

4Ws for Week 33, 14 – 20 Aug 2023

WELCOME (15 minutes)

(If there are first-time guests, begin with a round of introduction and warmly welcome the new visitors.)

Suggested icebreakers:

1. National Day 2023 – Onward As One

Share one of the items you have enjoyed the most during the NDP celebrations at the Padang. (If applicable)

2. Singapore's History Quiz

Madam Halimah Yacob is our nation's 8th President. Can you list the former presidents in consecutive order?

Answers: Encik Yusof Ishak (1965 – 1970), Dr Benjamin Sheares (1971 – 1981), Mr Devan Nair (1981 – 1985), Dr Wee Kim Wee (1985 – 1993), Mr Ong Teng Cheong (1993 – 1999), Mr S. R. Nathan (1999 – 2011), Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam (2011 – 2017).

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

(Remember to pause for the Holy Spirit to minister through the members. Encourage members to release a word, a vision, tongues and interpretation of tongues, to minister to each other.)

Suggested worship songs:

- 1) Champion - Bryan and Katie Torwalt
- 2) What A Beautiful Name - Hillsong

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

Scripture Passage: James 2:14-26 (NLT)

Sermon Title: Faith Is Action

Introduction

We are not merely listeners of God's word; you and I must also be doers. Otherwise, we are simply deceiving ourselves (James 1:22). Faith and action go hand in hand, as faith finds its demonstration through actions (James 2:14, 18).

A striking example of faith in action from the Bible is the story of Abraham offering up Isaac as a sacrifice, in obedience to God's command. Scripture tells us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith" (James 2:23, NLT). He was even considered a friend of God. This episode vividly illustrates Abraham's complete dependence and unwavering devotion to God. Similarly, individuals like Rahab, the prostitute who chose to hide the spies, and Apostle Peter, who stepped out of the boat in faith, also exhibited their faith in action.

Faith is any action that demonstrates our:

- Dependence on God
- Devotion to God

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. Who in the Bible can we learn about when it comes to putting faith into action and demonstrating dependence on God?

A1. In the Bible, James 2:21-23 cites Abraham as an example. God called him to sacrifice his son, Isaac, and although Abraham prepared to obey (Genesis 22), an angel intervened. This exhibited his complete dependence on God. Abraham's tested faith demonstrated his dependence on God (Hebrews 11:8-10), as his actions completed his faith (James 2:22).

Q2. What does it mean to be devoted to God?

A2. Abraham's faith led him to obey God (Hebrews 11:8). He chose to be devoted to God instead of himself. Choosing God means choosing to do the things that God has called for him to do. Another example is Rahab (James 2:25), who aided the Israelite spies scouting out the city of Jericho; she hid them. She could have done nothing, but she made a choice (took action) and protected the spies (Hebrews 11:31).

Application Questions

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

Q1. Share how you can put your faith in God into action. Reflect on the quote by David Livingstone: "Sympathy is no substitute for action."

Q2. Share how you can grow in your dependency and devotion to God?

WORKS (15 minutes)

Focus on *edification*, *equipping* and *evangelism*. In every CG gathering, encourage members to reach out right where God has placed them. Give members time to share their outreach efforts. Press on in praying together for Bests and pre-believer contacts.

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