

4Ws for Week 24, 14-20 Jun 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. Foremost Consideration

Which decision is the most important you have made so far? Going to which university to study, what career path to take, who to marry, where to live? Share who or what guided you in making the decision.

2. New Activity/Hobby

Share something new that you are embarking on, an activity you are enjoying or perhaps a hobby cultivated.

Transition to Worship:

The Psalmist proclaims in Psalm 9:1-2, "I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High." Let's enter into God's presence just like the Psalmist with a heart of thanksgiving and in rendering the highest praise to the LORD.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) Forever Reign (E)
- 2) Shout To The Lord (E)
- 3) 10,000 Reasons (A)

Let us pause to wait upon the Lord for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We 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:

Psalm 119: 9, "How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. Psalm 119: 105, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Lord Jesus, indeed you are the Way, the Truth and the Life; and no one can come to the Father except through you. Let your word be the firm foundation of our lives.

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Exodus 27:21 (NIVUK)

"In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law, Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the LORD from evening till morning. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come."

Sermon Title: The Songs We Sing: Take My Life and Let It Be
By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 12 & 13 June 2021

Scripture Passages: Luke 9:23-25 (NIVUK), Genesis 22:1-18 (NLT)

Luke 9:23-25 (NIVUK)

²³ Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

Genesis 22:1-18 (NLT)

¹ Some time later, God tested Abraham’s faith. “Abraham!” God called. “Yes,” he replied. “Here I am.” ² “Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.”

³ The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about.

⁴ On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.”

⁶ So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, ⁷ Isaac turned to Abraham and said, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “We have the fire and the wood,” the boy said, “but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?” ⁸ “God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. ⁹ When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood.

¹⁰ And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹ At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!”

¹² “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.” ¹³ Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. ¹⁴ Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the LORD will provide”). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

¹⁵ Then the angel of the LORD called again to Abraham from heaven. ¹⁶ “This is what the LORD says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that ¹⁷ I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. ¹⁸ And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.”

Introduction

Last weekend, SP Daniel started on a new sermon series called, “The Songs We Sing”; a series that he used to preach at Teens Xcite Service when he was a youth pastor then. He shared that sometimes we just go through the motion in church. We sing because it’s just part of the programme, and we don’t really know why we sing, much less what we’re singing. A pastor once said these words, “Sing what you mean and mean what you sing”. Last weekend, SP Daniel started with the hymn “Take My Life and

Let It Be” written by Frances Havergal in 1874. Havergal wrote this hymn in response to wanting to see God moves.

Take My Life And Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

The theme of this hymn “Take My Life and Let It Be” is about submission, surrender and sacrifice. Another passage of scripture, Genesis 22:1-18, ties in well with this hymn and theme too. From Genesis 22:1-18, we learned how God called Abraham to offer up his only son, Isaac, on the altar as a sacrifice. Abraham did not hesitate in his submission to God but trusted God fully and completely. Hence, we learn that what it means to live a life of submission, surrender; and sacrifice is to have:

1. Absolute Commitment
2. Complete Trust

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. How did Abraham show absolute commitment in a difficult situation?

A1. When God called Abraham, he acknowledged straightaway, “Here I am” (Genesis 22:1). Then God told him to take Isaac and offer him up as a sacrifice on Mt. Moriah. Though he couldn’t understand fully, yet he didn’t hesitate but got up early the next morning to prepare for the journey (Genesis 22:3). Abraham showed absolute commitment in obeying God when he arranged the wood, laid Isaac on the altar; ready to offer him up as a burnt offering (Genesis 22:9-10).

God is looking for disciples, not spectators. A disciple must be willing to lay down everything and anything; even to lose his life. (Luke 9:23-24)

Gen.22:9-10 (NLT)

⁹When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice.

Luke 9:23-24 (NIVUK)

²³ Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me’ ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

“More than once Jesus deliberately addressed certain issues that quickly diminished the number of onlookers. It was commitment that thinned the ranks.” – Chuck Swindoll.

Q2. Why must we have complete trust in God?

A2. Trust is something that is either complete or incomplete. There is no 50% trust but it’s always 100% or nothing. Otherwise, we will not be a disciple of Christ but an onlooker. Proverbs 3:5-6 exhorts us to trust in the Lord with all our heart and to submit to Him in all our ways. Both Abraham and his son Isaac exhibited complete trust in God, knowing that He would provide the sheep for the sacrifice. Consider the examples of Job and Jesus.

Job exhibited his complete trust in God when he lost his children and all his possessions and would not curse God but acknowledged Him as Creator and Giver of all things. (Job 1:21) In Jesus’ day, many were onlookers, but few were willing to become disciples and trust in Him completely. They acknowledged Jesus, but did not trust in Him (Psalm 20:7). The rich young ruler who came to Jesus asked “What must I do to have eternal life?”. When Jesus asked him to sell all he had, give it to the poor and to follow Him, he couldn’t do it because his trust was in his riches.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIVUK)

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Job 1:21 (NKJV)

And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Psalm 20:7 (NIVUK)

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

“Talk what we will of faith, if we do not trust and rely upon Him, we do not believe in Him.” – Anthony Farindon

Application Questions

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

Q1. On a scale of 1-5, share what is the current level of your commitment to God (1 is Minimum and 5 is Absolute) and what you need to do to raise your commitment?

Q2. Do you have complete trust in God as Jehovah Jireh and believe that He would provide all your needs or are you trusting in horses and chariots (earthly possessions)? Also, share your faith experiences with God to encourage and inspire one another.

Transition to Works:

Acts 1:8, “But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**” Let’s receive the Holy Spirit’s empowering and **go forth** to proclaim the redemptive plan of God in Christ Jesus to all mankind everywhere.

WORKS (15 minutes)

1. 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.

The next XFXZ will be in September. Use the CG time to prepare your members and get their buy-in to conducting a XFXZ cell the next round.

2. Prayer over the COVID-19 situation

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

3. Consolidation of Visitors/New Converts from your outreach

Assimilate them! Let them experience a sense of belonging in 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.

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. 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.

5. 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.

6. Announcements

a. TIGHTER MEASURES FOR IN-PERSON CHURCH GATHERINGS

With the return to Phase Three (Heightened Alert), from 14 June, the maximum permissible group size is no more than 5 persons (an increase from 2). The tightening of measures reflects the seriousness of the current COVID-19 situation. Take heed and remain vigilant at all times!

In line with the government's measures: -

- **All FCBC in-person cell meetings and gatherings will be suspended.**
- All English, Chinese and Hokkien Services will only be held online.
- English, Chinese, and Hokkien Services will continue to be streamed at their regular service timings on our YouTube channel.
- There will be no live-streamed Youth Service until further notice.
- Online GKidz and Youth programmes will continue to run.
- LifeClass will be conducted online only.

b. Leaders' Meeting with SP Daniel Khong

There will an online leaders meeting on Wednesday, 23 June 2021, from 8pm to 9.30pm. It will be hosted on YouTube and the link will be circulated through Team Pastors closer to the date. Mandarin interpretation will be provided.

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