

4Ws for Week 34, 17 – 23 Aug 2020

(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. What You Hope For

Have everyone answer a question about hope. For example: What is your hope for the remainder of the year?

2. Recognising Hope

Show the following “definitions” on your screen display. Ask your members which they would pick as a definition for the word ‘hope’. There is no right answer – all of these are definitions found online. Hope can mean different things when we use the word in slightly different ways.

- The opposite of despair
- A belief in positive outcome
- A wish for something with expectation of its fulfilment
- To look forward with confidence/expectation
- Someone or something that is a source/reason for hopefulness
- The desire for and search for future good
- A thing, situation or event that is desired
- Something hope is born of activism, engagement and a stubborn determination to improve the world

Transition to Worship:

Our God is an awesome God. He is kind, tenderhearted, and merciful. Our Father loves us with an everlasting love and He is always concerned about our welfare. Today, bless the Lord. Lift up your praises to the One who is the living God; our God who is our Father.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following suggested worship songs:

- 1) Forever Reign (E)
- 2) Awesome In This Place – Hillsong (D)
- 3) Nothing Else – Cody Carnes (E)

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:

Father, Your Word is more desirable than gold, yes, even the finest gold. Your Word is sweeter than honey dripping from the honeycomb. Your Word warns us and we expect great reward as we adhere to it. Father, You are great and most worthy of praise. Speak to us we pray. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Sermon Title: A Beacon To The World: Hopefulness

By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 15 & 16 Aug 2020

Scripture Passage: 1 Peter 1:1-13 (NLT)

¹ This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. ² God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, ⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. ⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

⁸ You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. ¹¹ They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward.

¹² They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.

¹³ So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.

Introduction

Some 30 years after the resurrection of Jesus, the Christians in the Apostle Peter's day faced great persecution for their faith. As we learn how the Christians then responded, the same applies to us today. How should we respond to suffering today? How can we be a beacon of hope to the world, especially with this pandemic? How can we overcome our hopeless situation to believe in a hope that remains, a hope that never fails, and a hope that is real – the hope that Jesus Christ gives us?

In 1 Peter 1:1-13, the Apostle Peter offered 3 ways we can remain hopeful in hopeless situations:

1. Preserve Our Thoughts
2. Protect Our Emotions
3. Persevere In Faith

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. How did the Apostle Peter comfort the believers facing persecution and why is it important for us to preserve our thoughts and protect our emotions when we face sufferings?

A1. The apostle Peter’s purpose in writing this epistle – 1 Peter was to bring hopefulness to believers in the midst of hopelessness. He urged them to put all their future hopes in Christ, and to obey and trust Him in the present. Likewise, for us, in spite of whatever sufferings we may face, we too can remain hopeful in hopeless situations by preserving our thoughts and protecting our emotions, lest we succumb to wrong thinking or fear, and ultimately end up proceeding with wrong actions and responses. Only then can we be a beacon of hope to the world.

1 Peter 1:13 (NLT)

So prepare your minds for action...

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Q2. How can our persevering in faith enable us to overcome a hopeless situation?

A2. When we persevere in faith, that faith will help us tap into the power from God that helps us overcome. Persevering in faith is all about resting and setting our hope on God. And the more we persevere in faith, the stronger that faith becomes.

1 Peter 1:13 (NLT)

So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT)

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold.

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Describe a situation which you overcame and how it strengthened your faith.

Q2. How can we, as a cell, be a beacon of hope to the people around us in this pandemic?

Transition to Works:

1 Tim 2:3-4, “This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Since our task is to share the gospel, let’s take time to pray, to win, to consolidate, to disciple and then to send our disciples out to become disciple-maker for the Lord Jesus.

WORKS (15 minutes)

1. 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.
2. Seek ways and means to stay connected with each other, especially those who've been impacted by COVID-19's post circuit breaker. 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.
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 or COVID-19. 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. Now with Phase 2 of Circuit Breaker, 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 5 per group.

2. 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.

3. Consolidation of New Converts

Assimilate them! Let them have a sense of belonging with 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.

Announcements:

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