

4Ws for Week 43, 25 Oct 2021 - 31 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. Scramble word game <https://youtu.be/Om7JEF2zZAI>

Guess the word from the scrambled 6 letter words in this game.

2. Find the difference picture game <https://youtu.be/o8zpPJwdyis>

Click the above link and in 90 seconds time, you have to find all 3 differences between two pictures.

3. Idol

Share who or what was your idol before you decided to follow Jesus.

Transition to Worship:

Dear Heavenly Father, we desire to learn how to worship You as You deserve. Help us Lord, to grow into the sort of worshipper that You are seeking, one who worships You in spirit and truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) Nothing Is Impossible (D)
- 2) Magnificent (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:

Thank You, Father, for making Yourself known to us, showing us the way of salvation through faith in Your Son. We ask You now to teach us through Your word, so that we may be ready to serve You, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Job 12:13 (NIV)

¹³ To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.”

Sermon Title: The Model Christian

By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 23-24 Oct 2021

Scripture Passages: Mark 1:16-20 (NIVUK)

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Introduction

A model Christian is someone who desires to follow Jesus. We learn from the gospel accounts that many people encountered Jesus, but few actually followed Him. To follow Jesus as His disciples is to model after Him. However, many Christians struggle to live the model Christian life and do not see themselves as model Christians, because they may have bought into the false perception that they fell short of some "weird" or false standards of what a model Christian should be.

Some believers have the mindset that: if their lives are too good, they are not really Christians; if they don't suffer, they are not Christian enough; if they are not perpetually filled with joy, they are not Christian enough; and if they are not always victorious, they are not Christian enough. Just as we stigmatize people with mental health issues, similarly, we do the same to ourselves and others who failed to live up as the "model" Christian.

In order for us to be a "model Christian," what it takes is our:

1. Commitment to Jesus.
2. Desire to change.

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. What does the statement — "to be a model Christian takes commitment" mean?

A1. A model Christian is one who is committed to follow Jesus. To follow Jesus takes commitment. To be committed means to make a decision of the will to accomplish a goal. Though Simon, Andrew and James were fishermen, they demonstrated commitment to follow Jesus as His disciples by immediately dropping everything, including their profession as fishermen and even leaving their father to follow Jesus. To Jesus, a model Christian is one who is willing to deny himself and be committed to follow Him.

Luke 9:23 (NIVUK)

²³ Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'

Q2. How does Jesus' choice of the fishermen — Simon, Andrew and James, give us hope that we can be model Christians?

The fact that Jesus called the imperfect and "unschooled" fishermen to be His disciples and not the religious leaders of His day, gives us hope that Jesus did not expect us to be "perfect" or smart in order to be His disciples. All He asks is our commitment to deny ourselves and keep following Him. A disciple is a student on a learning journey on how to become more like his teacher as he follows his Master closely. A model Christian is one who is committed to follow Jesus even though as a follower, he still has flaws.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NIVUK)

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

Acts 4:13 (NIVUK)

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Q3. Why must we desire to change our life in order to follow Jesus?

A2. Jesus told His disciples to follow Him, so that He could change them to be “fishers of men”. We cannot be following Jesus but still maintain our own ways and remain unchanged. To follow Jesus, we must desire that He change us. But for us to grow and change to be Christ-like, a process as well as time is needed. And we need to be patient with ourselves and others. When we do fall, then we should repent and rise up again. Jesus’ disciples argued among themselves as to who would be the greatest even at the last supper. Yet, eventually, they were changed and were martyred courageously for Christ.

The fact that we struggle with sin and imperfections in our spiritual walk, shows that we desire change in our lives. It is normal for a model Christian to battle his sinful nature constantly and daily in order to conform to be more like Christ. Our changed life is evidence of growth. If there are no changes in our lives, then we need to check if we are truly committed to Jesus.

Mark 1:17-18 (NIVUK)

¹⁷ ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

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.

Galatians 2:20 (NIVUK)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Do you often compare yourself with other Christians who make you feel either not good enough or superior towards them?

Q2. Do you often find that you fail to live up to God's standards and feel like giving up your faith?

Q3. Share what area(s) of your life do you struggle in walking right with God.

(Leaders can use Zoom break-out rooms — members to pray for God's grace and strength to persevere on, and ask God to change them so that they can live the model Christian life)

Transition to Works:

Dear Lord, please season our words with salt. Make us ready, in season and out of season, to proclaim the gospel. Make us ready to give an answer for the hope that we have in You. Help those who hear Your word today to taste and see that You are good. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

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. Take time to pray fervently for the current XFXZ groups running in Wave 5.

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.