

4Ws for Week 48, 26 Nov – 2 Dec 2018

WELCOME (10-15minutes)

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. Thanksgiving - USA

The annual feast is in honor of the “first” Thanksgivings in America, in 1619 in Virginia, and in 1621, when colonists in Plymouth, Massachusetts, later known as the Pilgrims, shared a meal with the Wampanoag Indians, who were native to the land and helped the Pilgrims to cultivate crops during their first winter.

We need not wait for one specific day in a year to celebrate Thanksgiving. The Bible exhorts us to give thanks in everything. Let’s give thanks to God for one of many things He has done for us in this year 2018. Happy Thanksgiving!

2. Act and React

Get every member to write down an event on a piece of paper. Some examples you might include are: Getting a promotion; Misplaced your mobile phone; Hosting a dinner at home. Have members randomly select a piece of paper and react to the experience using gestures, and facial expressions. The others try to guess what happened. Have fun acting and reacting!

Transition to Worship:

When we give thanks to God, we acknowledge that He is the One who forgives, provides, protects, heals, answers our prayers and bless our lives. So let’s worship Him!

WORSHIP (15-20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Forever Reign (E)
- 2) Friend Of God (G)
- 3) Great Are You Lord (D)
- 4) Build My Life (D)

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

Transition to Word:

In Psalm 1 it says “Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.” Let’s take delight in God’s word just as the Psalmist did.

WORD (40-45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: 2 Chronicles 20:6b (NIVUK)

“Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.”

Sermon Title: The Power of Invitation

By Rev Roland Lee

on 24-25 Nov 18

Scripture Passage: John 1:35-51 (NKJV)

³⁵ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “**What do you seek?**” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “**where are You staying?**” ³⁹ He said to them, “**Come and see.**” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone). ⁴³ The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, “**Follow Me.**” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶ And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Introduction

Jesus' message to us is often in the form of a personal invitation (Isaiah 1:18, Matthew 11:28). To His first disciples, Jesus' invitation to them started with a personal question “**What do you seek?**” (John 1:38) and invited them to “**Come and see**” (John 1:39) and then “**Follow Me**” (John 1:43).

The disciples asked Jesus “**where are You staying?**” Jesus responded by inviting them to “**Come and see**”, they followed Him and remained with Him that day.

We see that there is a multiplying effect through the power of personal invitations. Andrew invited his brother Simon to Jesus. The next day, Philip found Nathanael and invited him to Jesus.

By following Jesus' example, we can learn how to effectively invite people to follow Jesus. In order to effectively invite people to follow Jesus, we must:

- Be Personal – Everyone is Special
- Be Purposeful – Everyone is Called

Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV)

“**Come now**, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Matthew 11:28 (NIVUK)

‘**Come to me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.’

Discovery and Understanding Questions: (15 minutes)

Q1. Can a simple invitation powerfully change another person's life forever?

A1. After meeting Jesus, Andrew invited his own brother Simon to meet Jesus. Simon Peter's encounter with Jesus changed his life forever when he became one of Jesus' disciples. We are God's channel to invite people to follow Jesus. One simple invitation from us could rewrite our friend's destiny when they encounter Jesus and accept Him as their personal Savior.

Q2. How can we make people know and feel that "they are special" by our invitation?

A2. Jesus' invitation to the disciples was personal when He invited them to "come and see" where He was staying. He allowed the disciples into His personal space and they remained with Him that day. Likewise, our invitations need to be personal because everyone is special and by opening our lives to others and allowing them into our world, they will feel special and in turn will open up their world and their lives to us as well.

John 1:39 (NKJV)

³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

Q3. How can we be purposeful in our invitation?

A3. God's community that demonstrates true love authenticates the Christian message as seen in Acts 2:45-47. The function of our open cell exists to facilitate pre-believers to know and believe in Jesus and to become committed disciples. They in turn will do the same for others. Every open cell must be organized and purposeful in what they do throughout the year to bring pre-believers to know Christ and become His disciples through experiencing authentic Christian love in community.

Acts 2:45-47 (NLT)

⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity - ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Application Questions: (30 minutes)

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

Consider these statements:

Q1. Ps Yang from Taiwan quoted this during the Happiness Group (幸福小组) training "There is no price we cannot pay, no sacrifice we cannot make for the eternal value of souls and reward we do not yet see." What is your response?

Q2. Anyone can be invited and called to follow Jesus, to be His disciple, regardless of social or spiritual status. I may not be able to reach everyone, but I can reach someone for Christ. Many out there who are lost are waiting for an invitation and they may enter into eternity lost forever without Christ.

Are you willing to be the Andrew and Phillip in introducing and bringing someone to Jesus?
Every person is special and called by God to receive salvation.

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) Have one person read John 1:35-42, another read John 1:43-51, and another, Acts 2:45-47.

With reference to the **Introduction** and the **Discovery and Understanding Questions** of the **WORD** segment above, lead in the following discussion.

Question: What are some things which you like to do, which you can invite others to join you in?

[Let your family members share freely. Jesus involved people in His life, asking people to "come and see" where he was staying. He also invited people to "follow Him" as live-in disciples who could watch Him close quarters and learn from Him. When we are authentic, that is, doing what we are familiar with doing, and comfortable with being who we are in Jesus, people will in turn be comfortable with opening up and sharing their lives with us.]

Question: How can the church/cell community be one which is attractive to and comfortable for pre-believers?

[Let your family members share freely. Explain that we must be people who demonstrate true and authentic love. We must also be able to invite anyone, regardless of their social status or spiritual condition, to follow Jesus.]

Question: What are some things which we can do, to help us to be more personal and purposeful in drawing people into our community?

[Let your family members share freely. One way is to start the "Happiness group" together with the church next year.]

End by praying for each other, that we would be personal and purposeful in reaching out to our pre-believing family members, relatives and friends. Pray also for the salvation of pre-believing family members, relatives and friends.

Transition to Works:

Lord Jesus, you say that everyone who hears your words and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. Let's build the house of God, the Church on a strong and firm foundation i.e. upon His word. Our works must be the manifestation and ministry of the living and powerful word of God in our lives. Let's build His Church with godly wisdom. Amen

WORKS (15-25 minutes)

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.

Make a list of all your potential invitees and start a programme of praying for each of them.

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 4: Fruitful – Share how you have grown in Christ. Perhaps you struggled with bad temper or were just plain lazy. Share you value your gifts, talent and resources and how you see yourself contributing around you.

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

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

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:

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