

4Ws for Week 14, 1 - 7 Apr 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. Eat with your Family Day (EWYFD)

EWYFD has increased its frequency to four times since Friday August 31, 2017. Launched in 2003 by the Centre for Fathering (CFF) and held on the last Friday of each school term, EWYFD seeks to encourage organizations to allow employees to leave work early at 5pm to enjoy a meal with their children and families. Share your thoughts when your family last gathered to eat a meal together. Happy bonding!

2. Be Fruitful and Multiply

God blessed the first couple He created with these words “Be fruitful and multiply...” recorded in Gen.1:28. Is this blessing still applicable to believers in our time and age? In Singapore, the statistics show that our birth rate is way below the replacement level. Share your thoughts and conviction on this matter. Pleasant interacting!

Transition to Worship:

The Psalmist says in Psalm 100, “Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, and His faithfulness to all generations.” Let’s enter in to worship and to praise our Lord and God!

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Glorious Day (G)
- 2) Forever (D)
- 3) Shout To The Lord (G)
- 4) There Is None Like You – Lenny Leblanc (E)

Wait upon the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to everyone who hungers for His presence. Encourage the release of words, visions, tongues and interpretation of tongues - to minister to the people who are present.

Transition to Word:

In Psalm 19, the psalmist says that the law, the precepts and the commandments of God are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than the honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Let the Holy Spirit of God give us a hunger to partake of the Word of God.

WORD (45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Galatians 3:13

Christ redeem us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

Scripture: Genesis 9:18-27 (NLT)

¹⁸ The sons of Noah who came out of the boat with their father were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham is the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹ From these three sons of Noah came all the people who now populate the earth. ²⁰ After the flood, Noah began to cultivate the ground, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ One day he drank some wine he had made, and he became drunk and lay naked inside his tent. ²² Ham, the father of Canaan, saw that his father was naked and went outside and told his brothers. ²³ Then Shem and Japheth took a robe, held it over their shoulders, and backed into the tent to cover their father. As they did this, they looked the other way so they would not see him naked. ²⁴ When Noah woke up from his stupor, he learned what Ham, his youngest son, had done. ²⁵ Then he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham: "May Canaan be cursed! May he be the lowest of servants to his relatives" ²⁶ Then Noah said, "May the Lord, the God of Shem, be blessed, and may Canaan be his servant! ²⁷ May God expand the territory of Japheth! May Japheth share the prosperity of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant."

Introduction

Every family member is different from each other because of how God has uniquely created us, in our likes and dislikes, also our character and personality. Often, these differences cause conflicts among family members. We all want to have a perfect family. We want to have perfect parents, grandparents, siblings, children and so forth. The same goes for us as a church too. We want a perfect church. We want to have perfect pastors, cell leaders, cell members and brothers and sisters in Christ.

Yet, more often than not, our families seem not quite all that it should be. The Bible records in Genesis 9 an example of an imperfect family, Noah and his 3 sons. This story illustrates for us the need to have the right understanding of what a perfect family is, including all its dysfunctionalities. What then makes a perfect family?

With the right understanding, "The Perfect Family" is one that:

- Understands its Imperfection, and
- Embraces its Imperfection

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. How does the Bible define perfect?

A1. The Greek word for perfect Τελειόω (Teleioó) means to be complete; to accomplish; to bring to an end. Paul writes that he is not already perfected (Philippians 3:12). He is saying that he is being completed, a work in progress. Perfection is when we are restored to our original state of being created in the image of God (Matthew 5:48). Being perfect is not about being without any fault or mistake, because that will never be possible (Romans 3:28).

Philippians 3:12 (NKJV)

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Matthew 5:48 (NIVUK)

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Q2. How should we view our own family and its members?

A2. Noah was called a righteous man (Genesis 6:9). He wasn't referred to as a "perfect" man. God understands his imperfections and he was used mightily by God, and is listed in the Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11:7). A perfect family is one that understands its imperfection. If we have these unrealistic expectations, then we don't give one another the space to grow. It doesn't matter who they are: your parents, your teachers, your pastors or your leaders. They are all still growing and are on their own journey. So, don't hold them to a yardstick of perfection. God certainly does not and knows that we are all works in progress.

Genesis 6:9 (NIVUK)

This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

Hebrews 11:7 (NIVUK)

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

Q3. How do we respond when faced with our family's imperfections?

