

4Ws for Week 53, 31 Dec - 6 Jan 2019

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. Thanksgiving for 2018

- a. Everyone to sit in a circle
- b. The leader of the group will start the sharing. After he/she has finished, they will pick the next person to share.
- c. Everyone will do their sharing using the phrase "I am thankful in 2018 for <what you want to Thank God for>, because <why you thank God for this particular area of sharing>
- d. After a person has finished his/her sharing, they will appoint the next person to share

2. Thanksgiving Jar

Prepare: Slips of paper, writing tools, a jar/bowl

- a. Everyone will be given a slip of paper and a writing tool
- b. Without writing their name, everyone will write something that they want to Thank God for
- c. When they have finished, they will fold up the slip and drop it into jar/bowl
- d. When everyone is done, the leader can randomly pick a thanksgiving and read it out to the group
- e. Everyone will be encouraged to applaud and give thanks together for the thanksgiving
- f. The group might decide to keep the "thanksgiving slips" and the "thanksgiving jar" for the rest of the year and make it a habit to regularly find something to thank God for, at least once a month! (And fill it up for 2019!)

Transition to Worship:

As we move out of 2018 and into 2019, let us spend some time to reflect and remember the goodness of God. Regardless of the circumstances we find ourselves facing in 2018, let us always hold on to the truth that we can always be thankful and give thanks in all circumstances!

WORSHIP (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)

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: Mark 2:17

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Sermon Title: Cultivate – Gratitude

By Rev Roland Lee

on 29-30 Dec 18

Scripture Passage:

Luke 17:11-19 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. ¹² Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. ¹³ And they lifted up *their* voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

¹⁴ So when He saw *them*, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ and fell down on *his* face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where *are* the nine? ¹⁸ Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Introduction

As we close and cross over into a new year, God wants to set our hearts free from any burdens or disappointments that we might be carrying over into the New Year! While it is not possible for us to live a trouble free life, how we choose to respond makes a huge difference! Exercising true gratitude shows our attitude towards God and pleases Him!

How do we cultivate true gratitude that pleases God?

- 1. The Priority of Gratitude – See what the Lord has done for us**
- 2. The Purpose of Gratitude – Surrender to what the Lord wants to do through us**

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. If God wants to heal us, He will do it anyway. He doesn't need us to thank Him. What's so significant about the leper that came back to do so?

A1. It is true that God will not hesitate nor will He withhold His grace and help in our lives, despite us being unworthy and undeserving to begin with.

However when the one leper came back to thank Jesus, it revealed the attitude of his heart. He made it a priority to express his gratitude to Jesus. Oftentimes, we are so quick to cry out to God for help but we are very slow to thank Him. In fact, the leper not only made it a priority to express his gratitude, he expressed it extravagantly!

Luke 17:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, ¹⁶ and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks.

We need to learn that if we don't prioritize expressing true gratitude to God for all that He has done for us, it can lead to our hearts becoming idolatrous.

Q2. I totally agree that we need to thank God for what He has done for us, but surely it cannot be that serious to say that our hearts will become idolatrous? It seems more to me instead, that this leper is just one of those "siao on" Christians.

A2. It is noted in v15 that the leper was a Samaritan – and as far as the Jews were concerned, a Samaritan is a non-believer. Yet, this non-believer made it a point to express his gratitude to God extravagantly!

Romans 1:21 (NIVUK)

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Luke 17:19 (NKJV)

²¹ ...“Your faith has made you well.”

When this Samaritan man expressed true gratitude, it not only humbled his heart and removed all sense of pride – he received a greater blessing of “seeing”. Not only was he cleansed physically, his faith and the expression of it has brought about healing and salvation for his soul!

Gratitude glorifies the giver and true gratitude pleases the Lord!

Application Questions:

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

Q1. What is one thing you thank God for 2018 and why? As we transition into 2019, let's ask the Lord to help us put aside our disappointments and adopt an attitude of true gratitude. (Can tie-in with Icebreaker 1)

Q2. Are you extravagant in your worship and love to the Lord? *Gratitude is what we feel, Thanksgiving is what we do.* What can you do differently to show your extravagance in your thanksgiving?

Q3. Have you ever felt that God does not bless your life? Is there a reason as to why you feel that way?

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 the second icebreaker 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 to read Luke 17:11-19, another to read Romans 1:21-23, and another, 1Thessalonians 5:18.

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

Question: In what ways do you relate to being one of the ten lepers in Luke 17?

[Let your family members share freely. Lepers are social outcasts, rejected and separated from their community. Leprosy is like our sin and suffering before we experienced Jesus. We are very quick to cry out to Jesus for Him to save us.]

Question: Why is having an attitude of gratitude important?

[Let your family members share freely. Then explain that when we are not thankful to God for what He has done for us, we can become foolish and idolatrous (c.f., Romans 1:21-23). We can also become bogged down with anxiety and disappointment about our problems in schoolwork, relationships, health...etc as we lose sight of the things which God has done for us and instead focus on our problems. When we show extravagant worship the way the 10th leper did, we will receive total salvation, including that of spiritual disease and death.]

Question: What are things which you are enjoying in your life?

[As a family, go through an exercise of listing down things which you have, from the small things to the big things, e.g., clean air to breathe in, a bed to sleep on, food to eat, health, family members, safety, holidays, friends, education, jobs, presents... Even if we think that many things are not going our way, we can give thanks for what have been listed, and for our salvation. God expects us to be thankful in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18).]

End by praying for each other, that we would be full of thanksgiving for our salvation, recognize all the good things God has done for us, and bring glory to God through our thanksgiving. Pray also for the salvation of pre-believing family members, relatives and friends.

Transition to Works:

We have just learned through today's lesson that while troubles will not disappear from our lives, we can still choose to exercise true gratitude and be thankful for all that God has done for us. When we do so, we can make sense of all that we have gone through, gain peace for today and have a vision for the future!

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, especially those who attended our recent Cell Christmas Party. 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.

Announcements:

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