

4Ws for Week 36, 31 Aug 2020 - 06 Sep 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. Puzzling Food, Food Puzzle

Everyone is given 3-5 minutes to recall what they had for lunch/dinner the day before. Without being too obvious, think of a creative and accurate way to describe the food that they had to the rest of the group. The group will then try to guess what the person had (e.g. for lunch yesterday, I had an aquatic bird that was slow cooked over coals accompanied with the seeds of a plant cooked over constant heat and water, drenched with thick and sweet sauce – Answer: roasted duck rice)

2. Food Chain

Start off by getting everyone to share what their favourite food is. The game will start with the person with the most unique food. Going in a circle without repeating, everyone is to name an ingredient that is used to make this dish (e.g. Mee Siam – Noodles, Egg, Lime, Garlic, Tamarind, Dried Shrimp, etc.)

Transition to Worship:

For most of us, food is a very important aspect of our lives. Not only do we consume food for our enjoyment, but we also need the nourishment from the food we consume for our physical growth. Similarly, we too need to consume spiritual food for our spiritual nourishment. As we look to the Lord, let us now join our hearts as one to welcome the Holy Spirit into our midst as we cry out to God to create a deep spiritual hunger within us during this time of worship.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) See a Victory (C)
- 2) Goodness of God (G)
- 3) King of My Heart (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:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your goodness and faithfulness in our lives. We declare that you are king over all. No pandemic nor any situation will be able to stop You. We declare that through you, we are victorious. We pray that as your beacons, we will always let our light shine. So even as we explore your word, we pray that your Holy Spirit will continue to speak to us and reveal to us your heart. Amen!

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Romans 16:17

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

Sermon Title: A Beacon to the World: Chosen

By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 30 & 31 Aug 2020

Scripture Passage: 1 Peter 2:1-12 (NLT)

¹ So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. ² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. ⁴ You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. ⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. ⁶ As the Scriptures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." ⁷ Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." ⁸ And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. ⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." ¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

Introduction

In the last 2 weeks, we have embarked on a new sermon series on 1st Peter entitled "A Beacon to the World". We see the Apostle Peter writing to and encouraging the Gentile Christians in Asia Minor; to persevere in their faith by remaining hopeful and holy despite suffering rejection and great persecution under the rule of the Roman Empire.

This week, we explore how the Apostle Peter continues to encourage the Gentile Christians to rise up. To look beyond their current circumstances and shortcomings in order to fulfil what God has called them to do.

Many times when God has called us to do something, we often look at our own shortcomings and we find ourselves struggling to measure up to this calling. We feel a sense of defeat and tell ourselves that we are not able to accomplish it. However, the Apostle Peter is reminding us that our identity is not based on our nationality or ability, but our identity is founded in Christ. We must remember that in God's eyes we are:

1. Children of God
2. Citizens of Heaven

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. What does it mean to be born again and to be a child of God?

A1. The moment we give our lives to Christ and become believers, we are born again and we become children of God (1 John 1:12-13). We are like newborn babies and we begin this new life ahead of us (1 Peter 2:2).

It is a new life and a new beginning for us! Our identity is no longer founded upon our nationality, our race, our abilities, our strengths or even our weaknesses. Our identity is now founded upon and defined as that of a child of God.

As a child of God, not only do we have a new life, but we are able to get rid of evil behaviour and be able to live a life of obedience to God and honour Him in all that we do. We need to allow our lives to be a pleasing offering acceptable to Him (2 Peter 2:4-5).

1 John 1:12-13 (NLT)

¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

1 Peter 2:2 (NLT)

² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment

2 Peter 2:4-5 (NKJV)

⁴ Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Q2. I still struggle with sin even after I have become a believer. Am I still a child of God?

A2. Being a child of God is not a one-off thing that every single one of us will immediately transform into – it is an ongoing process. Even when we constantly fall short and fail while trying to live up to the standard, in the eyes of the Father, you are a masterpiece.

It is precisely because we are so precious to Him, God does not want us to remain in our state of defeat and sin. Inasmuch as God is good to us and blesses us, He too wants us to grow in the faith and hunger for the things of God. He wants us to experience the fullness of our salvation and not remain as spiritual infants (1 Peter 2:2-3).

1 Peter 2:2-3 (NLT)

² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness

So while our identity as a child of God does not mean that we will be perfect immediately, it does not mean that we stop there. We need to embark on this journey of spiritual growth and towards perfection and the fullness of our salvation and being.

Q3. There are so many struggles that I am facing and I feel really defeated. How do I change?

A3. We must remember that our identity does not belong to that of this world, but that of a child of God and as a citizen of Heaven. It is expected that we will go through suffering (1 Peter 4:12) during our time here on Earth. Keeping away from worldly desires that will wage war upon our souls (1 Peter 2:11).

We must lay hold of the fact that even though we cannot see and understand the situation right now, farther ahead of us, we will understand it. If not here on Earth, then when we are in Heaven and eternal glory with the Father (1 Peter 1:6).

We need to set our hearts and minds on eternal things and not on the temporal. Let us continue to live our lives for God despite all that we are going through.

1 Peter 4:12 (NLT)

¹² Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 1:6 (NLT)

⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT)

¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Do you struggle with your identity as a child of God? What is something that prevents you from receiving it?

Q2. As a citizen of Heaven, we have been given full authority to be ambassadors for Christ. What is one way you can show others around you about the goodness of God?

Transition to Works:

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you have called us to be your child. Let us never lose hope and let go of this special identity that you have given to us. As citizens of Heaven and temporal residents of Earth, teach us to live our lives for eternity and be a shining light of hope to all around us. Amen!

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 @fbcsg.