

## 4Ws for Week 16, 15 Apr - 21 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. **Blanket Game**

Divide the group into two teams and get each team to sit on the floor on opposite sides of the room. Have two members to stretch the blanket between them to form a divider. Now each team chooses one of their members to crawl up to the blanket and sit behind it quietly. He or she should face the other team. Next, the members holding the blanket drop it and the other team races to identify and shout out the name of the other team member.

**Variations:** Once everyone gets to know each other a little, the chosen member can sit cross-legged with their back facing the other team. Alternatively, he or she can sit facing them but be instructed to make a funny face to distract them!

Material needed: A large blanket, curtain or tablecloth.

#### 2. **Sunshine Card**

Ask everyone to write his or her name in the center of a piece of paper and then draw a sun around it. Have members pass their paper to the person on their right. That person is to write something positive about the person whose name appears on the paper. They do not have to sign their name; it is better if comments are anonymous. Keep passing the pieces of paper until they get back to the original owner. Give a minute for everyone to read his or her paper. You can provide colored markers if you wish.

Materials Needed:

1. A4 blank papers
2. Colour markers (optional)

#### **Transition to Worship:**

*What a joyful day! It is such a great time getting to know each other better and having fun here in this gathering of God's people. Let praise arise and worship Him with all our hearts. Let's raise a shout unto our Lord! Hallelujah!*

### WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Let The Praises Ring (E)
- 2) Blessed Be Your Name (G)
- 3) Shout To The Lord (G)
- 4) There Is None Like You – Lenny Leblanc (E)

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 so much for Your sweet presence. Indeed, there is None like You. You love us so immensely and gave us beyond what we ask or imagine. Jesus, we exalt You and we thank You for giving victory in our lives. Holy Spirit, come fill us and illuminate the Word of God so that as we read the Bible, we can lay hold of the hope You give us. Help us grow and teach us to be more like You. In Jesus name! Amen.*

### **WORD (45minutes)**

#### **Memory verse of the week: Isaiah 53:5**

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

#### **Sermon Title: An Opportune Time**

**By Rev Daniel Khong**

**on 13-14 Apr 19**

#### **Scripture Passages:**

##### **Colossians 4:2-6 (NIVUK)**

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

##### **Luke 14:16-24 (NIVUK)**

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied: 'A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup> At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, "Come, for everything is now ready." <sup>18</sup> 'But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, "I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me." <sup>19</sup> 'Another said, "I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me." <sup>20</sup> 'Still another said, "I have just got married, so I can't come." <sup>21</sup> 'The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, "Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame." <sup>22</sup> "'Sir," the servant said, "what you ordered has been done, but there is still room." <sup>23</sup> 'Then the master told his servant, "Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. <sup>24</sup> I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

#### **Introduction**

We are in a really exciting time. We have got Celebration of Hope coming in May and this is something that God is leading Singapore churches into. Celebration of Hope is our response to what God is challenging us. As the Church spends time in prayer and seeking the Lord, God is telling us that He is about to do something amazing and it is time for His Church to rise up in unity and be part of God's mighty move. This is an opportune time for all of us and for the Church of Jesus Christ.

##### **Colossians 4:3-5 (NIVUK)**

<sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

An open door is basically an opportunity. An opportunity to enter into something new. The Greek word used here in verse 5 is: **καιρὸν (kairon): An opportune or seasonable time.**

God constantly gives us opportunities and so, we must constantly make efforts to sow. After all, we will reap what we sow. When it comes to Celebration of Hope, DSP Daniel Khong challenges all of us to be sowing. What then must we do to be in sync with God's opportune time?

