

## **4Ws for Week 30, 25 – 31 July 2022**

*(With COVID-19, this 4Ws is to be adapted for use at both online and in-person 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. Zoom Background Charades (Online Meeting)**

Ahead of the meeting, have your attendees upload a background based on a theme and have everyone guess where the photo was taken or what it depicts.

Some suggested ideas:

- A photo from a scene in their favourite movie.
- A photo from a favourite vacation.
- A place they'd like to visit.
- The best meal they've ever had (have people guess the name of the dish and where it's from).

#### **2. Paper airplanes (Onsite Meeting)**

Each attendee is handed a piece of paper when they enter. On it, they must write the answers to two designated questions of your choice. Next, instruct them to stand in a circle and launch their airplanes into the middle. Then instruct each attendee to pick up one airplane that is not theirs and read the answer. Their goal is to guess who is the airplane's owner.

#### **Transition to Worship:**

*O Lord, our God, we gather today to give you thanks and praise your greatness. We praise your mighty works to the whole world. We praise you for your wonderful deeds. Your power is limitless, your wisdom is unparalleled, your grace is overwhelming, your love is never failing. Amen!*

### **WORSHIP (20 minutes)**

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) House of the Lord - Phil Wickham (C)
- 2) Come Holy Spirit - Vertical Worship (E)

*(Remember to pause for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Encourage members to exercise the gifts of the Spirit. If there's a word, a vision, tongues and interpretation of tongues, release it to minister to each other).*

#### **Transition to Word:**

*Thank you Father for making yourself known to us, showing us the way of salvation through faith in your Son. We ask you now to teach us through your word, so that we may be ready to serve you, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **WORD (45 minutes)**

**Memory verse of the week: 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

**Sermon Title: Spiritual Growth**  
**By SP Rev. Daniel Khong**

**on 23 & 24 July 2022**

**Scripture Passage: John 15:1-8 (NIVUK)**

**John 15:1-8 (NIVUK)**

<sup>1</sup> ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

### **Introduction**

To be good witnesses for God, we must be able to show the fruit or result of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. A growing Christian will bear the fruit of the Spirit, which in Scripture refers to:

1. Behavioral change (transformation to be Christlike)
2. Offspring (to fill the earth)
3. Harvest (good works)
4. Harvest (making disciples)

However, in order for us to constantly grow in our Christian life, we need to understand that:

1. Growth does not happen independently – we need to depend on God.
2. Growth does not happen in isolation – we need to be part of the community.
3. Growth does not happen instantly – we need to give ourselves time.

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

**Q1. What does Jesus mean that in order for us to bear fruit, we must remain in the vine?**

**A1.** Using a plant as an analogy for spiritual growth, Jesus said that a branch cannot bear fruit independently by itself. To bear fruit, the branch must remain connected to the vine. Similarly, for us who are His disciples, we cannot bear fruit by ourselves. We need to remain connected to Jesus, the true Vine. We cannot bear fruit apart from Him. To grow spiritually, we must depend on God.

**John 15:1, 4-5 (NIVUK)**

<sup>1</sup> ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

**Q2. Why is it that we cannot grow spiritually in isolation, but need to be in community in order to grow?**

**A2.** In the analogy of the vine and the branches, the branches signify community. In John 15:1-8, Jesus spoke to His disciples together as a group and not as individuals. The word 'You' used was in the plural form, which meant 'You all'. So, for the disciples to love one another, they have to live as a community. The fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control can only be produced when we are in a community. We need one another to help us grow spiritually.

**John 15:1-2 (NIVUK)**

<sup>1</sup> 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

**John 15:6-8 (NIVUK)**

<sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**John 15:9-13 (NIVUK)**

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control.

**Q3. Why doesn't spiritual growth happen instantly and why do we need to give ourselves time to grow spiritually?**

**A3.** It takes years for us to grow to adulthood, and it takes a full season for fruit to mature and ripen. The same is true for the fruit of the Spirit. The development of a Christ-like character cannot be rushed. Spiritual growth, like physical growth, takes time. Just like a gardener prunes the branches from time to time to make it more fruitful, God often allows us to experience challenges periodically so that we can grow spiritually. Growth is a process. Even Jesus had to grow until He was 30 years old before starting His ministry.

**John 15:1-2 (NIVUK)**

<sup>1</sup> 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

**Luke 2:40, 52 (NIVUK)**

<sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

### **Application Questions**

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

**Q1. Draw on a piece of paper your spiritual growth trajectory and share whether you are a child, a teenager, a young adult or a parent in your spiritual growth stage.**

**Q2. Share what you need to do in order to grow spiritually.**

### **Transition to Works:**

*Heavenly Father, give us faith to receive your word, understanding to know what it means, and the will to put it into practice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **WORKS (15 minutes)**

#### **1. Focus on CG Outreach**

The focus of CG meetings is *edification, equipping* and *evangelism*. In every CG meeting, spend 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.

#### **2. Continue to Connect with Potential BESTs / Pre-Believers**

- a. Make evangelism a lifestyle – each week invite pre-believing friends/BESTs/3x3 contacts (depending on their comfort level) to join you in watching our livestream service/in church onsite service. Connect with them and spur other members to do so.
- b. When the salvation altar call is made during the service, a Response Form link will be screened for those who have responded or want to respond, to fill in. The links are:
  - For English -- [www.fcbc.org.sg/connectwithus](http://www.fcbc.org.sg/connectwithus)
  - For Chinese -- [www.fcbc.org.sg/zh/connectwithus](http://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 service.

#### **3. Encourage CG Members to Attend Onsite Service**

Arrange to meet up before or after service for fellowship. Get them to invite pre-believing contacts to the service. Use the pre/post service fellowship times for your CG members to connect with your invitees.

#### **4. FCBC Conference (25 – 28 Aug)**

Remind your members to block out these dates for the above:

- 25 August, Thursday, evening (for Leaders only)
- 26 August, Friday, evening
- 27 August, Saturday, (full day)
- 28 August, Sunday, morning till afternoon

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