

4Ws for Week 41, 5-11 Oct'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. Follow Through

In following through the previous weekend's sermon, share what you have done to show love and serve one another as the community? Kudos to you if you have done so! However, if you have not, share what you plan to do in the coming week. Example: To meet up with someone for afternoon tea or to video call and pray with someone.

2. "No Fish, Prawn Will Do"

With the pandemic still on, overseas vacation is very much on hold and seemingly with no light at the end of the tunnel just now. Share with one another your idea of a staycation in a local hotel or resort and what you plan to do with the \$100 "SingapoRediscover" voucher for the period Dec 2020 to end June 2021.

Transition to Worship:

We concur with the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 100:5 "For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, and His faithfulness to all generations" and offer our heartfelt gratitude and worship to You, our God and Heavenly Father.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) Faithful – Chris Tomlin (D)
- 2) Great Is Your Faithfulness (C)
- 3) Cornerstone (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:

*Father God, indeed Your **word** is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Let Your **word** dwell richly in our hearts so that we can become a beacon of light to the world to bring protection, peace and salvation.*

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Jeremiah 42:11

"Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you now fear. Do not be afraid of him, declares the LORD, for I am with you and will save you and deliver you from his hands."

Sermon Title: A Beacon to the World: Finishing Strong Together

Scripture Passage: 1 Peter 5:1-14 (NLT)

And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: ²Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. ³Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. ⁴And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honour.

⁵In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour. ⁷Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

⁸Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. ¹⁰In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. ¹¹All power to him forever! Amen.

¹²I have written and sent this short letter to you with the help of Silas, whom I commend to you as a faithful brother. My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace. ¹³Your sister church here in Babylon sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴Greet each other with a kiss of love. Peace be with all of you who are in Christ.

Introduction

From the last few weeks' sermons taken from the book of 1st Peter, we learnt that as God's people we are not only to merely survive during times of trials and difficulties but bring hope and change to others. During difficult times like these, the church of Jesus Christ must actively display the love, hope and message of God's salvation to others.

In this closing sermon for the series "A Beacon to the World" taken from the final chapter in 1st Peter, the apostle Peter summarised his "last words" and the important concerns that were in his heart for God's church. Despite the persecutions and difficult circumstances, God's people are called to finish strong together in our witness for Christ. As elders, we are called to shepherd God's flock and help every sheep to cross the finish line together for the glory of God.

Pastor Roland shared 3 salient points from this passage on "What must we do to **finish strong together** in our witness for Christ in the world that God loves so much?" To finish strong together, we must be...

1. Faithful in Shepherding
2. Humble in Submission
3. Steadfast in Suffering

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. What was Peter's appeal to the elders in the church?

A1. To care and to shepherd the flock of God entrusted to them (1 Peter 5:1-3). In Peter's context, he was commissioned by Jesus as a shepherd to "feed my lambs", "take care of my sheep", "feed my sheep" in John 21:15-17.

Peter saw God's church as a shepherding community that works together to take care of every person; for people in our church and those who have yet to believe in Jesus. (John 10:16)

1 Peter 5:1-3(NLT)

As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: ² Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. ³ Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.

John 21:15-17 (NLT)

¹⁵ After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. ¹⁶ Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. ¹⁷ A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep."

John 10:16 (NIVUK)

¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

Q2. What attitude must we adopt to work well together as a community?

A2. Being humble in submission is fundamental to our Christian walk. Peter exhorts the younger ones to accept the authority of the elders and also clearly appeal to all to submit mutually to one another (1 Peter 5:5-6). Being willing to be humble and to submit to one another is God's key for the church to finish strong together.

1 Peter 5:5-6

In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour.

Q3. How can we remain steadfast in the midst of suffering or attacks on our faith?

A3. We remain steadfast by being alert and vigilant against our great enemy, the devil; and to stand firm in our faith. Peter encouraged them by reminding them that they were not alone, and that the family of believers all over the world is also going through the same suffering with them (1 Peter 5:8-9, and 1 Peter 4:12).

Satan uses fleshly pleasures, wealth, power, doubt, fear, persecution and physical death to try and get believers to give up following Jesus (Matthew 24:12). We can remain steadfast when we stand together. Don't struggle and end up alone and isolated; instead come to God to find grace and

receive mercy. (Hebrews 4:16) On the other hand, if others fall or fail, don't isolate them but stand with them and help them finish strong.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

1 Peter 4:12 (NIVUK)

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering as though something strange were happening to you.

Matthew 24:12 (NLT)

¹²Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

¹⁶So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Share what this quotation means to you – “A little while, we are in eternity; before we find ourselves there, let us do much for Christ.” (Ann Hasseltine Judson – early missionary to Burma [Myanmar])

Q2. Share one of the 3 salient points you need to work on in order to finish strong together for Jesus?

Transition to Works:

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Let's continue to love each other deeply and serve one another. For in so doing, His light will shine brightly in our lives as a witness of His presence and reality.

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 Quite 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.
4. Organize face to face gatherings in smaller groups of no more than five for interaction and bonding.

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 @fbcscg.