

4Ws for Week 14, 4 Apr – 10 Apr 2022

(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. The Spy

Facilitator will select one-third of the group to act as spies without revealing who these spies are. Facilitator will send a topic to each member via a text message. Members selected as spies will receive the text “Spy” instead of the topic. Each member will take turns to draw something relevant to the topic on the Zoom whiteboard (for online meetings) or on a piece of paper (for onsite meetings). The members are to pick out who are the spies from what they drew.

Suggested topics: church, school, bus, breakfast, etc.

Material Needed: For online meetings: Zoom whiteboard; For onsite meetings: sheets of blank A4 size paper/mahjong sheets and pens/markers.

2. Shopping List

Facilitator will start by naming an item that can be bought from the supermarket. Each participant will continue by naming the next item that can be bought from the supermarket, but each item has to start with the last letter of the previous item. E.g. Avocadoo, Orangee, Energizer batteriess, Shampoo, etc.

Transition to Worship:

We are gathered here to worship our Lord who is worthy of our absolute praise. No matter what happens in our lives, He is always for us, working out His excellent, good and acceptable will for our lives. Let’s praise Him with our whole heart and soul and spirit and mind and strength.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) God Is For Us - CityAlight (D)
- 2) Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me - CityAlight (C)

Let us pause to wait upon the Lord for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We would like to encourage everyone to exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit – if you have a word, a vision, tongues and interpretation of tongues – release it to minister to each other.

Transition to Word:

Lord Jesus, in You we live and move and have our being! It is not in our strength, but in You that we overcome and live out our Christian life. The knowledge of Your Word also aids us in living out our faith. As we meditate on Your Word, Holy Spirit, bring enlightenment to us and let this enlightenment be accompanied by obedience on our part! Amen.

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Ezra 3:11 (NIVUK)

¹¹ With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: “He is good; His love toward Israel endures forever.” And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Sermon Title: Finding the Beauty of the Cross

By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 2 & 3 April 2022

Scripture Passage: Hebrews 12:1-3

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Introduction

As we start the two weeks of seeking God in our prayer and fasting (4 – 14 Apr), we must re-orientate ourselves to the Cross of Jesus Christ for this fast to be meaningful to us.

The Cross, although a cruel and horrendous instrument of torture, has a beauty about it, precisely because Jesus died on the Cross. In order for us to appreciate the *beauty* that is in the Cross, we must *look intently and intentionally*. How do we look for us to see the beauty of the Cross of Jesus? We must:

- a) *Look within* (ourselves) – that is, we must *face our sins*
- b) *Look up* (to God) – that is, we must *see God’s grace*

Each day as we fast, we must practise looking *inwards* for any sins in our lives and looking *upwards* for the grace of God (manifested in the Cross) to cover these sins in our lives.

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. How can we live victoriously by “throwing off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles [us]”?

A1. In order to throw off our sin, we must first examine our lives, and when we do so, we begin to acknowledge that we are all sinful and we all have sinned, not only against God but also against others.

Hebrews 12:1 (NIVUK)

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us **throw off** everything that hinders **and** the sin that so easily entangles...

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NIVUK)

⁵ **Examine yourselves** to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves...

Romans 3:23 (NIVUK)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

1 John 1:8 (NIVUK)

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Matthew 7:3-5 (NIVUK)

³ 'Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and **pay no attention** to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, **first** take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Q2. How do looking *inwards* **and** looking *upwards* balance to furnish us hope?

A2. Looking *inwards* causes us to see the reality that we are miserable, sinful people, with no hope of delivering ourselves from our sinful nature; looking *upwards* causes us to see the grace of God Who abundantly provides the solution to our sinful miserable state – and that solution is in the Cross. **This is why there is beauty in the Cross.**

Romans 3:23-24 (NLT)

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, **in his grace**, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Romans 6:23 (NIVUK)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIVUK)

² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he **endured** the cross, **scorning its shame**, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Romans 8:32 (NIVUK)

³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Application Questions

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

Q1. Seek God personally as to how He wants you to fast/what He wants you to fast from?

Be specific.

[Note: Fasting need not necessarily be from food, although this is included, e.g., you can fast from pleasures in life – like watching TV, e-shopping, playing video games; or from habits - like reading the newspapers first thing in the morning; instead consecrate the first waking hours to this fast and prayer, etc.]

Q2. Determine that for the next two weeks, you will fast. Work out a timetable for your daily prayer and fasting.

[CG Leaders: You could pair your Members for them to be accountable for each other during this period of fast, e.g., they could call each other daily to find out how each is doing on the fast and

how God had spoken to them during this Fast. Aim at getting everyone on board and making prayer and fasting a lifestyle in your members' lives. Some may not be able to do daily; encourage them to do at least one day per week. Encourage the rest to aim towards daily prayer and fasting. End the time praying for strength and perseverance for everyone during this Fast.]

Transition to Works:

Lord Jesus, Your Word has spoken. Without You we are nothing. Our community is united during this period in pursuing You and in prayer and fasting. Grant us the perseverance and the strength to go through this period victoriously. Amen.

WORKS (15 minutes)

1. Pray and Fast

Consecrate each day in prayer and fasting. Ask God to give you the strength to be faithful in doing this. Persevere!

2. Volunteering in the Church

Provide an opportunity for each Member to consider, and share an area of ministry that he/she may want to go into. Perhaps as a CG, you may want to decide to go into an area of ministry in the Church. Get Members to go into the FCBC portal to volunteer. If possible, do it together during the Cell time. But be careful that CG Members don't feel pressured to do so.

3. Focus on CG Outreach

The focus of CG meetings is *edification, equipping* and *evangelism*. In each CG meeting, spend some time to encourage your members to do personal outreach right where they are. Give some time each week during the WORKS portion for them to share their outreach efforts. Plan regular (monthly or quarterly CG outreach, either as a whole CG or in separate groups) into your CG roster, using the existing COVID-19 guidelines to plan your activities/programmes.

4. Pray over the COVID-19 situation

Consecrate some time each CG meeting to be praying for the situation; and to remain connected with one another.

5. Continue to Connect

a) With cell group members

1. Hold your cell members accountable to watch the Livestream Service.
2. Stay connected with members via:
 - 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
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

Get 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.

c) 3x3 Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the strongholds that bind the people in captivity. Ask Him to set up divine appointments for you 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 @fbcscg.