

4Ws for Week 40, 4-10 Oct 2021

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. Cultural Practices

Singapore is a multi-racial country, and thus has a varied and rich cultural heritage. Share one of the many cultural practices (e.g. festivals, music, costumes or food) that belong to your race or dialect group which you enjoy.

2. God's Creation

The natural world showcases the exquisite handiworks of our creative God. The recent flooding in different parts of Europe and China had caused extensive damages to properties and human lives. Share in what ways you can do to minimize damage to our Earth.

Transition to Worship:

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him" — Psalm 24:1. Father, you are the Creator God and all that you have made, "It was good!" and "It was very good!" As those created in your own image, we will lift up our voices to praise and worship you as our LORD, Saviour and King.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) Shout To The Lord (G)
- 2) Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me (A)

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 God, "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever" — Psalm 119:160. Lord, teach us to meditate on your word day and night, so that we may be careful to obey all that is written in it. For then, our ways will be successful and prosperous.

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Job 1:21 (NIV)

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

Sermon Title: A Faith Community: Renewal

By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 3 – 4 Oct'2021

Scripture Passages: Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIVUK)

¹⁸ 'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Introduction

Last weekend, SP Daniel concluded the series “**A Faith Community**”. In this sermon series, SP Daniel articulated what God has laid on his heart for FCBC in this new season. To recap, the following is what he has shared with us —

Our Vision: Creating realities that do not yet exist

Our Strategy: The G12 Vision / Discipleship Model

Our Values: God’s Centrality, God’s Commission and God’s Creation

Through this series, SP Daniel’s intention is for the church to understand what it means for us to be a faith community. Though he was installed as Senior Pastor back in 2019, it is only now that the church is really into the thick of our transition and new season. Hence, his desire is for us to be a church that is **Vision-Oriented, Strategically Mobilised** and **Values-Driven**. Over the past weeks, he brought the church through the process of Re-visioning—reviewing and refreshing our vision, strategy and beliefs, so that there can be alignment.

In order for us to move ahead stronger and better, last weekend SP Daniel shared on **Renewal** — the process of beginning again, rebuilding and revitalising. The 3 things we need in order to experience spiritual renewal are:-

- 1. Open Minds – Focus on God**
- 2. Open Eyes – Look to God**
- 3. Open Hearts – Turn to God**

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. To experience spiritual renewal, what and who should our minds be focused on?

A1. Like the people of Israel in Isaiah 43, we are reminded not to dwell on the past — be it past glories or past struggles. And often, this is where our minds get stuck. There are 2 words that often get us stuck — “If only...”. Conversely, there are 2 words that can move us on — “What if?” (Isaiah 55:9). We need to have open our minds so that we can focus on the possibilities that God has in store for us in order to be spiritually renewed, i.e. to begin again, rebuilding and revitalising.

Quote: “The object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid.” — G. K. Chesterton

Isaiah 43:18 (NIVUK)

¹⁸ 'Forget the former things; **do not dwell** on the past.

Isaiah 43:16-17 (NIVUK)

¹⁶ This is what the Lord says – he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

Romans 12:2 (NIVUK)

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.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIVUK)

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be **made new in the attitude of your minds**; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Isaiah 55:9 (NIVUK)

⁹ 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Q2. How can we miss seeing what God is doing?

A2. The truth is that things can be happening around us, and yet we do not see it. In Isaiah 43:19, God says, "I am doing a new thing". This was written in present tense. It isn't that God might do it or will do it at a later time. No, God is doing His work right in our midst, and yet we can totally miss it if our eyes are not opened. Hence, we need to ask God to open your eyes, and see what He is doing to experience spiritual renewal.

Quote: "The question is not what you look at, but what you see." — Henry D. Thoreau

Isaiah 43:19 (NIVUK) ;

¹⁹ **See**, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not **perceive** it?

Isaiah 42:18-20 (NIVUK)

¹⁸ 'Hear, you deaf; **look**, you **blind**, and **see!** ¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the Lord? ²⁰ You have **seen many things**, but you **pay no attention**; your ears are open, but you do not listen.'

Jeremiah 5:21(NIVUK)

²¹ Hear this, you foolish and senseless people, who **have eyes but do not see**, who have ears but do not hear:

Mark 8:18 (NIVUK)

¹⁸ Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?

Q3. Why is it important for us to open our hearts and turn to God?

A3. While having open minds will help us to not just focus on our own ways but God's ways, and open eyes will help us see what God is already doing, open hearts is what will help us step into the new things that God has in store for us. That's why it is imperative for us to have open hearts and not harden ourselves to what God is doing. If our hearts are closed, then we can never be spiritually renewed.

Isaiah 43:19 (NIVUK)

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:20 (NLT)

²⁰ The wild animals in the fields will thank me, the jackals and owls, too, for giving them water in the desert. Yes, I will make rivers in the dry wasteland so my chosen people can be refreshed.

Isaiah 43:22 (NLT)

²² “But, dear family of Jacob, you **refuse** to ask for my help. You have grown tired of me, O Israel!

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIVUK)

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Hebrews 3:15 (NIVUK)

¹⁵ As has just been said: ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.’

Application Questions

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

Q1. Are you prone to saying “If only” instead of “What if” when you encounter a new situation or challenge? If so, what do you need to do to change your response?

Q2. Which of the 3 things: Open Minds (Focus on God), Open Eyes (Look to God), and Open Hearts (Turn to God), do you need to grow more in order to experience spiritual renewal?

Q3. Are you still holding on to disappointments and past hurts? If so, ask for prayer and ministry; acknowledge them, release forgiveness and seek healing from God, so that you can be refreshed and renewed in the spirit.

Transition to Works:

The Bible clearly says, “Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself” — James 2:17. Lord Jesus, teach us not to only know your word, but that your word in our lives will be demonstrated by works and deeds through the outworking of our faith; so that it can be perfected.

WORKS (15 minutes)

1. Focus on CG Outreach

The focus of CG meetings is *edification, equipping* and *evangelism*. In each CG meeting, spend some time to encourage your members to do personal outreach right where they are. Give some time each week during the WORKS portion for them to share their outreach efforts.

Plan regular (monthly or quarterly CG outreach, either as a whole CG or in separate groups) into your CG roster, using the existing COVID-19 guidelines to plan your activities/programmes.

2. Prayer over the COVID-19 situation

Consecrate some time each CG meeting to be praying for the situation; and to remain connected with one another.

3. Consolidation of Visitors/New Converts from your outreach

Assimilate them! Let them experience a sense of belonging in 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.

4. Continue to Connect

a) With cell group members

1. Hold your cell members accountable to watch the Livestream Service.
2. Stay connected with members via:
 - a. Synchronize prayer times
 - b. Share devotional thoughts through WhatsApp. Encourage your members to share 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 by leaving these in your cell group hashtag as a comment.
 - 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

Get 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.

c) 3x3 Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the strongholds that bind the people in captivity. Ask Him to set up divine appointments for you 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.

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