A3. Rather than complain, we should pray and intercede for our family (Proverbs 17:9). We should bear with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2) just as Christ bears with the saints' imperfections as quoted by William Gurnall.

Proverbs 17:9 (NIVUK)

Whoever would foster love covers over an offence, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Ephesians 4:2 (NIVUK)

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

"We have unrealistic expectations of the people around us, knowing that they are imperfect yet holding them to a bar of perfection." - Serene Tang

"Christ bears with the saints' imperfections; well may the saints one with another." - William Gurnall

Q4. Why serving and helping our family is important?

A4. Because in a family:

1. No one loves your family more than you do.
2. No one knows the needs in your family more than you do.
3. You would have the greatest interest in seeing your family transformed.
4. God has entrusted the welfare of your family to you.

1 Timothy 5:8 (NIVUK)

Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

"If this is my family, then I won't forget nor leave this family behind." - Daniel Khong

Application Questions:

Break into smaller groups, share, pray and minister to one another on what have been discussed.

1. When faced with disagreements and conflicts in the family, what should my response be?
2. What is God's purpose for me in my biological and spiritual family?

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.)

Using the letters of the words "PERFECT FAMILY" form as many 3 or more letter words. Do this together as a family. Use this or any other icebreaker you deem as suitable, and select worship songs that are meaningful to your family. If they're 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 aloud Genesis 9:18-23 and another person, Genesis 9:24-27.

In this passage, we see an incident in Noah's life and the responses of Noah's 3 sons.

Question: From the Genesis record of this incident in Noah's life, what are some bad examples in Noah's family that we should not follow?

[Noah getting drunk and consequently passing out naked in his tent; Ham seeing his father naked but making no attempt to cover his nakedness, but instead telling his brothers about it, making their father look bad in front of them. In contrast, Shem and Japheth responded in a totally different manner, refusing to look at their father's nakedness and covering it. Some may question if it was right for Ham to enter his father's tent uninvited. Others may question if it was right for Noah to pronounce a curse on Ham's son. You may acknowledge these points but explain that the main problem that Scripture focuses on here is that Ham saw his father naked but did not cover him but instead told his brothers about it.]

Question: Are there good examples in Noah's family here that we should follow?

[Shem and Japheth not only covered their father but took special care not to see him naked, i.e., they continued to hold their father in honor and high regard even when their father had dishonored himself.]

Question: What can we learn about family relationships from this record of Noah's life?

[Let your family members share their thoughts spontaneously. Then highlight that even in the best of families, everyone has weaknesses and imperfections, and we will face tension and conflicts because of these. The way to deal with weaknesses and imperfections in our

[family members is not to laugh at them, despise them, criticize them or write them off, but to accept them, see them through eyes of faith, love them and serve them.]

Question: Are you more like Ham or more like Shem and Japheth in your response to each other's weaknesses and imperfections?

[Arbitrate and facilitate reconciliation if the situation warrants it. After everyone has had a chance to respond, highlight that one of the best things we can do is to pray for each other. Prayer will bring into being the faith declarations we make about each other. Suggest that you set aside a time each day to pray for each other.]

Hold hands as a family and pray for each other. End by praying for your pre-believing family members, relatives and friends.

Transition to Works:

In Matthew 5:16, the verse says that our good works are like light that shines before men, so that our Father who is in heaven can be glorified. We are also reminded in Titus 3:1 that we are to be subject to rulers and to authorities and be obedient to them and be ready for every good deed. Let's put our hands to the plow and not just be hearers only but be doers of the Word. Amen!

WORKS (15minutes)

1. 幸福小组 (XFXZ) – Week 6/Topic 6: The Victory of the Cross (1-7 Apr)

- Review last weekend's training and improve on this week's XFXZ session.
- Continue praying in unity for your 'Best' to experience the power of the gospel and to know God.
- Re-confirm attendance of your 'Best' as early as possible.
- Pre-meeting: arrive earlier to prepare for the meeting. Pray half an hour before 'Best' arrive.
- Post-meeting: debrief with the XFXZ members on this week's meeting.
- Continue to build relationship with your 'Best' and follow up after the session. Look for practical ways and find an opportunity to express care and encourage them to come for next week's XFXZ.

2. 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.

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. Connecting with your pre-believer friends

Create opportunities to do so - invite them for lunch/dinner/to go for a show; offer to babysit; buy groceries for them; buy them birthday gifts; do special things to make them feel loved and honored.

5. 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.