

4Ws for Week 17, 26 Apr- 2 May 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. What are your favorite family traditions? (e.g. a vacation spot, or something you do every year). Does any of your family's traditions annoy you?
2. Have each person choose a number from 1 to 10 and then reveal what he/she is to share:
 - a. If you could learn one new personal skill, what would it be?
 - b. What is something you're glad you did, but would never do again?
 - c. Name something you can't live without.
 - d. What's one thing you wish you were really good at.
 - e. My favorite time of year is...
 - f. My favorite childhood toy was...
 - g. My favorite animal for a pet would be...
 - h. When I can find some time alone, I like to...
 - i. Three things I think I am really good at are...
 - j. One thing I would like to change about myself is...

Transition to Worship:

Lord, we give You praise and worship Your holy name. We ascribe to You the glory and honor that is due to You; for You are our God. You alone are our Creator, our Lord and our Savior, and You alone are deserving of our worship. We worship You in the beauty of Your holiness and bow down before You in reverent praise; for You alone are worthy to receive all honor and glory and praise and blessing and worship.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) Faithful – Chris Tomlin (D)
- 2) What A Beautiful Name (D)
- 3) Great Are You Lord (D)

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, please give us Your wisdom now as we approach Your Word. Help us discern the truth of Your Word. Help us not to rely on our own understanding. Thank You, God, for the clarity, encouragement and hope Your Word brings. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Exodus 9:16 (NIVUK)

¹⁶ “But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”

Sermon Title: Does It Really Matter?

By Rev. Daniel Khong

on 24 - 25 April 2021

Scripture: Mark 7:1-9 (NKJV)

¹ Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. ² Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. ³ For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. ⁵ Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?” ⁶ He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honours Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷ And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.” ⁹ He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.”

Introduction

During Jesus’ days, the Pharisees have elevated and honoured traditions to such a pitch that, in comparison of them, the law of God was neglected and forgotten.

In Mark 7:1-9, the Pharisees have travelled from Jerusalem for the sole purpose of finding fault with Jesus. For the third time in Mark, they attacked Jesus for allowing His disciples to eat with unwashed hands, thereby transgressing the tradition of the elders, which they thought to be a very heinous offence. Jesus called them hypocrites for focusing on the externals but rejecting the commandment of God. As a church, we can also fall into the trap of legalism in our traditions over truth and our preferences over priorities.

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. How did Jesus contrast the difference between the commands of God and the traditions of men?
A1. God’s commands are found in Scripture and are binding whereas the traditions of the elders are not biblical and therefore are not authoritative or binding.

Mark 7:8 (NKJV)

⁸ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.” ⁹ He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.”

Q2. Why did Jesus condemn the Pharisees for their traditions?

A2. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for their hypocrisy and for adding their own rules and traditions to God's law and treating them as divine. They appeared to be pious and zealous for the law of God, but their hearts were far from God.

Mark 7:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ ...'This people honours Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷ And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

Q3. In what ways, can we fall into the trap of elevating our traditions over truth and our preferences over priorities?

A3. Our spiritual pride can cause us to fall into the trap of elevating our traditions over truth and our preferences over priorities when we insist that others must follow what we deem as acceptable behaviour by our human standard. Just as the Pharisees criticized Jesus' disciples for not washing their hands, we too, judged others by their outward behaviour or appearance because they were different from us.

Mark 7:8 (NIVUK)

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.'

Application Questions

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

Q1. Share some of your bias or prejudice against people by their habits or outward appearance.

Q2. How can you avoid judging others by their mere appearance or behaviour?

Transition to Works:

Lord, thank You for letting us work with You to share Your joy with the world. Help us not to take for granted the gift of sharing Your gospel to the nations, and to our neighbors. Help us have eyes to see the needs around us and to respond to those needs in joy and hope. Thank you so much, Lord, for Your love and care over us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

WORKS (15 minutes)

1. Welcome Home!

Praise God, we have gone onsite for Service! Remind members to practice Philippians 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 someone else of an opportunity to attend the onsite service.
- c) Obey Covid-19 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 Covid-19 safe entry procedures. Don't abuse the Staff or volunteers on duty.

- e) Honour God – have a worshipful attitude.
- f) Be punctual – build in extra time so that you will be seated already when Service starts.
- g) Dress appropriately.
- h) Recognize 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, 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

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.

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. 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.fbc.org.sg/announcements or our social media platforms – we can be found on Facebook and Instagram @fbcsg.