

## 4Ws for Week 30 (22 – 28 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. Hard Truths, Heart Truths

Share a time in your life when you were confronted with a hard truth and how it became a heart truth for you.

Often, for a hard truth to become a heart truth, it requires a response from us—either to acknowledge and repent from the folly of our old ways or to follow through with change.

##### 2. Hidden Treasure

Prepare: Post-it Pads, pens/pencils, a small jar/bowl.

Everyone writes down a secret talent or unknown skill that they have, which is not generally known to others. It should be difficult to guess.

- Fold the slip of paper and drop it into the jar/bowl.
- Give it a good toss, and the leader will pick a slip one by one, reading out what was written.
- The group will collectively try to guess whose slip it is.
- The person who wrote it can then share a brief backstory about what was written.

Sometimes, there are interesting and unexpected things about each other that we do not know. Similarly, there are amazing and hidden things in the heart of God. When we draw near to God, we will get to know these things.

### 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) Hindsight
- 2) Anastasis

### WORD (45 minutes)

**Preacher:** Rev Daniel Khong

**Scripture Passage:** Matthew 15:1-20

**Sermon Title:** Heart Alignment

#### Introduction

We are halfway through the Love Singapore churches' season of 40-days of prayer and fasting. This is also a great time for us to do a 'heart check-up'. Prayer and fasting are all about denying ourselves and our desires in order to turn our focus and attention to God. Have we achieved this purpose, or have our hearts been distracted? We need to realign our hearts.

Two hard truths to remind us to realign our hearts to God, and two hopeful truths to keep our hearts aligned to God are:

1. Our Hearts are Deceitful – God’s Heart is Faithful.
2. Our Hearts are Divided – God’s Heart is For you.

### **Discovery and Understanding Questions:**

#### **Q1. Why is it so hard to align our hearts to God?**

**A1:** We often buy into the false narrative of the world that people are inherently good. This is contrary to scripture, which constantly reminds us that the natural condition of our hearts is sinful.

But it is not all doom and gloom. While we have a propensity towards evil, we worship a God who has a propensity towards grace. When we choose to repent and turn towards God, He can and will forgive us. Let us make the choice not to follow our own hearts, but God’s heart.

#### **Q2. I’ve been a Christian all my life, why do I find it hard to have faith in God?**

**A2:** This may be due to having a divided heart. We may claim to trust God, but deep down, we don’t fully. This is why we question the very nature of God as shown in Scripture. When we question God’s nature, it reveals that our trust in Him is either very generic or superficial.

When we are unable to trust God deeply, it manifests in ways where we tend to either look out only for our own interests or withhold and reserve certain areas of our lives, telling God not to “touch them.” If you love Jesus, then you will follow His commands.

### **Application Questions**

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

**Q1. Are there areas of sin that you have allowed into your life and constantly find ways to justify?**

**Q2. Is there an area in your life where you have told God, “anything but this”? Why do you find it hard to surrender this area?**

**Q3. Do you trust in the very nature and character of God, or do you always question who He says He is?**

### **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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