

4Ws for Week 15, 8 Apr - 14 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. My cup overflows

Prepare: Bottle of tap water, 2 plastic/paper cups, plate, rags to clean up any spill

1. Place one of the cups on a plate and fill it with water until it almost reaches the brim.
2. Place this in the center of the group and every member of the group will take turns to pour some water into the cup without it spilling.
3. If some water overflows and spills out (and onto the plate), that person who was pouring the water gets to share one thanksgiving with the group.

2. Love your neighbour

Prepare: Post-it pads, writing materials

1. Get each member of the group to think and write the answer to this question, "I enjoy and appreciate it the most when someone does _____ for me".
2. Every member will share with the group the context and background to the answer of that question.
3. After everyone has shared, the leader will tell the group that it is important that we learn to love and give to one another.
4. Everyone in the group will find someone to perform what they have written on that post-it to someone else in the group.

Transition to Worship:

Jesus wants us to flow and let His presence "overflow" in our midst. Let us rise and worship Him with all our hearts.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Glory (C)
- 2) Forever Reign (E)
- 3) Deeper In Love (A)
- 4) Great Are You Lord (D)

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 gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you for first giving so much to us, that we can trust you for the present and know that you hold the future in your hands. Strengthen us, help us grow and teach us to be more like you. In Jesus name! Amen.

WORD (45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Galatians 5:1

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery"

Sermon Title: Money Talks

By Rev Daniel Khong

on 6-7 Apr 19

Scripture Passage:

Mark 12:41-44 (NKJV)

⁴¹ Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many *who were* rich put in much. ⁴² Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. ⁴³ So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

Introduction

The things that we value and hold dear to us reveals what is in our hearts. There are many things that we value a lot in life and one of the most common thing is money. When God commands us to give to Him through our tithes and offerings, it is not really about the money but a test of our hearts and giving honour to Him.

How does tithing and giving offerings honour God?

1. A Demonstration of Faithfulness
2. An Act of Faith

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. I already serve in church and give God my time. Why is it important to still give my tithes, especially so when I am struggling to make ends meet?

A1. Firstly, it is true that we should not give out of compulsion or reluctance. But that should not stop us from wanting to faithfully fulfill our tithes.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIVUK)

⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Let's not forget the following verses in the scripture – that God is able to bless you abundantly, will give you all that you need and you will abound in every good work! When we choose to give willingly, it is a demonstration of our faithfulness and the Lord honours faithfulness.

We may already be faithfully serving in church, praying, fasting etc. That is good and we should continue to do so. However our faithfulness should be displayed in all areas and not just some places.

Malachi 3:8-10 (NIVUK)

⁸ Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. 'But you ask, "How are we robbing you?" 'In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse – your whole nation – because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in

this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

When we do not give of our tithes and offerings, we are robbing God and we place ourselves under a curse. However the word of God also says to test Him in this – that when we are faithful in giving, He will bless us back so much more in return. God will never short-change us.

Q2. If the 2 mites were all that the widow had and her whole livelihood, since she had so little to begin with, shouldn't she be trying to save the money for her family instead of giving it away? Why did that please Jesus?

A2. When Jesus said that the poor widow has put in more than everyone else who gave to the treasury because she put in all that she had, Jesus was focusing not on the amount she gave but on how her giving displayed her complete reliance on God.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIVUK)

⁷For we live by faith, not by sight

2 mites – the amount the widow gave, was worth one quadrans, which was the smallest coin in the Roman Empire. What that meant is that 1 mite in itself had no value and could not be used to tide her over any difficult family situation. The widow was thrust into a situation whereby it was all or nothing. She either give or she didn't.

It was in this situation that she had to make a choice, and she made the choice to give. The poor widow did not give to God what was left, but she gave to God what's best – all that she had left.

Hebrews 11:17-19 (NLT)

¹⁷ It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac

Giving requires sacrifices and she gave sacrificially out of faith, and that pleased the Lord.

Application Questions:

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

Q1. Have you gotten into the habit of faithfully giving your tithes and offering? If Yes, what have you been doing to ensure you do so faithfully? If No, what is hindering/preventing you from living out this life of faith?

Q2. When was the last time God has asked you to give something great and precious to you? How did you respond then? What was the outcome of this response?

Q3. Since we know that faith pleases God, is the way that we are giving an act of faith that pleases Him? How will you live out this faith in special offering this weekend?

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. Have one person read Mark 23:41-44, another read Proverbs 3:5-10, and another, Hebrews 11:17-19.

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 that money can do, and some things that only God can do?

[Let your family members share freely. While there are many things that money can do for us, God is the source of everything, including the money which we have. That is the reason why God commanded us to give a tenth of what we produce (or earn) to Him (Leviticus 27:30).]

Question: How does tithing regularly demonstrate faithfulness?

[Let your family members share freely. Discuss the story of the widow, who had to give everything she had, in order for her offering to be accepted. What made her giving so significant was that she gave out of her poverty. To be able to tithe regularly requires our faithfulness to do so through every season.]

Question: Why does giving our tithes and offerings require faith?

[Let your family members share freely. God wants us to give Him our "firstfruit" (i.e., before giving to anything or anyone else) and to give our best (Proverbs 3:9). This is often a challenge. In the story of the widow, in order for her offering to be accepted, she had to give everything she had to live on, and subsequently had to trust in God's providence. Abraham was on the verge of sacrificing his son Isaac, in part because he believed that God could raise him up (Hebrews 11:17 – 19). Share also the testimony of Pastor Rick Seaward who thought of ways of earning money (through cleaning his family's toilet and clearing his neighbour's garden) so that he could fulfil a pledge he had made to God to give beyond his means. Explain that faith sometimes means hard work as well.]

End by praying for each other, that we will be able to tithe faithfully and through giving, grow in faith. 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. 幸福小组 (XFXZ) – Week 7/Topic 7: Deliverance and Freedom (8-14 Apr)

- Review last week's session 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.