel**

3. 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.

4. 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.

Announcements:

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