

4Ws for Week 1, 4 Jan 2021 - 10 Jan 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. Dream Vacation

Imagine that you have just won an all-expenses paid, dream vacation for two. You can travel to any destination in the world and stay there for 2 weeks.

- A) Who would you bring with you? Where would you go? What would you do?
- B) After all your meticulous planning, you are suddenly told that this vacation will be (indefinitely) postponed. What would you do and how would you feel?

2. 3 Words

- A) Think of 3 Words that best describe your 2020.
- B) Think of 3 Words that you hope 2021 will be.

Transition to Worship:

It is a new year and things are ever changing. But the God we serve never changes. He is always faithful through all seasons! As we enter into a time of worship, allow our hearts to be filled with gratitude towards God and allow faith to stir and arise within us. Let us look towards Him and praise Him.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) Everlasting God (G)
- 2) What A Beautiful Name (D)
- 3) Yet Not I But Christ In Me (A)

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:

Heavenly Father, Your name is beautiful and Your love is everlasting! Regardless of the circumstances that we face in life, we know that we can always look to You. As we look forward to a fruitful year in 2021, may You increase and may we decrease. Amen.

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: 1 John 1:9 (NIVUK)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Sermon Title: There is More in Store

By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 02 & 03 Jan 2021

Scripture Passage: 1 Kings 18:41-46 (NLT)

⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go get something to eat and drink, for I hear a mighty rainstorm coming!” ⁴² So Ahab went to eat and drink. But Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed low to the ground and prayed with his face between his knees. ⁴³ Then he said to his servant, “Go and look out toward the sea.” The servant went and looked, then returned to Elijah and said, “I didn’t see anything.” Seven times Elijah told him to go and look. ⁴⁴ Finally the seventh time, his servant told him, “I saw a little cloud about the size of a man’s hand rising from the sea.” Then Elijah shouted, “Hurry to Ahab and tell him, ‘Climb into your chariot and go back home. If you don’t hurry, the rain will stop you!’” ⁴⁵ And soon the sky was black with clouds. A heavy wind brought a terrific rainstorm, and Ahab left quickly for Jezreel. ⁴⁶ Then the LORD gave special strength to Elijah. He tucked his cloak into his belt and ran ahead of Ahab’s chariot all the way to the entrance of Jezreel.

Introduction

Happy New Year! 2020 is gone and 2021 is here. 2020 was a different year for many if not all of us. This is true both on the personal and family-of-Christ level here in FCBC. Despite the many changes that are happening around us, there is one thing that definitely does not change – the promises of God – for our lives and for our church.

‘To Infinity and Beyond’ – that is a promise of God that was given to us as a church to move forward as well as to lay hold of Him, to believe for new opportunities and breakthroughs even as we enter 2021. There is definitely much more that God has intended and intends for us.

There are various challenges and difficulties that we will encounter even as we try to move forward. Sometimes it takes an immense faith for us to look beyond the challenges that is ahead of us. What does it take for us to develop a faith that will help us go to Infinity and Beyond?

1. A Faith Perspective
2. A Faithful Persistence

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. Despite the difficulties that I am facing, I truly believe that God has a great purpose and plan for me. Yet I feel oppressed and find it difficult to see God’s hand in my life. What can I do to see the light at the end of this tunnel?

A1. The lens that we use to view the situation around us will affect how we respond to them. It is great that we are starting off from a place of acknowledgement that God has a great purpose and plan for you. However, we cannot stop there and our response needs to accurately reflect the measure of faith that we profess to have.

1 Kings 18:1 (NLT)

¹ Later on, in the third year of the drought, the Lord said to Elijah, “Go and present yourself to King Ahab. Tell him that I will soon send rain!”

1 Kings 18:41 (NKJV)

⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain.”

Elijah's example here is a very apt depiction of a bold response from a position of faith. He was certain that there would be rain merely from the sound of thunder – not because the thunder was loud, but because the Lord said so! Do we trust that God is faithful? Yes! Do we trust that He is in control? Yes! Then our actions and our position needs to reflect so!

Have we planned everything out and placed ourselves in a “safe place” – so much so that we prevent ourselves from seeing from the perspective of God? It is when we shift our own position, that our paradigms start to shift, that's when we can truly operate from the perspective of faith!

1 Kings 18:42 (NLT)

⁴² ...But Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel and bowed low to the ground and prayed with his face between his knees.

In the face of difficulties, instead of trying to figure our own way out, we should instead turn to God. Are you desperate for a breakthrough? Then you need to go down on your knees in absolute surrender, lay hold of God and not let go. Let's shift our position, in order for our posture to change, so that our perspective can be corrected.

Q2. When I was younger, I had big dreams from and for God. However, years passed and I don't see it coming to fruition. I seem to have a very difficult time. Did I hear wrongly from God? Or have I missed the boat? Should I persevere on?

A2. We need to first take a close and careful look at our own position and posture. Were these dreams birthed out of selfish ambition and pride, or were they from God? We should be in close consultation and prayer together with our pastors and leaders. If indeed our heart is in the right place, only then can we look beyond the issue that we are currently facing and persist on in faith.

There might be times where we feel that we have received God's word – but yet we feel that there is no sense of guarantee that what is supposed to come to pass will come. Over time, we start to get jaded and we start to lose faith and hope. However, for the things of God, it is worthy for us to persist on!

1 Kings 18:42-44 (NKJV)

⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, ⁴³ and he said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” So he went up and looked, and said, “There is nothing.” And seven times he said, “Go again.” ⁴⁴ Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, “There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!” So he said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.’”

It is definitely not easy to persist on – especially when we have in our desperation, cried out to God over and over again and nothing seems to happen. We need to constantly remind ourselves that even though we do not seem to see God moving or doing anything, He IS moving according to His plan. Elijah's faith and his desire to persist on allowed him to go beyond. What seemed to be a tiny cloud and might mean nothing to others, was a clear sign to him that God was moving.

The dreams that God has given to you is NOT dead and you are not defeated. God can breathe new life into you again. Will you persist on in His purposes?

Application Questions

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

Q1. When you face a problem or difficulty, what is your default response? Do you try to solve everything on your own, or go before God in desperation?

Q2. Is there a promise that God has given to you but you have yet to see it come to pass? How do you feel about it? What are the steps you can take towards discerning it or to persist on?

Transition to Works:

Heavenly Father teach us to believe that in Your time, You will make everything beautiful. You know that our hearts long to see You and fulfil the purposes of Your kingdom. Renew the fire within us, guard and guide our hearts to see and perceive Your ways. Amen.

WORKS (15 minutes)

1. Consolidation of Visitors/New Converts from your Christmas Outreach

Assimilate them! Let them have a sense of belonging with 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.

2. Continue to Connect

a) With cell group members

1. Hold your cell members accountable to watch the Livestream Service or download the message to listen later. Suggest CG Members meet in the separate homes of some of the CG members to view together the online service. But keep to 8 guests per group or household.
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 post 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 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
 - e. Arrange get-togethers of no more than 8 persons.
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. But please keep to social distancing guidelines and limit to no more than 8 per group.

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.

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