

4Ws for Week 12, 22- 28 Mar'2021

(With COVID-19, this 4Ws is to be adapted for use at online meetings.)

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. Welcome Home (I am excited...)

Give each member 1 min to think about what is the one thing that they miss about onsite service, and are looking forward to, and then share this.

If you have first time visitors, re-phrase the question:

What are you looking forward to, as you wait to visit our church for the first time?

2. Welcome Home (I am not sure...)

Ask each member to think about what are some considerations affecting their decision to go onsite for service.

If you have first time visitors, re-phrase the question:

Would you rather visit us onsite or online? Share with us your reason for your decision.

Transition to Worship:

Lord Jesus, we are grateful to You that we always get the welcome from You every moment, and that we do not have to wait for church service of a designated time to come before You. We always find an open door to You anytime, anywhere. For this we give You all the glory and sing, "This is amazing grace."

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) This Is Amazing Grace (D)
- 2) What a Beautiful Name (D)
- 3) Still (G)

Please pause to wait upon the Lord for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Encourage everyone to exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit – be it a word, a vision, tongues and interpretation of tongues – to release it to minister to one other.

Transition to Word:

Lord, You are present here with us. Still our hearts and consecrate our spirits to honour You and listen to Your voice speaking to us. Cause us to be obedient to You. Amen

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' ..."

Sermon Title: Re-aligning Our Hearts
By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 20 – 21 March 2021

Scripture Passages: Matthew 15:10-11; 17-20 (NIVUK)

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, ‘Listen and understand. ¹¹ What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.’

¹⁷ ‘Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.’

Introduction

“The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart.”

God’s message to us - His people - for the last few weeks has been putting the spotlight on our hearts: Our hearts are *corruptible and susceptible*. Because of this, sin automatically enters our life when we *isolate* ourselves, and are *idle* and *indifferent*. In this state of isolation, idleness and indifference, we start to *compromise*, and the little things which taint us no longer become a *problem* and are no longer a *priority* to be dealt with, leading us further and further away from God.

The natural condition of our hearts:

1. Our hearts are DECEITFUL
2. Our hearts are DIVIDED

is diametrically opposite to God’s heart:

1. God’s heart is FAITHFUL
2. God’s heart is FOR YOU (US)

But it is possible to have a God-ward heart (a heart after His own heart) - God testified concerning David: “I have found David son of Jesse, a man *after my own heart*; he will do everything I want him to do.” (Acts 13:22 (NIVUK)). It is time NOW to re-align our hearts: *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life* (Proverbs 4:23, NLT). Let’s allow the Holy Spirit to put the spotlight on our lives and point His finger on those areas of our lives that need to be re-aligned.

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. “Listen to your heart – it knows your true desires.” Based on the verses below, share why it is unscriptural to “listen to our hearts”.

A1. The Bible says that our hearts are deceitful above all things. So, if we listen to our hearts, we will be led astray, for our hearts are naturally deceitful. Because our hearts are deceitful, we seek to justify the things we do, according to our hearts’ desires, sometimes using traditions and even religion to justify what our deceitful hearts want to do.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIVUK)

⁹The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Matthew 15:3-9 (NIVUK)

³ Jesus replied, ‘And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God said, “Honour your father and mother” and “Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.” ⁵ But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is “devoted to God,” ⁶ they are not to “honour their father or mother” with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: ⁸ ““These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ They worship me in vain their teachings are merely human rules.”’

Q2a. What does it mean to have an undivided heart towards God?

A3a. An undivided heart is one that is completely and totally devoted and consecrated to God. It has only this one focus and is not distracted from this one focus. The Psalmist wanted an undivided heart so that He will have the fear of God in his heart.

Q2b. How do we love God “with all our heart”?

A2b. We love God with all our heart when all our actions and purposes and desires are aimed at pleasing Him.

Psalm 86:11-12 (NIVUK)

¹¹ Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me *an undivided heart*, that I may fear your name. ¹² I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name for ever.

Psalm 86:11 (NKJV, NASB)

Teach me Your way, LORD; I will walk in Your truth; *unite my heart* to fear Your name.

Psalm 86:11 (Modern English Version)

Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I will walk in Your truth; *bind my heart* to fear Your name.

Matthew 22:37-38 (NIVUK)

³⁷ Jesus replied: ““Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

Q3. In the light of covid19, with livestream and cell group (CG) gatherings online, how can we still love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind? Brainstorm with members. The list may include the following (which is not exhaustive):

A3.

1. Be faithful in attending Service and CG.
2. Honour God in Service and CG – our behaviour must be *as if* we were physically in church or CG (e.g., be properly and modestly attired; actively participate in every aspect of the Service or CG)
3. Be punctual
4. Actively worship God – prepare well if we are leading worship; worship Him in the singing (not just sing the lyrics)
5. Pay attention (listen actively) when CG members are sharing and not do something else in the background (like watching a video, doing up our report for the next day, etc.)
6. Don’t hide – as far as is possible, have our video on. Just like in a physical CG, we are present in the circle, so in an online CG gathering we must be “present” (that is, visible).

