

4Ws for Week 23, 3 Jun - 9 Jun 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. Love me Knot

1. Everyone will gather in a circle
2. Everyone to reach across the circle to hold hands with two different people in the circle
3. This 2 persons should *not* be the person beside you
4. Each left hand should hold a left hand and each right hand should hold a right hand
5. You may not let go of the hands of the person you are holding, but you may request to re-adjust your grip (and then hold back the same hand)
6. Work together as a group to untangle the knot and form a circle of joined hands!

2. What Sparks Joy?

Prepare: Post-it pads, writing materials

1. Get each member of the group to take one post-it pad and write down something that brings immense joy to them/that they enjoy doing in their free time
2. Fold this post-it pad and place it in the center
3. Everyone in the group will take turns to take one post-it pad and read out what was written
4. The whole group will try to guess who was the one who wrote it

Transition to Worship:

As we gather today, let's put aside everything that hinders and entangles, that prevents us from focusing and receiving the fullness of Joy that is found in Christ Jesus our Lord. Before we enter into a time of worship, let's spend a moment to thank God for His Faithfulness and all that He has done for us.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Blessed Be Your Name (G)
- 2) Forever (D)
- 3) Deeper In Love (A)
- 4) Shout To The Lord (G)

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 loving us so much, we know that we can trust you in every situation that we are facing in our lives. When we forget, always remind us of your goodness in our lives. Teach us to share about your love to those around us! In Jesus name! Amen.

WORD (45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Jeremiah 10:10 (NIVUK)

But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath.

Sermon Title: The Joy Of the Lord

By Rev Daniel Khong

on 1-2 Jun 19

Scripture Passages:

Nehemiah 8:10 (NIVUK)

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, 'Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

Philippians 4:4-7 (NKJV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Introduction

Have we ever considered what does it mean to say that the Joy of the Lord is our strength? When we talk about the Joy of the Lord being our strength, we are referring to how the joy that is from and of the Lord is supposed to be a place of refuge that we can take advantage of.

When things of life come against us, we oftentimes take delight in and turn to things that we believe bring us joy. But what is the source of our joy? Our delight must be found in being in the presence of God.

What truly makes us joyful in life?

- 1. A Present God – You are not alone**
- 2. A Personal God – You are precious**
- 3. An Empowering God – You are able**

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. I am going through a difficult situation in my life right now. I think God has abandoned me.

A1. God has not abandoned you and He is not an absent God. He is close to us and in fact He is right beside you this very moment. Just because God is near us, it does not mean that we will not go through tough or difficult times. What it means is that despite all that we are going through, we can find our Joy and Peace that is found in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

God sent His Son Jesus to Earth to dwell among us. God is a God who will walk among us to be with us – that is the very character of God. He will never leave nor abandon us. We can take delight in this very fact!

Q2. I have so many problems in my life and sometimes I feel that God is sick and tired of listening to my problems.

A2. When God says in Philippians 4:6 that we can ‘*let your request be made known to God*’, it is a sign of intimacy! We will not usually go to a completely random stranger that we do not know and pour out our difficulties to him – and expect to receive help.

God is a God who listens to us as we pour out our sorrows as well as our cry for help. We have a direct connection to God and He will never grow weary or sick of listening to us.

1 Peter 5:7 (NIVUK)

⁷Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Remember! If He cared enough to send His son Jesus Christ to die for your sins and mine, God really really cares for you!

Q3. I feel so useless that every time I face a setback, I lose the Joy that I am supposed to have. Why doesn't God just take away all these things that are troubling me and making my life difficult?

A3. While God can easily turn our situation around or make the thing that is troubling us disappear, He doesn't do that. If God does that, it will be simply a display of His power. However, God is in the business of empowering us so that we are able to overcome and be victorious in the very situation that we are facing. Remember, it is not by our own efforts or our own strength, but it is only in Christ alone that we can have the victory!

Quote: "Outside of Christ, I am only a sinner, but in Christ, I am saved. Outside of Christ, I am empty; in Christ, I am full. Outside of Christ, I am weak; in Christ, I am strong. Outside of Christ, I cannot; in Christ, I am more than able. Outside of Christ, I have been defeated; in Christ, I am already victorious. How meaningful are the words, in Christ." – Watchman Nee

Joy is not the absence of pain. Joy is the presence of God.

Application Questions:

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

Q1. Do you feel that God has abandoned you? Is there an unanswered prayer in your life that has placed doubts in your heart about God?

Q2. Is there a particular situation that you are feeling overwhelmed by right now? Share with us so that we can pray and believe together as a cell.

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 icebreaker #2 in the WELCOME segment above, or any other appropriate icebreaker, and select worship songs that are meaningful to your family. If they are old enough, ask your children to select the songs and lead the 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 Nehemiah 8:10, another person read Philippians 4:4-7, and another, James 1:1,2.

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

Question: Describe the last time you felt joy.

*[Let your family members share freely. Often, we feel joy when we get what we want, when we are doing what we enjoy, or when things go our way. No matter what the **cause** of our joy is, God should be the **source** of it, because it is the joy of the Lord that gives us strength, or puts us in a position of strength. Joy of the Lord could be joy which comes from reading God's word (c.f., Psalm 119:16, 35) or from receiving His personal joy (c.f., 2 Samuel 22:30).]*

Question: How will thinking about God give us joy?

[Let your family members share freely. When we remember that God is Present, we know that we are not alone, which protects us from feelings of loneliness. When we remember that God is Personal, we know that He knows us and cares for us individually, because we are precious to Him. This makes us feel significant and valued. When we remember that God is Empowering, we know that we are able in Him. There will always be situations in our lives that cause us pain, but knowing that we are not alone and that we are precious and able will fill us with joy.]

Question: What are some situations in your life now where you need the Joy of the Lord? Why should the Joy of our Lord be our solution?

[Let your family members share freely. You may be going through trials, or feeling dry. We can solve it ourselves by finding our own solutions (which at best brings us joy that is short-lived), or look towards God to uplift our spirits. When the solution is from God, however, our strengths will be sustained (c.f., Nehemiah 8:10).]

End by praying for each other, that we will be strengthened by the joy from and in the Lord. 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. 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 from the pilot launch 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:

Please visit <https://www.fcbc.org.sg/bulletin/> or our FCBC app for more details.