

4Ws for Week 52, 24 - 30 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. It's Christmas

As we celebrate the birth and coming of Jesus into our world – the greatest gift of God to mankind, it is also a time when we show our love for each other by giving and exchanging gifts. Share the most meaningful and unforgettable gift you have ever received. Savour the moment with each other.

2. The Year 2018

As we approach the end of 2018, there are many things that we are thankful and grateful to God for. Take a moment to recollect and share one thing to give thanks to God for His blessings in your life. Enjoy your times of thanksgiving.

Transition to Worship:

Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him." This King's name is Immanuel, which translated means "God with us." God has made His dwelling among men, let's join the Magi of old to worship the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

WORSHIP (15-20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Blessed Assurance (G)
- 2) Friend Of God (G)
- 3) Great Are You Lord (D)
- 4) Forever (We Sing Hallelujah) (F)

The Bible exhorts us in 1 Corinthians 14:26, "When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up." Encourage everyone to engage with the Holy Spirit and by faith release a word of instruction or revelation, a tongue or interpretation.

Transition to Word:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. Let's open our hearts to the Word of God and partake of this solid food so that our senses can be trained to discern good and evil.

WORD (40-45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Luke 2:11

Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Scripture Text: 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NLT)

Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

Introduction

This time of the year brings a special atmosphere and Christmas is one of the seasons of the year which pulls everyone together again, especially family and friends.

“Christmas is a day of meaning and traditions, a special day spent in the warm circle of family and friends.” – Margaret Thatcher. The famous singer Andy Williams quoted this about Christmas, saying “It’s the most wonderful time of the year”.

Christmas is about the giving and receiving of gifts. But there is more to just the gifts we received from family and friends but a precious gift from God which is too wonderful for words! Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ – God’s greatest gift for each one of us.

The reason why Christmas is considered the Most Wonderful Time of the Year is because God has given two very special gifts to us and these are:

- 1. The Gift of Love** - a sign that you are **significant** to Him
- 2. The Gift of Life** - a sign that you have a **purpose** in Him

Discovery and Understanding Questions: (15 minutes)

Q1. Why is the birth of Jesus a powerful demonstration of God's love for us?

A1. Christmas is about God giving His **One and Only Son** to us. That must mean that we are very important to Him. More than that, we’re very much loved by Him. God, who is almighty and powerful, came to live among us. The Bible records for us that Jesus humbled Himself (Philippians 2:5-8) even if it’s beneath God to take the form of a man, He willingly did it for our sake. This is the evidence of God’s great love and gift to us.

Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the **humble** position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

Q2. How does God’s gift of love affect us?

A2. God’s gift of **love** – the giving of His One and Only Son, is a sign that we are **significant** to Him. You and I matter to God. We are neither too small nor sinful for Him. He loves you and me and His name is Immanuel which means “**God is with you**”. We do not need to prove our worth but to realize that we are of worth to God because of His **gift of love**.

Matthew 1:21-23 (NLT)

²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: ²³ “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘**God is with us.**’”

Q3. What is it that makes the gift of life from God so great?

A3. Firstly, the gift of life from God saves us from death and gives us eternal life (Romans 6:23, John 3:16). It is not only to have life but to have it to the full (John 10:10). Secondly, it tells us that God has plans and purposes for our lives to give us hope and a future. (Eph.2:10, Jer.29:11).

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

For the wages of sin is **death**, but the free gift of God is **eternal life** through Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16 (NIVUK)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have **eternal life**.

John 10:10 (NIVUK)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may **have life, and have it to the full**.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do **the good things he planned for us** long ago.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIVUK)

¹¹ For I know the **plans** I have for you,' declares the Lord, '**plans** to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans to give you hope and a future**.

Application Questions: (30 minutes)

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

Q1. God's gift of love tells us that we do not need to prove our worth but instead to realize our worth in Him. Take a deep look within and share one or two things that is of worth about yourself.

Q2. A gift might be for you, but it's not really yours until you have received it. These gifts of God's love and life are available to all. Share how and what can you do to help others receive these gifts from God?

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 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 WORD segment above before leading in the following discussion.

Question: What do you enjoy about Christmas?

[Let your family members respond spontaneously. Some likely answers include the holiday break, parties, feasting, time with family and receiving gifts. Explain that on the first Christmas Day, God gave us the best and greatest gift ever – His one and only Son Jesus Christ!]

Now let's all read aloud 2 Corinthians 9:15 in NLT.

Question: In what way is God's gift of Jesus a gift that is "incredible" or "too wonderful for words"?

[Let your family members answer this question freely, expressing what they personally feel about God's gift of Jesus. Then briefly share what DSP Daniel shared about Jesus being God's gift of love and His gift of life to the world – see Introduction and Discovery and Understanding Questions in the WORD segment above.]

Question: How do you personally feel about Jesus being a demonstration of God's love for you and how important you are to Him? What is an appropriate response to this demonstration of God's love?

[Get everyone to answer this question. Some appropriate responses include worship, evangelism, discipleship and service.]

Question: Who needs to know about this demonstration of God's love and what can we do to help them know?

End by praying for those people you identified in the last question.

Transition to Works:

As we remember the incarnation of God in the lowly birth of Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem, let's follow the footsteps of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ who humbled himself to die on the cross to save us. Love is demonstrated through action. So, let's translate our love for our fellow man to works!

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

This is the final week for your cell to be running the Christmas Cell Harvest. Pray for each of your potential invitees and believe that they will open their hearts to God's gift of love and life at your Party.

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.

(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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