7. Learn to sit still/remain in the Service/CG throughout - don't move in and out of the Service/CG gathering, e.g., going to the kitchen to start preparing lunch/dinner or get a drink during announcement or offering time, etc.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NIVUK)

¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Application Questions

Share, pray and minister to one another. If the group is too big, break into smaller groups (breakout rooms). Be back in 15 minutes.

Q1. Go through the list in Q3 above. Are there some things that need to be changed (individually or as a group)? How can the CG support one another to effect this change?

The key to life is not to follow our hearts but God's heart. "It is Christ who is to be exalted, not our feelings. We will know Him by obedience, not by emotions. Our love will be shown by obedience, not by how good we feel about God at a given moment. And love means following the commands of God. 'Do you love Me?' Jesus asked Peter. 'Feed My lambs.' He was not asking, 'How do you feel about Me?' for *love is not a feeling. He was asking for action.*" - Elisabeth Elliot

Q2. Examine your life. Are there areas of your life that need to be changed – e.g., cheating on company's time; arriving late for work; not completing assignments on time; procrastinating on projects/homework; stealing other's contribution as yours; making false transport/entertainment claims; lying about the status of your projects/assignments; etc.

Transition to Works:

Lord Jesus, we confess our hearts are prone to wander from You. Forgive us, O Lord, and help us re-align our hearts to You. By ourselves we are prone to selfishness. Remove from us the slant to be selfish in all things, and especially as we go onsite!

WORKS (15 minutes)

1. Welcome Home!

Praise God we are going onsite for Service! Remind members to practise Phil 2:3-4 – ³ **Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves;** ⁴ **do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.**

- a) Reserve seats only for yourselves and your family members. Don't mass book. Don't double book to secure more chances of getting a seat.
- b) Turn up for service after getting your seats. Don't cancel *last minute* – every *last minute* cancellation deprives one person of an opportunity to come to onsite service.
- c) Obey covid19 safety procedures to safeguard yourself and others – e.g., stay in your zones; don't turn up if you are sick, etc.
- d) Be patient and calm if there are delays in admitting you because of covid19 safe entry processes. Don't abuse the Staff or volunteers on duty.
- e) Honour God – have a worshipful attitude even though you cannot sing aloud.
- f) Be punctual – build in extra time so that you will be seated already when Service starts.

- g) Dress appropriately.
- h) Recognise that there are many others also worshipping with you online.
- i) Continue to invite your pre-believer friends.
- j) Etc...

For more information on our resumption of on-site services at Touch Centre starting 27 March 2021, please visit www.fcbc.org.sg/welcomehome.

2. Consolidation of Visitors/New Converts from your outreach

Assimilate them! Let them experience a sense of belonging to our faith community! Connect with them via phone calls; introduce them to cell members via WhatsApp and invite them to join in our livestream services and your online cell group meetings. Start inviting them to onsite services and do the seats reservation on their behalf.

3. Continue to Connect

a) With cell group members

1. Hold your cell members accountable to watch the Livestream Service. Suggest CG Members to meet in different homes to view the online service together or for CG gatherings. Adhere to 8 guests per group. You could also meet in one group of 8 (not counting the host/s) in one household, and get the rest to Zoom in. CG Members should limit visits to households to 2 per day.
2. Seek ways and means to stay connected with each other. For example:
 - a. Synchronize prayer times
 - b. Share devotional thoughts through WhatsApp. Encourage your members to share their Quiet Time Reflections in your cell group chat.
 - c. Create a cell group hashtag - Post uplifting messages, sermon videos and notes, or even bookmark pretty verse images by leaving these in your cell group hashtag as a comment.
 - d. Video call each other
 - e. Arrange get-togethers of no more than 8 people.
3. Continue with your cell group meetings online. Ensure that none of your members fall through the cracks. Continue to monitor the attendance of your online meetings.

b) With Potential BESTs / Pre-Believers

1. Evangelism need not take a back seat with livestreaming. Invite pre-believing friends/Bests/3x3 contacts (depending on their comfort level) to join you in watching our livestream service. Connect online with them and spur other members to do so.
2. When the salvation altar call is made during livestreaming, a Response Form link will be screened over the livestream for those who have responded or want to respond, to fill in. The livestream links are:

- For English -- www.fcbc.org.sg/connectwithus
- For Chinese -- www.fcbc.org.sg/zh/connectwithus

Encourage your pre-believing contacts to fill up the Response Form or you can help them fill it up. When filling up the Form, try to provide as much of the information needed as possible, and do so immediately after the livestream service.

3. Organise activities for your CG members to connect face-to-face with their contacts, e.g. go for a nature walk, meet together for meals, etc. Keep to safe distancing guidelines and limit to no more than 8 per group and do not intermingle between groups.

4. Organise outreach activities for Good Friday (2 April).

4. 3x3 Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the strongholds that bind the people in captivity. 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.

For more announcements, please visit www.fcbc.org.sg/announcements or our social media platforms – we can be found on Facebook and Instagram @fbcsg.