

4Ws for Week 31, 29 Jul - 4 Aug 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. Bits and Pieces

Prepare: A stack of 20-30 pieces of small blank papers or cards (enough for 3 pieces/person), writing materials

1. Each person in the group will receive 3 pieces of paper and a pen
2. On the first piece of paper, they will write their answer to complete the statement: "I am most relaxed when I am _____"
3. On the second piece of paper, they will write their answer to complete the statement: "I am happiest when I am _____"
4. On the third and last piece of paper, they will write their answer to complete the statement: "I am most agitated/anxious when I am _____"
5. Stack up all the pieces of paper into 3 piles (one pile for each statement) and shuffle the stack
6. Taking turns, each member can choose to take 2 pieces of paper (from either of the 3 piles) to read out
7. The group will share if they identify with the statement that is written

Some of us find comfort in Holidays while some of us find comfort in being alone. It is good and important to engage in personal care. However, that should not be the only source of comfort that we turn to.

2. Concentration

Prepare: Deck of cards

1. Prepare before the group arrives. Remove the "4 King cards" without informing the group (and the joker cards as well)
2. Get the group to sit in a circle, shuffle the cards and place them face down in a 8x6 formation
3. Each member of the group will take turns to open up two cards. If the cards match, leave them open. If not, flip them back and go to the next person.
4. Continue till all the cards are matched. When that is done, keep all the cards.
5. When the cards are kept, ask the group – "Did anyone notice which set cards were missing?" – the King cards were missing

Sometimes when we are so focused on the problem in front of us, we forget about the King of our lives. Do we see and put God in the midst of our problems? Or are we too distracted?

Transition to Worship:

As we gather today, let's give thanks to God once again for the work that He has done on the cross for us. Because of His blood, we can live a life of fullness, purpose and completeness in Him. As we think about His goodness, let us declare and sing boldly of His name!

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Awesome In This Place – Hillsong (D)
- 2) Forever Reign (E)
- 3) Here I Am To Worship (D)
- 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 being our very present help in times of need. We know that you are in control of all things and that you rule over all. I pray that we will not be distracted by the things of the world that draw us away. Teach us how to always fix our eyes on you and live a life of victory completely and only in You! Amen.

WORD (45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Psalm 118:6

The LORD is with me. I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

Sermon Title: Complete

By Rev Roland Lee

on 27-28 Jul 19

Scripture Passage:

Matthew 4:1-11 (NIVUK)

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Introduction

When we enter the waters of baptism, we are totally immersed and become completely wet. What about our Christian lives? Are we completely and totally immersed in Jesus or are we living our Christian lives in defeat, saturated with things of the world?

God does not want us to remain defeated, but He wants us to walk in complete victory! We do not need to be buried by our sin and shame. Instead, we can rise up to live in complete victory for Jesus!

We can experience complete victory in our Christian lives when we:

1. **Live in Complete Dependence – Spoken Word**
2. **Live in Complete Discipleship – Surrendered Will**
3. **Live in Complete Devotion – Sacrificial Worship**

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. If I am a Christian and God wants me to live a victorious life, why am I always tempted by the things around me?

A1. Saying the sinners' prayer or making the decision to become a Christian is not a magical switch that changes you. If we are still surrounding and 'feeding' ourselves with the things of the world, then our dependence is not on God but on the things of the world.

We need to starve our desires for the things of the world by choosing to feed on the things of God. In order to do that, we need to feed on the word of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIVUK)

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When we feed on the word of God, we start to feed our Spirit and the change starts to first take place there. Physical food or activities that we do to engage in soul care may be good and important, but they cannot replace the necessary nourishment that comes only from the word of God.

Q2. I spend a lot of time doing Bible study and I think I know a lot about the word of God. But why is it that I am still not experiencing complete victory and breakthrough in my life?

A2. Having a desire for the word of God is good. But the key here is that we need to let go of our own thoughts, our own ways and surrender completely to the path the Lord has intended for us. It is the human tendency to build ourselves with more knowledge so that we can make a better and informed decision. However when we do that, we allow room for pride and human desire to take control.

