

4Ws for Week 39, 21-27 Sep 2020

(With COVID-19, this 4Ws is to be adapted for use at online cell 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. Have a conversation WITHOUT using the letter “E”

This is a fun game which will automatically flex your brain’s “muscles” and help make you mentally sharper. The object is for you and your cell to carry on a regular conversation without using any word that has the letter E in it. But you must try to make the conversation as normal as possible without any long pauses in between sentences. Example:

Person 1: “What do you want to do now?”

Person 2: “I don’t know, how about lunch. I know of a good fast food joint.”

2. Holiday plans before Covid-19

Share what were your plans for the coming school holidays before Covid-19 struck.

Transition to Worship:

Lord, You are high above all the nations. Your glory is above the heavens. Who is like You, our God, who dwells on high? We give thanks to You, for Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near. Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how we praise You! We will praise You as long as we live. Amen!

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) This Is Amazing Grace (D)
- 2) King Of My Heart (G)
- 3) Still (G)

Let the Lord minister to everyone through the release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Pause and wait upon the Lord, and if there is a word of knowledge, a vision, tongues and interpretation of tongues – release it to minister to each other.

Transition to Word:

Lord, we decree that You are our light and salvation, so we will not be afraid. You are our fortress, our protection from danger, so we will not tremble. We command peace to be still in our lives amidst the storms raging around us. You are King over the flood. You are in total control. Amen!

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Jeremiah 35:15 (NIVUK)

"Each of you must turn from your wicked ways and reform your actions; do not follow other gods to serve them. Then you will live in the land I have given to you and your ancestors."

Sermon Title: A Beacon to the World: Through It All

Scripture Passage: 1 Peter 3:8-22 (NLT)

⁸ Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. ⁹ Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. ¹⁰ For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. ¹¹ Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. ¹² The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the LORD turns his face against those who do evil."

¹³ Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. ¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

¹⁸ Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

¹⁹ So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— ²⁰ those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. ²¹ And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²² Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.

Introduction

Unjust or unforeseen suffering is one of the great problems that grips the hearts of people today. We struggle with frustration, anger, and uncertainty when trials strange and unexpected land on our doorsteps. Too often in those most difficult moments of our lives, confusion reigns while contentment wanes; questions arise while prayer subsides.

In this passage, the Apostle Peter focused on the importance of believers bearing up under unjust suffering, and how they can be a beacon of hope, as well as be godly through it all to maintain the kind of true perseverance that God expects from His people. The question is what do we need to remain godly 'through it all', i.e. all the struggles and difficulties in the world that we may face?

The 3 keys that can help us to remain godly through it all are:

- 1. Community - You are not alone**
- 2. Commitment - You don't have to give up**
- 3. Confession - You have help**

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. Why is it important for believers to continue to be in community and not isolate ourselves?

A1. Living in a community helps us remain godly ‘through it all’ by sharing our burdens. This is why God instructs us to live in community so that we can love and care for one another as the community journeys together with us. When we are isolated, nobody will be able to help us when we are in trouble.

1 Peter 3:8 (NLT)

Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.

Galatians 6:2 (NLT)

Share each other’s burdens...

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NLT)

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. “Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people...

Q2. How can our commitment and confession help us remain godly ‘through it all’?

A2. The truth is that, often, our commitment and faithfulness becomes shaky due to fear when we go through difficult times. That is why we need to persevere, stay committed by trusting the Lord, and stay true to His calling. In addition, we must continue to confess in every situation that Jesus Christ is Lord – over our life and our situations.

1 Peter 3:15-17 (NLT)

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

1 Peter 3:14 (NLT)

But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats.

1 Peter 3:22 (NLT)

Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honour next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Share the difficult moments you faced when you were not in community and isolated.

Q2. How has living in God’s community helped you overcome difficult times in your life?

Transition to Works:

Almighty Father, we thank You for making us a shining light to our community to confess Your name in this pandemic and to bring hope to a lost world. Let the lost be found by You, the hopeless find hope in You, the weary find rest from You, and the sick be healed by You. Use us, Lord, we pray.

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. Organise activities for your CG members to connect face-to-face with their contacts, e.g. go for nature walks, meet for meals, etc. However, do observe the latest safe distancing guidelines, including the number of people permitted in your 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.