

4Ws for Week 35, 24-30 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. One Word

What's the **one word** you'd use to describe the future in this COVID-19 pandemic? Let everyone share what is the **one word** they have chosen. The choice of the **one word** reveal not only our mindset and outlook of the current circumstances but also of the foundation of our faith in God, who is sovereign. Remind your members that God is in control.

2. Skill Set

Everyone should be constantly trying to improve themselves. It could be work-related or of personal interest. Ask each one what is one skill they would like to develop or have already acquired in this "new normal" that we are in now. Happy sharing!

Transition to Worship:

Psa. 121:2-3, 8 - "My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. The LORD will guard your going out and coming in from this time forth and forever." Our God is our Protector and Keeper, He is worthy of our praise and worship.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) This Is Amazing Grace (D)
- 2) The Blessing (C)
- 3) Still (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:

He swore by Himself, saying, "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you." As it's impossible for God to lie, thus we have this hope as the anchor of our soul; a hope both sure and steadfast. His **word** and promise is unchangeable!

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Romans 13:8

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

Sermon Title: A Beacon to the World: A Holy People

By Rev. Poh Wee Long

on 29 & 30 Aug 2020

Scripture Passage: 1 Peter 13-25 (NIVUK)

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, ‘All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever.’ And this is the word that was preached to you.

Introduction

Last week, SP Daniel started this new sermon series from 1st Peter entitled “A Beacon to the World” by sharing how the Apostle Peter encouraged the Gentile Christians in Asia Minor; to preserve their thought, protect their mind and persevere in their faith by remaining hopeful despite suffering great persecution under the Roman Empire.

This week, in continuing with the sermon series, Pastor Wee Long shared that God wants His people to be a beacon to the world, by living their lives differently from the world because He who called them is Holy and they are A Holy People.

What is the definition of “Holy”? To be holy is more than just living a morally pure and righteous life but its precise biblical meaning is “to be separate for God”. It means that as a holy people of God, our lives are to be totally devoted, dedicated to God and set apart for His special use.

God is calling His people to live a separated life from the world because of who He is. Thus, as those called out to be God’s holy people, we will do these 3 things in becoming a beacon and show the world a better way:

1. We will imitate Him – for He is Holy
2. We will fear Him – for He is Judge
3. We will treasure Him – for He is Redeemer

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. As God’s holy people, how should we respond to what’s happening in the world?

A1. God’s people are called to be holy, because He is holy (1 Peter 1:14-16). The Bible tells us that things will get worse in the last days (2 Timothy 3:1-5). The holy people of God will be renewed in their minds (Romans 12:1-2). No matter what happens, we will be alert and fully sober (1 Peter

1:13-14). Like aliens, we do not belong to the system nor the values of this world (1 Peter 2:11). When the world gives in to temptations, God's people flee from them. When the world sins and feels nothing of it, God's people want to get rid of sins from our lives because we want to imitate God who is holy.

"It will be a sad day for the Church and the world when there is no distinction between the children of God and those of this world." Charles Spurgeon

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NIVUK)

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIVUK)

¹ But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIVUK)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Peter 2:11 (NASB)

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

Q2. Who does God consider as wicked?

A2. Those who have no fear of God before their eyes are considered as wicked people (Psa. 36:1). God judges everyone impartially (1 Peter 1:17). Jesus taught His disciples on how to approach God in prayer, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name" (Matthew 6:9-10). The word "hallowed" means to be greatly revered and honoured. We approach God as our Heavenly Father who is approachable and available yet at the same time we are to regard Him with great reverential fear. Our God is both full of kindness and severity as He loves and also judges His people (Romans 11:22).

Let's heed the warning that came from heaven to turn away from evil and to God (Hebrews 12:18-25). Live as free people, but do not use our freedom as a cover-up for evil (1 Peter 2:16). In these last days, take heed and do not be deceived (Jude 1:17-19). To be a beacon to the world, we must show by the way we live. Take God seriously and fear Him who judges impartially and with severity.

1 Peter 1:17 (NIVUK)

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

Matthew 6:9-10 (NIVUK)

⁹“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Psalms 36:1 (NIVUK)

I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Romans 11:22 (NASB)

²² Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

Hebrews 12:18-25 (NIVUK)

¹⁸ You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹ to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰ because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” ²¹ The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.” ²² But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵ See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?

1 Peter 2:16 (NIVUK)

¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves.

Jude 1:17-19 (NASB)

¹⁷ But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁸ that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” ¹⁹ These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

Q3. How do we make God visible to the world?

A3. Before the world was created, God already had a plan to redeem mankind (1 Peter 1:18-21). This was done not with perishable things but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect (1 Peter 1:18-19). If we’ve truly appreciated and are thankful for what God has done for us, we will deeply cherish and guard this as an ultimate treasure. We will aim to please Him and live in a manner that reflects Christ (Ephesians 5:1-7). We can make Him visible to this lost world when we treasure Christ above our job, our life, our comfort and everything else. By following in Christ’s example, we become beacons in pointing them to God who is Holy, who is Judge, and who is our precious Redeemer. It will attract and catch their attention and they will acknowledge that living by God’s way is indeed better.

1 Peter 1:18-21 (NIVUK)

¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Ephesians 5:1-7 (NIVUK)

¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Do we have a reverential fear of God and are we imitating Him by living a holy life?

Q2. Have we been making our love for God visible? What is one more thing we can do in being a beacon to show Christ to this lost world?

Transition to Works:

James 4:21-22 – “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected.” Let's follow in the example of father Abraham in authenticating our faith by works.

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