

4Ws for Week 9, 24 Feb – 1 Mar 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. Breaking News!

It is the Year 2030 in Santamarina. One evening a strange viral and in some cases, fatal, infection hits Santamarina. People are afraid to go out of their homes or to travel. There is panic buying. You too are confused over what is happening. Santamarinites are getting a lot of news over social media, some factual, some fake. You are a Santamarinite. How do you think you will respond to the situation?

2. How God helped me through Covid-19

Open the time for members to share on any of the following and how they see the hand of God leading and guiding them:

- a) An infection in their workplace
 - b) Being unable to buy their household supplies/medical supplies due to panic buying and hoarding
 - c) Fear in their hearts
 - d) Meeting people with fear in their hearts
 - e) Seeing and dealing with irrational behaviour – like people shunning health workers
 - f) Ministering to those impacted by Covid-19
- Etc.

Transition to Worship:

Lord, You are our majestic God. No matter whatever happens to us here on earth, we acknowledge Your majesty on earth. Your majesty even extends to the heavens. We worship You.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Majestic – Lincoln Brewster (A)
- 2) Forever (D)
- 3) Amazing Grace (D)
- 4) This Is Our God (E)

Be sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit 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:

Truly God, You are our God. Your Word leads and guides us. As we look into Your Truth, lead and guide us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WORD (45minutes)

Memory verse of the week: John 15:9 New International Version (NIV)

As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love.

Scripture Passage: Joshua 6:1-5 (NLT)

¹ Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. ² But the Lord said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors. ³ You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. ⁴ Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram's horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. ⁵ When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams' horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town."

Introduction

Joshua 6:1-5 is a battle strategy given by God to Joshua for the conquest of Jericho (cf. v 2-5). Humanly speaking this is a ridiculous and risky military venture. But Joshua did as instructed and led the Israelites to victory over Jericho. (See Joshua 7).

Joshua was able to embark on this *risky-faith* venture because he knew absolutely that:

- a) God was in *command* – so he needed to *obey*
- b) God was in *control* – so he needed to *trust*

Joshua's obedience and trust was his act of worship to God; He brought God into the picture as his partner in the endeavour – see v 4-5 where the priests were part of the military contingent, carrying the Ark (which signifies the presence of God) and blowing rams' horns (which signifies worship to God).

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. What comes to your mind when you say a person is in command or in control of your life?

- A1.** (i) When a person is in *command* of my life, I allow him to exercise authority in my life – Whatever he orders me to do, I must *obey*.
- (ii) When a person is in *control* of my life, I allow him to exercise dominion in my life – I allow him to make all the decisions on how I run my life. Whatever decisions he makes for me, I must *trust*.

Q2. Read Acts 8:1, 4-8. What were the results of the early church obeying & trusting God?

A2. They were persecuted, resulting in the scattering of the believers and the death of Stephen. But this scattering had a positive result – as the believers were being scattered, they brought the Good News wherever they went, leading to the salvation of many and the concomitant impact of the Gospel (miracles were performed; evil spirits were cast out; healings took place; joy ensued).

Acts 8:1, 4-8 (NLT)

¹ Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.

⁴ But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. ⁵ Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. ⁶ Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. ⁷ Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was great joy in that city.

Application Questions:

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

1. You are a God fearing, Bible believing child of God. After you have heard the message, use this & re-think how you should respond to the circumstances in your life.
2. If for you, God is *indeed* in command & in control, what should change in the way you have viewed or responded in your current situation or in the light of Covid-19?

Transition to Works:

God, we acknowledge You are in command and in control of us. You have commanded us to go and make disciples. We choose to obey; we give you control over this area of our lives. Help us, Lord.

WORKS (15minutes)

Give CG Members some time to share on their prayer walk. As they prayer-walk, encourage and challenge them to include their neighbours as their Bests. Get the CG to do the following:

1. Continue to Connect

a) With CG Members

1. Hold your CG Members accountable to go into live streaming or download the service message to listen to it.
2. Occasionally you may wish to arrange for the CG to meet to view live streaming together. Note: This should not replace your weekly CG gathering. [Currently FCBC encourages CG gatherings to continue as much as is possible. CG Gatherings should be a time of spurring members on to FAITH & good works. Seek ways & means to help each other, especially those who are impacted by COVID-19 either directly or indirectly.]
3. The CG can continue to connect with their members who are quarantined/on stay home notices/suspected to be exposed to the virus & hence cannot attend the CG.
 - a) Synchronise prayer times together
 - b) Discuss devotional thoughts through WhatsApp
 - c) Create a CG hashtag - Post uplifting messages, sermon videos and notes, or even bookmark pretty verse images that you like on Instagram by leaving these in your cell group hashtag as a comment. Everything that has been tagged with your cell group hashtag will be available for the entire group to see!
 - d) Video call each other.

[Note: This is not meant to be a replacement for CG gatherings.]

b) With Pre-Believers

1. Continue to encourage evangelism. Evangelism need not take a back seat with live streaming or COVID-19. Either as an individual or as a family or as a CG, you can still invite your pre believer friends/Bests/3x3 contacts (depending on their comfort level) to join you in watching the live stream service. You should still try to continue connecting with them & spur your CG members to do so.

2. The salvation altar call is still made during live streaming. *There will be a link (response form) screened over the live stream for those who have responded/want to respond, to fill in. The link is:*

For English live streaming - www.fcbs.org.sg/connectwithus

For Chinese live streaming - www.fcbs.org.sg/zh/connectwithus

Please encourage your prebeliever contacts to fill up the response form/you can help them fill it up. When filling up the form, try to provide as much of the information needed as possible.

3. If your CG is not running a XFXZ Group, check with your G12 leader to see if you can exercise the option of inviting your/your CG members' pre believers contacts to the XFXZ run by the other CG/s in your Tribe. Encourage your CG members to do so.

4. Be sensitive to, and meet the needs of those impacted by COVID-19 – e.g., offer them masks, alcohol swabs if they need them and don't have them; prepare meals to send over to those on Home Quarantine Order or Stay Home Notices, etc. [While you are doing this make sure you also do things to protect yourself so you don't get infected.]

2. XFXZ Group (幸福小组)

Press on with the consolidation of your BESTs. Continue to build relationships and inform them about the live streaming of our services. Give them the link and encourage them to go into the live streaming. Or you may wish to invite them to view the live streaming at your home. 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
[Baptism services are temporarily suspended. But submission of baptism forms is still open.]

3. XFXZ Wave 3 – (Launched on Wednesday, 19 Feb 2020)

Let's start making as many connections as possible and praying for all our potential BESTs. Meet this week to pray for your Bests and for your XFXZ sessions.

4. 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.

5. 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 through live stream services.

Announcements:

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