Matthew 4:5-7 (NIVUK)

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

⁷ Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Remember! The devil probably knows more about the word of God than you do! Jesus himself was tempted by the devil to act in pride. On top of that, we need to take on the paradigm mind-set of living a life of surrender and sacrifice.

Romans 12:1 (NIVUK)

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.

Let's face it, if given a choice, many of us would prefer to do things or make decisions that make us feel good, or our personal happiness and comfort would take priority – even when it comes to the matters of serving. We need to ask ourselves, are we serving God or are we serving ourselves? Our worship is only complete when it is sacrificial.

2 Samuel 24:24b (NIVUK)

²⁴ ...I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.

It is not about how much more you know, but it is about surrendering our will completely to God and choosing to offer up our lives as a living sacrifice to Him. Only then, will we walk towards God's purposes in our lives and experience complete victory!

Application Questions:

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

- Q1.** What does it mean for you to live a life that is complete in God? Is there an area in your life that you are still struggling with?
- Q2.** Do you really trust that God has the best plans for you? Is there ever a moment where you have doubted God's plans for you and you chose to do things your own way. How was the outcome?
- Q3.** Baptism is a step of obedience, a leap of faith and the beginning of a walk with the Lord. Have you been baptized? If not, what's stopping you from completing this step of obedience?

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 Matthew 4:1-4 and another person read Matthew 4:5-7, and another person, Matthew 4:8-11.

Even though we have believed in Jesus and are sons and daughters of God, we are continually tempted by Satan and we yield to temptation and fall into sin more often than we wish. With reference to the **Introduction** and the **Discovery and Understanding Questions** of the **WORD** segment above, lead in the following discussion.

Question: With reference to the passage in Matthew 4 that we have just read, how do you feel about or respond to the fact that Jesus was repeatedly tempted by Satan but He did not yield?

[Let your family members share freely. Some possible responses include comfort and assurance in knowing that even the Lord Jesus Himself was tempted; thankful that He stood firm and did not yield; inspired and challenged to stand firm and resist the devil when tempted; desire to find out why Jesus was able to resist the temptations repeatedly.]

Question: Why do you think Jesus was able to stand firm and not yield to Satan’s temptations?

[Let your family members share freely. They will probably mention that Jesus wanted above all to be righteous, please God and do His will (Matthew 3:15; 4:10; 6:33); that He quoted Scriptures to resist the devil (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10); that He was empowered by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16 & 4:1); that He was clear of His identity as the Son of God and did not need to prove that to Satan (Matthew 4:3a & 6a), having just received affirmation, approval and affection from the heavenly Father (Matthew 3:17). Then share and summarize Rev Roland’s message about experiencing victory through dependence on God’s Word, through a surrendered will, and sacrificial worship.]

Question: Which of these factors that contribute to Jesus’ victory over Satan and temptations do you most need to cultivate in your life?

[Let your family members share freely. Take note of what they share for the time of prayer at the end of the session. Speak God’s words of affirmation, approval and affection over your children after all have shared (Matthew 3:17).]

End by praying for each other, especially in what they shared in response to the last question. 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

Although it’s been more than two months, do continue to pray for the assimilation of all the new converts and those who have rededicated their lives at the rallies. Pray also for all these converts and guests to be invited to our services this weekend, so that we can successfully consolidate them into our church and cells.

2. Happiness Group (幸福小组)

For those from the pilot launch, do continue to build relationship with your ‘BEST’ and encourage them to attend our weekend Services. Challenge them to get baptized and sign them up for the next baptism. To download baptism forms, click on this URL link:

www.fcbc.org.sg/pastoral-care/baptism. Press on with the consolidation of your BESTs!

For those who will be involved in the Happiness Group Round 1 (19 Aug to 24 Nov), step up prayers even as you make preparation for your Happiness Group. Continue to plan activities to connect with your potential BESTs, and meet up with your Happiness group members to pray, plan, bond and team-build.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.