

4Ws for Week 29 (15-21 Jul 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. Who is the eldest?

Who is the eldest in your family? Tell us what it's like to be the firstborn.

2. Sniper

The goal in this icebreaker is to identify the sniper. You will need a deck of cards. Count out as many cards as you have guests, making sure one card is the joker. Have everyone sit in a circle so that they can see everyone else. Shuffle the cards and deal them out to your guests, instructing them to keep their cards hidden.

Give the following directions:

- One of you has the joker, and whoever has it is the sniper. The goal of everyone else is to find out who the sniper is. The sniper winks at people to eliminate them. If someone is winked at, they shout, "I'm dead!" and leave the circle. No one winks except the sniper.
- Anyone suspecting the sniper can accuse them. If wrong, they are out with a funny forfeit. Guessing correctly wins the game and forces the sniper to do a forfeit.
- Prepare some silly forfeits for those winked at or who guess wrong. Play multiple rounds or until interest fades.

Materials needed: A deck of cards with one joker included.

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) God Is For Us – City Alight
- 2) Starlight

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: Pastor Wang Guanghan

Scripture Passage: Luke 15: 11, 21-32 (NIVUK)

Sermon Title: The Elder Brother

Introduction

Beyond the familiar story of a wayward son, the parable of the Prodigal Son offers a deeper lesson. This is because the elder brother represents pride, a preoccupation with ourselves. As Christians, we have to be careful about having pride in our lives because it blinds us to God's grace and hinders our ability to live according to His will.

How can we turn away from pride?

1. Recognise God's Provision for us
2. Remember Our Position in God

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. Why was the elder brother figuratively as lost as his younger brother, even when he was in his father's house? How can we guard ourselves from pride?

A1: The elder brother's problem is that he believed his obedience and hard work deserved special treatment, failing to appreciate the privilege of being in his father's house and his presence. As a result, he failed to recognise the provisions his father had given him all along, focusing only on himself and what he lacked.

Just as the elder brother took for granted the blessings of being close to his father, we too can be blinded by pride to the blessings we already have through God in our own lives. This pride can prevent us from having compassion for others, especially the lost.

Q2. How does pride reduce the elder son's position to being a slave and not a son?

A2. Due to his pride, the elder son resents his father's favor towards the younger son. He believes he deserves better treatment because of his faithfulness, and feels his good behaviour is being taken for granted. He resentfully reminded his father, "I have been slaving for you all these years..." This prideful attitude reduces him to a servant focused on earning his father's approval, rather than a son secure in his loved position.

Application Questions

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

Q1. How do we exhibit elder brother behavior in our daily lives?

Q2. How can we avoid the pitfalls associated with the "elder brother syndrome"?

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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