

4Ws for Week 23 (3 – 9 Jun 2024)

WELCOME (15 minutes)

(If there are first-time guests, begin with a round of introduction and warmly welcome the new visitors.)

Suggested icebreakers:

1. Biblical Encounter

Have the members take turns sharing: If you were able to visit heaven, which biblical person would you want to talk to, besides Jesus? Why?

2. Picture Me!

Pass a pencil and a piece of paper to each member. Ask them to draw a caricature of themselves that helps describe who they are. In the drawing, they can also add things that best represent them, such as their hobbies or talents. After several minutes, everyone will take turns sharing their drawings.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

(Encourage members to allow the Holy Spirit to minister through them by sharing words, visions, tongues and interpretations of tongues.)

Suggested worship songs:

1. Happy Day
2. Agnus Dei

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: Rev Daniel Khong

Scripture Passage: Isaiah 43:18-19

Sermon Title: Stepping Into A New Season

Introduction

God wants to refresh His children and His Church with new seasons of renewal. For us, His beloved people, to step into this new season of renewal, we need to:

- a) Embrace the process – which involves *fixing our eyes on God (the Promise-Maker)*.
- b) Face the problems – which entails *setting our hearts on God (the Promise-Keeper)*.

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. Meditate on Isaiah 43:19; Exodus 6:7-8; 14:11-12; 16:2-3; Exodus 17:3,16. What lessons do these texts contain?

A1: God had determined to lead His people into the Promised Land, yet He didn't take them there *immediately*. Instead, He guided them through a *process* of entering the Promised Land, which involved wilderness struggles such as scarcity of food and water, and the loss of "comforts" of Egypt. Nevertheless, God also promised to pave a way for them in the wilderness and provide streams in the wasteland (Isaiah 43:19).

Q2. Read and ponder over Ex 14:9-16. List the lessons to be derived.

A2. Although God had previously performed mighty miracles to bring the Israelites to the point of leaving Egypt, He continued to do mighty works to lead them to the Promised Land (the new

season He was preparing for His people). The Israelites were to face the Red Sea ahead of them (rather than the Egyptians pursuing them from behind) and *take the first step of walking into waters of the Red Sea*.

Q3. Think through Isaiah 43:18-19. What are the key facts in these verses?

A3. The key facts in these verses are:

- a) God wants to do a new thing (bring a new season of renewal) for His people; He has started the process of renewal (It has already sprung forth); He will continue to fulfill His promise by making a way in the wilderness (creating a pathway) and providing rivers in the desert/wasteland (ensuring their survival).
- b) God's people must do their part by forgetting the past and not dwelling on it (as they cannot change it) and by looking ahead to the new thing He has in store for them, entering into their destiny.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Reflect on Revelation 21:5 - "Behold, I make all things new".

- a) Share areas of your life where you need God's renewal. Consider whether you seek "brand new experiences and encounters," or if you desire similar experiences and encounters but with fresh life, strength, and outcomes."
- b) What steps can you take to enter into your new season of renewal?

Q2. Meditate on Isaiah 43:18 – "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past".

- a) What are some past (incidents/hurts/struggles/temptations, etc) that you need to let go of?
- b) What steps/actions do you need to take to progress forward?
- c) Who can help you with this (if applicable)?

Q3. "Your greatest challenge is the greatest opportunity to encounter God".

- a) Share one challenge you are currently facing that you would like to transform into an opportunity to encounter God.
- b) In what ways can this challenge be transformed into an opportunity for you to encounter God?

WORKS (15 minutes)

Focus on *edification, equipping and evangelism*.

1. **Build on the momentum of all your outreach efforts** - continue praying for your pre-believing friends and family, connect with them, and invite them to your Cell and our Weekend Services.
2. **Consolidation of new believers** – Diligently pray for and reach out to your friends and family who have decided to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, guiding and helping them grow in the faith.

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