

## 4Ws for Week 20, 16 - 22 May 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) Ease of COVID-19 restrictions

Each member to share what they like best about the ease of COVID-19 restrictions, e.g...

- a. No need to wear face mask in open spaces.
- b. Able to dine with friends and family members.
- c. Able to travel overseas and Malaysia for holidays.
- d. Able to worship onsite in church with the opening up of more church services.
- e. Good for mental health; less fearful or anxious

#### 2) Find the Books of the Bible

In the following story, there are sixteen books of the Bible hidden. Can you find them all?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books in the bible in this story.

#### Answers:

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books in the bible in this story.

#### Transition to Worship:

*All of God's works are wonderful! The Lord is great, and greatly to be praised! Let us come and bless Him at all times! Let us lift our voices to exalt Him for the things He has done in our lives.*

### WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following for your worship

- 1) Faithful – Chris Tomlin (D)
- 2) Worthy Of It All - David Brymer (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, let's release it to minister to each other.

**Transition to Word:**

*Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus, the Name that is above all names. Thank You for giving us the power of the Holy Spirit, which is greater than any power that exists in this world. Thank You for never giving up on us, even when we fail, time and time again. You are so merciful and kind. We will praise You with our whole hearts. We will tell of the marvelous things You have done. Your Name is worthy of praise!*

**WORD (45 minutes)**

**Memory verse of the week: 1 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

**Sermon Title: We're To Gather Again**

**By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong**

**on 14 - 15 May 2022**

**Scripture Passage: Hebrews 10:19-25 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and having a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Introduction**

One of the good aspects of the pandemic has been that it had brought about the modernisation of the church in general. While digitalisation of the church brought about many positives, there are negatives such as people perceiving onsite church service as irrelevant, or a thing of the past now; in that, all they need to do is to be part of the online church. There are even those who believe that they no longer need to belong to a church anymore because they can just stay at home, and watch a multitude of messages from their homes. And, there's even a new ideology that the time for the formal church is gone, and that everyone's home can be a church.

Like the early church in the New Testament, the issue of believers neglecting to assemble together is nothing new. In fact, it was for this reason that Hebrews 10:19-25 was written to teach believers the importance of gathering together as a church.

What is the significance of gathering together for Church?

1. It's An Expression Of **Our Commitment To One Another.**
2. It's An Expression Of **Our Commitment To God.**

## **Discovery and Understanding Questions:**

### **Q1. How does the Church's assembling together express our commitment to one another?**

**A1.** The church is not just a collection of random people gathered to do random things. Right from the beginning of Scripture, we learn that community is on God's heart, because even God exists in community, i.e. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen 1:26, 2:18). Hence, the Christian faith is all about community instead of being solitary or individualistic.

In the book of Hebrews, the writer uses phrases such as: "brethren" (Heb. 10:19) as an intimate way of addressing a family member; and "house of God" (Heb. 10:21-22) that refers to the church as a community and a family. In fact, for the latter, the Greek word used refers to 2 things – a home (dwelling), and a family/lineage. And then in Heb.10:24-25, we see the writer of Hebrew concluding with the emphasis on "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..."

#### **Genesis 1:26 (NIVUK)**

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, 'Let **us** make mankind in our image, in **our** likeness...

#### **Genesis 2:18 (NIVUK)**

<sup>18</sup> The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone...

#### **Hebrews 10:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

#### **Hebrews 10:21-25 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> and having a High Priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart... <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope... <sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

### **Q2. How does the Church's assembling together express our commitment to God?**

**A2.** The key focus is on community – our commitment to one another expresses our commitment to God because a commitment to God has to result in a commitment to one another.

**a.** It is only when we gather as a community, both in cell and in church, that we can accomplish things that either the cell or the church by itself cannot. (Acts 2:46-47; Heb.10:24-25).

**b.** When we are in a community, we exemplify the things of God in every aspect of our lives. Our commitment to both cell and church enables us to motivate one another to develop and reflect the character of God (Gal.5:22-23), which then expresses our commitment to God – to love God, love one another, and to do good to others (Heb.10:24-25; Matt.5:13-16).

**c.** As we look at Heb.10:25, the phrase "the Day approaching" refers to the day of judgment or the second coming of Christ. The question we need to ask ourselves is this – what will the King of Kings and Lord of Lords say to us at His return?

### **Acts 2:46-47 (NKJV)**

<sup>46</sup> So continuing daily with one accord in the **temple**, and breaking bread from **house to house**, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

### **Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see **the Day approaching**.

### **Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control...

### **Hebrews 10:24 (YLV)**

<sup>24</sup> and may we consider one another to **provoke** to love and to good works,

### **Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. <sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

### **Application Questions**

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

**Q1.** Share your experience in coming back to FCBC’s onsite service.

**Q2.** Share your challenges in adjusting to attending onsite church service and in-person cell meetings.

### **Transition to Works:**

*Lord, we are blessed to be worshipping You – a God who changes not, and who has authority over all things. Help us respond correctly to You on obedience and righteousness. Daily cause us to submit to You and Your Word.*

### **WORKS (15 minutes)**

#### **1. 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.

#### **2. 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/programs.

### **3. 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.

### **4. 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 or in-person. Ensure that none of your members fall through the cracks. Continue to monitor the attendance of your 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.fcfc.org.sg/connectwithus](http://www.fcfc.org.sg/connectwithus)
  - For Chinese -- [www.fcfc.org.sg/zh/connectwithus](http://www.fcfc.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.fcfc.org.sg/announcements](http://www.fcfc.org.sg/announcements) or our social media platforms – we can be found on Facebook and Instagram @fcfcsg.