1. **SEE THE OPPORTUNITY - Open Our Eyes with Faith**
2. **SEEK THE OPPORTUNITY - Open Our Hearts in Faith**
3. **SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY - Step Forth by Faith**

### **Discovery and Understanding Questions:**

**Q1. In his closing remark, Colossians 4:3-5, Paul wrote about proclaiming the gospel. In what way is this a powerful closing remark by Apostle Paul?**

**A1.** In verse 3 Paul uses the image of an open door. When a door is opened, we are able to walk through it to go to some new places and gain a brand-new experience. Verse 5 further elaborates what an open door is. It is basically an opportunity. Kairon, (in Greek) is an opportune or seasonable time. It's an opportunity to enter into something new. We are right in God's opportune and seasonable time as God opens the door for a great harvest at the Celebration of Hope.

#### **Colossians 4:3-5 (NIVUK)**

<sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

**Q2. In Luke 14:23, the master asked the servant to go out to the roads and country lanes and compel people to come in and join the banquet, so that his house will be full. What does the word "Compel" mean? Why did the master want his house to be full?**

**A2.** Compel in Scripture literally means to force. It also carries the same notion of urging someone or to necessitate. As we see in Luke 14:23, to compel means to persistently approach and to persuade people in a compelling manner such that they can't or won't say no. When we are in God's Kairos moment or God's opportune time for us, we must be persistent in what God has called us to do. The master wanted the house to be full not for the sake of status or success, but rather so that as many people as possible may be blessed.

#### **Luke 14:23 (NIVUK)**

<sup>23</sup> 'Then the master told his servant, "Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full."

### **Application Questions:**

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

**Q1.** Ask each member to share an opportune time they have encountered in the past or recently that opened door for them to invite family members, friends, colleagues or even strangers to cell, services, XFXZ, or even to pray for them.

**Q2.** Which was the hardest for your cell members to do in order to be in sync with God's opportune time? Was it to SEE, SEEK or SEIZE the opportunity? How did they respond then? How could it be done differently, having heard the message last 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 2 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 Luke 14:15-20, another read Luke 14:21-24, and another, Colossians 4:2-6.

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

**Question: What is a good opportunity you have missed? What is one opportunity which you would like to have?**

*[Let your family members share freely. Share that for Paul, he desired to have the opportunity to share the gospel (Colossians 4:2-6). As Christians who have experienced the love and goodness of God, we also want to have the opportunity to share that with the people around us].*

**Question: What would you do to ensure that you get that opportunity or not miss it?**

*[Let your family members share freely. Share that when we really want something, we would not just look out for it, but also seek it out and seize it when it presents itself. The same things apply for sowing seeds of the gospel and reaping a harvest; we need to be active and keep knocking on doors (Matthew 7:7-8). There could be times when we would compel someone to receive or respond – not in a forceful way, but being so effective in sharing the love and goodness of God that it becomes compelling.]*

**Question: What are some opportunities which you can see, seek or seize to sow or harvest for God's Kingdom?**

*[Let your family members share freely. Share personal stories and/or stories of people who can see opportunities in their daily lives; people who are faithful in sowing seeds and people who took the step of faith to seize opportunities. (Some examples from the sermon are: DSP Daniel who stopped on the highway to help the lady; the youth leader who prayed for his passenger; the XYXZ member who invited the man in the car to the cell). Determine special actions to be taken, e.g., arrange a movie outing; meet up for lunch; keep in touch through WhatsApp.]*

End by praying for each other, that we will be able to see, seek and seize opportunities to sow seeds and harvest for God's Kingdom. Pray also for the salvation of pre-believing family members, relatives and friends.

### **Transition to Works:**

*Let's get to work in this season of opportune time God gave us. Let's update the outreach efforts we have done so far and the forward planning for the coming weeks leading to Celebration of Hope (COH) rally in a month's time.*

### **WORKS (15minutes)**

#### **1. 幸福小组 (XFXZ) – Week 10/Topic 8: A Blessed Church (15-21 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 meet any felt needs. Encourage them to come for Easter and subsequent Celebrities weekend services as well as Celebration of Hope (COH) rally.
- Take some time to book, consolidate and confirm COH tickets for BEST and members.

#### **2. 3x3 Prayer and COH Harvest Watch**

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 (particularly Easter weekend Services and COH Rally)**

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. Take some time to book, consolidate and confirm COH tickets for friends and members.

#### **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.