

4Ws for Week 41, 11 Oct 2021 - 17 Oct 2021

(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. Red Light, Green Light

Everyone to take turns to share with the group:

- What was something that you loved to do as a child, that always got “the green light” for? (aka got complimented)
- Similarly, what was something that you often got “the red light” for when you did it? (aka get scolded/punished)

2. Have you ever... (church edition)

Everyone to think of 1-2 “have you ever...<done something>” statements in the context of church and/or serving in a ministry. It would have to be something that you have personally done before. (e.g. have you ever prayed for a stranger)

- Starting from the first person, he/she will ask their “have you ever?” question.
- Everyone to indicate if they have done so and keep track of their “score”
- There should be no repeat questions.
- After everything, get everyone to share their “score” as well as which time period of their lives is a majority of the score found in.

It is likely that someone newer to the faith might have fewer “have you ever” statements. However, what is interesting to note is that it’s not just a matter of how many things you have done to serve the ministry. As for the ‘longer-time’ believers, though we may have more points on the “score”, but do we still have that same desire and excitement to do things for God today?

Transition to Worship:

Let’s all quieten our hearts and reflect on what it means for us to call God our Heavenly Father. Let’s look to His face, and declare that the God we serve is a good God and that He has made us glad. It is His grace that allows us to freely praise and worship Him!

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) Made Me Glad (G)
- 2) Beautiful Saviour (E)

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, it is such a joy to freely come into your presence and worship you. We are thankful for all that you have done in our lives and we are thankful for all that we have. We thank you for the

gift of life and we thank you for the gift of family. Teach us to always yearn, seek and desire to enter into your presence. Amen.

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Job 5:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ “Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.”

Sermon Title: Learning From Children

By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 9-10 Oct 2021

Scripture Passages: Mark 10:13-16 (NKJV)

¹³ Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” ¹⁶ And He took them up in His arms, laid *His* hands on them, and blessed them.

Introduction

There are two words that we often hear in church – childlike faith. There are several references made by Jesus and also throughout scripture, calling us to be like children as well as reminding us of our special identity as children of God!

Being like children does not necessarily mean that we act in a childish or immature manner. It is about having a childlike faith and about learning to approach God with the simplicity of both the reverence as well as confidence that a child has for his father.

There are 4 lessons that we can learn from children on what it means to have a childlike faith.

- 1) Competitive, but constantly growing
- 2) Direct, but daring
- 3) Energetic, but excitable
- 4) Inexperienced, but innocent

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. Children are always comparing and competing with one another. How is that a good thing?

A1. When children are incessantly comparing and trying to compete with one another who has the bigger or better object – that’s childishness and stems out of pride. We draw a distinction between childishness (bad) and childlikeness (good). This childlike aspect of competition is seen in their desire to be better. There is a constant desire for growth and not the status quo.

1 Samuel 17:29 (NLT)

²⁹ “What have I done now?” David replied. “I was only asking a question!”

That competitiveness as well as insistence found in their simple innocence oftentimes lead them to asking questions that brings us out of our comfort zone. Childlikeness removes us from

our constant place of comfort and bring us into a place of challenge. This place of challenge than leads us to a place of daringness and persistence.

1 Samuel 17:29 (NLT)

³⁴ But David persisted. “I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,” he said. “When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. ³⁶ I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! ³⁷ The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!”

Notice that David’s seemingly lack of fear of Goliath did not happen overnight. It was built upon challenges and more challenges. He had to contest lions and bears several times in his life. That, not only built up his confidence, but more importantly, it built up his reliance on God! David fully acknowledged that this ability of his to fight against lions and bears did not stem from him alone.

It is only when we enter into a place of challenge that we sometimes face difficulties and thus go beyond ourselves to grow, or it leads us to a place of complete surrender and reliance on God because we know that we in ourselves will not be able to overcome. That reliance in God to charge ahead in order to fulfil the will of the Father, is a mark of childlikeness.

Q2. I am now a grown up adult, I don’t have the energy and drive to push ahead anymore like children or when I am younger.

A2. It is true that children (especially little ones!) are full of energy. They seemingly can go on none stop like an energizer bunny and oftentimes parents or caregivers feel exhausted and cannot keep up. But notice that the moment these little ones stop moving and start resting – they collapse into deep rest. Now of course this needs to be balanced up with appropriate rest and that they do not get overtired.

When we are young, we are inexperienced. That inexperience leads us to innocently dare to do things that we didn’t think we can. But as we grow older, we start to realize more and more the challenges that lie ahead of us and then we allow conventional wisdom to sometimes get us to overthink things and we start calculating the cost. As a result of that we end up missing the timing of God.

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.

It is definitely natural that as we grow older, we tend to have less energy to rush ahead like before. However, let’s also honestly question ourselves if our inertia to move ahead is caused by a lack of energy or if it’s caused by the fear of failures due to past experiences or the familiarity of doing things that leads to a lack of excitement? Is our experience in life holding us back from living in the present?

Application Questions

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

- Q1. Is there a need in your life? Being childlike is about being a child of God. Do you have the childlike confidence and simplicity to ask of Him what you need?**
- Q2. Do you identify the “lions and the bears” in your life? These are the challenges that appear to be big and scary, but are actually there to groom you for the future Goliath.**
- Q3. Have you been serving in the ministry for a long time? Does it still move and excite you to do the things of God?**

Transition to Works:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us and calling us your child. Teach us to rely on and rest in you. Help us not be stuck in our own selfish ambition or pride. Let us lean on you and follow you in all your ways for all my days. Keep us close to your heart, help us catch a glimpse of what’s on it, and let us always be excited for the things of You.

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.