

4Ws for Week 2, 11 - 17 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. Who are you?

Ask a volunteer to leave the zoom meeting and to re-enter after 10 seconds. While the volunteer is away, the rest of the cell members are to decide on an occupation for him/her, such as a fisherman, tap dancer and so on. When the volunteer returns, the rest of the cell will mime the activities. The volunteer must guess the occupation that has been chosen for him/her from the activities that are mimed. This game can continue with different volunteers. Suggested occupations: Interior designer, hair dresser, plumber, lawyer, safe distancing ambassador, pastor, waiter, pilot and cashier.

2. Colour Pick and Show.

Ask everyone to stand up. The game is to have someone choose a colour and everyone to look for the colour item mentioned around them in the shortest time and pick it up to show everyone over zoom. You can start the game by telling everyone to find something blue. This could be a blue shirt, pen, shoe or whatever. Continue the game in this way, have the next person call out her/his suggestion of colours for things to pick and show. You can up the challenge by picking rare colours to show and be the winner (when no one has that colour). Enjoy!

Transition to Worship:

The Psalmist said, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." So, let's come and bless Him and lift our voices to exalt Him for He is worthy to be praised! Lord, we come into Your presence today, as a cell group, bringing our praises, our mind, our being to You. Lord, let every move we make every day be made for Jesus! Amen

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) Every Move I Make – David Ruis (E)
- 2) Cornerstone (G)
- 3) Waymaker (G)

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:

Dear God, thank You for Your presence and ministry among us. As we discuss the message, open our hearts to hear Your voice and teach us Your Word. We don't want to be only hearers of your Word but doers also. Quicken our hearts to respond and to be obedient and submissive to the authority of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus name, Amen!

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: 2 John 1:6 (NIVUK)

⁶ And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

Sermon Title: It's Not Nothing
By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 09 & 10 Jan 2021

Scripture Passage: 1 Kings 18:41-45 (NKJV)

⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." 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 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.'" ⁴⁵ Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.

Introduction

In 1 Kings 18 Elijah told his servant to "go again" and that has been the word for many of us. As long as we make it a point to take a *faith perspective* towards all the things going on around us, and continue to *faithfully persist* in the things that God has called us to do, we can and will move towards infinity and beyond.

Many times, we believe for breakthroughs; yet nothing seems to happen. That was precisely what Elijah went through. The moment God told Elijah it was going to rain; it was not raining. Nothing happened.

Two truths keep us going when nothing seems to happen:

1. It's not nothing; it's just unseen
2. It's not nothing; it's a start

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. Why is it important for us to be patient, persistent and persevering even when nothing seems to happen?

A1. This is because things are happening unseen even though it seems like nothing is happening. Elijah persisted, asking his servant six times to look towards the sea for rain; only at the seventh time did the servant see a cloud, as small as a man's hand rising out of the sea. Things were already set in motion from the first time when Elijah's servant looked toward the sea. Elijah hoped in God's promises; that was why he could fix his eyes on what is unseen and persevere.

1 Kings 18:44 (NKJV)

⁴³ and 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.’”

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIVUK)

¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Q2. Why is “It’s not nothing, it’s a start” such an important truth to keep us going?

A2. For something to grow and become what it needs to become, it needs a start. When we do not experience what we expect, we feel like it is nothing or we treat it like it’s nothing much. But when we see that the something small that is happening is the start of something bigger, then we begin to expect even greater things to happen from such small beginnings.

Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin ...

Wherever and whatever God is calling you to is not just a destination. It is also a journey. You cannot reach a destination without going on the journey. You cannot go on the journey without starting. When it seems like things are not happening, that is when we need to double down even more and continue to trust God.

Application Questions

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

Q1. As you start 2021, what are some things you want to persist in, even when you do not see any results at the moment.

Q2. Recount some situations where it felt like nothing was happening but God’s promise came through as you persevered and persisted.

Transition to Works:

Now, shall we spend some time to discuss the outreach activities of our cell. Let us look at the following:

WORKS (15 minutes)

1. Consolidation of Visitors/New Converts from your outreach

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

4. Chinese New Year Visits & Outreach

Start planning outreach activities during the Chinese New Year period – e.g., organise visits to your members' homes to interact with their parents; distribute Chinese New Year goodies to the elderly poor in your neighbourhood and make friends with them, etc.

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