

4Ws for Week 38, 19-25 Sep 2022

WELCOME (15 minutes)

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

Suggested icebreakers:

1. Do Not Blink

A countdown timer is given, at the end of the timer (3-2-1..go!), everyone is to stare hard at the screen and not blink. We will see who can persevere the longest by not blinking.

2. Yes, I serve a faithful God

In your Christian journey, has there ever been a moment where God came through for you? And when you faced this moment, you know with all your heart that God is true. Share about this moment with the cell.

If the member is a newer believer and does not have such an experience yet, get them to share how did they come to the decision of following Christ – affirm that as an encounter with God's faithfulness.

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) Who You Say I Am – Hillsong (E)
- 2) A Thousand Hallelujahs – Brooke Ligertwood (E)

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: Rev. Poh Wee Long

Scripture Passage: Revelation 2:8-11 (NIV)

Sermon Title: Church Reflections – Victorious Living

Introduction

This weekend, we continue on with our 7-part sermon series that studies through the 7 churches in the Book of Revelation. In this sermon, we explore the 2nd church – the Church of Smyrna. Not only was this letter the shortest one amongst the 7 letters, it was also one out of the only two letters where there was no rebuke or correction.

Despite that, it did not mean that the Church of Smyrna was problem-free. The Christians in Smyrna were living in a hostile environment and they were persecuted and poor. Yet it was promised to them that they will be victorious. Through the example of the Church of Smyrna we can learn...

How can we live a victorious life?

1. Be fearless of persecution – Receive true riches
2. Be faithful till the end – Receive true life

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. As a Christian, why should we normalize persecution?

A1. If the world hates you, keep in mind that it has hated God first (John 15:18-20). Persecution is to be expected because as Christians, our values and lifestyles are called to be different from that of the world. Jesus clearly stated that we will be persecuted. Perhaps the bigger question we need to ask ourselves would be – why are we as Christians, not persecuted?

Q2. How can we know that we are pursuing true riches and not just self-deception?

A2. While it is often accompanied by such, persecution, suffering, pain and poverty in itself are not the true riches. Along with the tribulations we face, we will learn to be fearless. Even when things are not working well for us, we will learn to trust God. These things, are the true riches, and are things that will last.

Q3. Why does God allow trials and persecution? How am I able to stay faithful till the end?

A3. God sometimes allows trials and persecution to happen because it is only in the face of crisis that our faith will be tested. And a true crisis-proof faith is one that is centered on God and not on our circumstances. The only way that we can persevere and endure to stay faithful till the end is to rely on God's grace. By focusing on ourselves and our own strength, we won't make it. Only by relying on God's grace, can we remain faithful. Even to the point of death.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Are you fearful of persecution? Have you compromised in order to avoid pressure from persecution?

Q2. Would you make a resolution and decision today to stay faithful to the very end?

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.

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