

4Ws for Week 22, 27 May – 2 Jun 2019

WELCOME (15 minutes)

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. Be Honest

Ask one another to be honest about their week and choose one word to describe it by using an adjective that describes the weather. For example: Fair, stormy, thunderstorm, or sunny.

Honesty is the glue that bonds relationship. With Jesus in the boat, we don't have to be fearful but we can smile at the storm! (Leaders, this would give you a head start in guiding your time together).

2. Celebration of Hope - Thanksgiving

Thank God for the many thousands of decisions recorded over the three days and seven rallies.

I coined the word Hope to mean **Holding Onto Promise that Endures**. Share with each other about a hope you are holding onto and have endured till now and how it has influenced and affected your life.

Transition to Worship:

"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? ²My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." Our help is the Creator God who is faithful and worthy of our worship and praise.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Forever Reign (E)
- 2) Friend of God (G)
- 3) There Is None Like You – Lenny Leblanc (E)
- 4) Build My Life (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:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." - Proverbs 3:5-6. As we look into the Word of God, let's come with complete trust in Him and acknowledge Christ as our Lord and God.

WORD (45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Jeremiah 8:9

The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the LORD, what kind of wisdom do they have?

Sermon Title: A New Beginning

Scripture Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NIVUK)

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Introduction

Last weekend, being Baptism weekend, DSP Daniel appropriately entitled his message "A New Beginning". He shared that the senior leadership has been deliberating about introducing a new process for baptism and that it should be administered to believers as soon as possible instead of the existing long drawn process involved. DSP Daniel also taught about baptism and shared three important aspects from the Bible regarding its significance. They are:

- 1. It's a Command**
- 2. It's a Commitment**
- 3. It's a Confession**

The Bible tells us that God calls us to get baptised because He wants to give us a new beginning. This truth is found in 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. The focus and main teaching of this passage is about reconciliation - the restoration of a broken relationship. All of us were created to have a relationship with God but because of sin, that relationship has been broken and we are separated from God. Thanks be to God that Jesus came to die and pay the price for our sins so that we can be reconciled to God. And now, a new beginning awaits us.

As we have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and are fully committed to Him, the new beginning we now have leads us to:

- **A Renewed Future, ...and**
- **A Revealed Purpose.**

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. The new beginning in God gives us a renewed future. What does this renewed future mean to us personally?

A1. Definition of Renew: To give fresh life to; to replace (something that is broken or worn out). God has a record of all the things we have ever done - all our sins and our wrongdoings (Psalm 139:23-24). The good news is that in Christ, we have a new beginning that leads us to a renewed future (2 Cor.5:16-17). He chose to forgive us and remember our sins no more (Isaiah 43:24-25), by putting them behind His back (Isaiah 38:17).

And God is committed to give us a renewed future (2 Cor 5:19). He can't tolerate sin but He chooses not to count the sin against us. When we are in Christ, we are a new creation and have a new beginning and a renewed future (2 Cor 5:17).

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (NIVUK)

¹⁶ So **from now on** we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we **once** regarded Christ in this way, we do so **no longer**. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the **new** creation has come: the **old** has gone, the new is here!

Isaiah 43:24-25 (NIVUK)

... But you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offences. ²⁵ 'I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and **remembers your sins no more**.

Isaiah 38:17 (NIVUK)

... In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins **behind your back**.

Q2. The new beginning will lead us to a revealed purpose. What is God's divine purpose for us?

A2. We are created through Him (God) and for Him (Col 1:16). God created us for a purpose (2 Cor 5:15), which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph 2:10). One of the key purpose for all of us, is to bring His message to the world (2 Cor 5:18-19). Just as we have been reconciled to God, we must help others be reconciled to God because He has committed this ministry to us (Matt 28:19-20). We are to be Christ's ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20).

The Greek word for "ambassador" is to be a representative, to speak on behalf, i.e. to be a preacher. When we are reconciled to God, we find our purpose is revealed to us more and more. The world tells us to find our purpose by looking inwards. But God's word tells us to find our purpose by looking upwards.

Colossians 1:16 (NIVUK)

¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been **created through him and for him**.

2 Corinthians 5:15 (NIVUK)

¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should **no longer live for themselves but for him** who died for them and was raised again.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIVUK)

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God **prepared in advance for us to do**.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NIVUK)

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has **committed to us the message** of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIVUK)

²⁰ We are therefore **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God.

Application Questions:

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

Q1. Knowing the teaching of Scriptures about the importance and significance of baptism, if you are believer in Christ and is not baptized yet, should you wait or delay your baptism any longer? Share.

Q2. Share how you ought to live out this renewed future and revealed purpose in Christ for your life?

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 to read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17, and another person, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. With reference to the **Introduction** and the **Discovery and Understanding Questions** of the **WORD** segment above, lead in the following discussion.

Question: Why does the offer of a new beginning seem so attractive? Share an example of a good new beginning from your own experience.

[Let your family members share freely. A new beginning offers us the opportunity to start all over again, a chance to put our mistakes and regrets behind us and even to atone for them. A new beginning is attractive if it offers the hope of better things, better outcomes in future.]

2 Corinthians 5:17 states that when a person is in Christ, he is a new creation. Hence when we become Christians, we are given a new beginning.

Question: From 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 and other Bible passages, what are some blessings that we can look forward to as a result of the new beginning we have in Christ?

[Let your family members share freely. Some blessings that we can look forward to include peace and reconciliation in our relationship with God (2 Corinthians 5:18) so that we relate to God as our Father (Ephesians 1:5; John 1:12); forgiveness of sins (2 Corinthians 5:19) and redemption from our past (Ephesians 1:7); a future of spending eternity with God in heaven (John 3:16); and a new and noble purpose of being God's ambassadors, reconciling others to God, i.e., bringing others to Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). With reference to the Introduction, A2 and A3 of the WORD segment above, elaborate on the future and the purpose we have.]

Question: What specifically can we do to better fulfill our role as ambassadors of God?

[Let your family members share freely. Actions can be in the areas of lifestyle, evangelism, community service and the way we relate with pre-believers.]

End by thanking God for the new beginning we have in Christ and the blessings that come with this new beginning. Pray for each other, that we will be good ambassadors of God who reconcile others to Him, and pray specifically for the salvation of pre-believing family members, relatives & friends.

Transition to Works:

*“We are **His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good **works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” - Ephesians 2:10. One of the purposes that God has created us for is to do good works. So, let’s get up and do the good works for our fellow man so that our Heavenly Father receives the glory.*

WORKS (15minutes)

1. COH – Harvest of Souls

- Thank God for the many thousands of decisions made at all the rallies combined.
- Pray for the follow-up processes for all the new converts and those who have rededicated their lives.
- Continue to pray for all the guests to invite them to our weekend services, so that we can consolidate them into our church and cells.

2. 幸福小组 (XFXZ)

- Continue to build relationship with your ‘Best’ and encourage them to attend our weekend Services.
- For those who have not done so, encourage your Best to get baptized and sign them up for the next baptism.
- To download baptism forms, click this URL link: www.fcbc.org.sg/pastoral-care/baptism

2. 3x3 Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the strongholds that bind the people. Ask Him to set up divine appointments for us to minister His power over them (words of knowledge, healing, helps, etc.). Pray for one another to have 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 honoured.

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:

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