

4Ws for Week 6, 3 - 9 Feb 2020

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. Lifeline

Everyone to sit in a circle and be shown a list of objects (you may add on other interesting objects to the list)

- If you absolutely can only choose 3 items to take with you on a vacation, which will it be?
- Choose 3 from this list.
 1. Sunscreen
 2. Phone Charger/Powerbank
 3. Extra set of Clothes
 4. Toiletries
 5. Camera
 6. Jacket/Sweater
 7. Watch
 8. Umbrella/Raincoat

2. Touchpoint

Prepare: A black thrashbag or bag that one cannot see through. Place a few small objects inside the bag, (i.e. Rubiks Cube, Keys, Wallet, Bible, Dental Floss, Watch, etc.)

- Everyone in the group will take turns to put their hand in the bag to feel the objects.
- Without being able to see what the objects are, everyone in the group is to list down as many of the objects that they have felt inside the bag as they can.

Transition to Worship:

The cell group is a place where we learn how to edify and encourage one another by sharing what God has done for us! Let us now join our hearts as one to welcome the Holy Spirit into our midst as we enter into this time of worship.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Awesome In This Place – Hillsongs (D)
- 2) Happy Day (D)
- 3) Here I Am To Worship (D)
- 4) This Is Our God (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 and acknowledge that You are good. We want to especially remember that even though we are surrounded by 'wars and rumours of wars', we do not need to be troubled and that we can turn to You. May we continue to be faithful to your call and walk in the paths that Your Spirit leads us to. Help us see You in all that we do. In Jesus name we pray, Amen!

WORD (45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: John 8:36 (NIVUK)

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Sermon Title: Entering Into the Promises of God

By Rev. Poh Wee Long

on 1 - 2 Feb 2020

Scripture Passage: Numbers 13:1-3, 16-33 (NIVUK)

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.” ³So at the LORD’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

¹⁶These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.) ¹⁷When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. ¹⁸See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. ¹⁹What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? ²⁰How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.) ²¹So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. ²²They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) ²³When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. ²⁴That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. ²⁵At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land. ²⁶They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. ²⁹The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.” ³⁰Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” ³¹But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” ³²And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

Introduction

Everyone wishes to be successful or to do well in life. This is especially so if we come from a background that is filled with struggles or suffering. It makes our successes even more meaningful.

Life may be unpredictable and full of uncertainties. However, as believers, we can know with certainty that God has a plan for us in our lives and what joy will it bring when we choose to and are able to walk in His purposes and promises. Oftentimes, however, we fall into the trap of unbelief. Unbelief will cause us to miss out on seeing the fulfillment of God’s promises in our lives. There are 2 things that we need to remember in order to remove this unbelief from our lives:

1. God is GREATER than our problems

2. God is GOOD despite our problems

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. In the face of huge and difficult problems, how do I continue to trust in God?

A1. One of the reasons for unbelief is when we forget the greatness of God and we begin to think that the problem or situation in front of us is greater than who God is!

Numbers 13:27-28 (NIVUK)

²⁷ They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.

Moses sent out 12 spies to scout the Promised Land. All of them were leaders of their tribes, and have personally seen and experienced what God has done for the Israelites. Yet, only 2 of them were able to look past the daunting and seemingly unsurmountable challenge that was ahead of them and speak the language of faith.

When we constantly focus on the problem in front of us, it will block our ability to see the bigness of God ahead of us. We must remember that God is greater than our problems – that will kill the unbelief in our hearts.

Q2. I feel like I’ve been given the short end of the stick in life. My life is a mess and I am in a constant struggle. I feel that perhaps God does not love me.

A2. There may be moments in our lives where we feel that life is difficult and hopeless and things do not go the way we expect them to. When we encounter such a situation, let us learn to be still and know that He is God. As helpless as we might feel, it is an opportunity for us to learn how to trust and obey Him and be thankful that God works all things for the good of those who love Him.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

God sometimes leads us through the wilderness and the reason for that is not because He has something against us, but because He has something good in store for us and He wants us to learn total dependence on Him. It is only through the wilderness that we realize and understand that it is not our own hardwork or talents that leads to our success or happiness.

The path to the Promised Land is preceded by a wilderness that we need to go through. You may feel like you are in the wilderness, but do not give room for unbelief to fester and lead us to doubt the goodness of God in our lives.

Application Questions:

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

Q1. When we face problems and difficulties, do you often “rant about” these problems non-stop in order to ventilate? While we do want to seek empathy and support for what we are facing, by doing so, do you feel that your focus is on the greatness of the problem or on the greatness of God?

Q2. Have you ever encountered a wilderness experience in your life? What was your response to it and on hindsight were you able to discover how God has been faithful? Do you take note and remember these things?

Q3. God has given to FCBC the G12 Vision and the strategy of XFXZ. There might be many things that we do not understand yet, but do you let your doubts lead you to unbelief or do walk and speak the language of faith?

Transition to Works:

Heavenly Father, we thank You that You love us. We are sorry that at times we forget Your faithfulness and goodness in our lives and we start to harbor unbelief and our vision is clouded. We pray that our focus will always be on You and we will never lose sight of the promises that You have in store for us. Amen.

WORKS (15minutes)

1. Happiness Group (幸福小组)

Press on with the consolidation of your BESTs. Continue to build relationships 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.

2. XFXZ Wave 3 – (Launching on the week of 17 Feb 2020)

Let's start making as many connections as possible and praying for all our potential BESTs.

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. Consolidation of New Converts

Assimilate them! Let them have a sense of belonging with our faith community! Connect with them via phone calls; meet up with them over a meal; make home visits; introduce them to cell members and invite them to fellowship with our faith community in cell groups and in church.

Announcements:

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