

## 4Ws for Week 45, 6 -12 Nov 2023

### WELCOME (15 minutes)

*(If there are first-time guests, begin with a round of introduction and warmly welcome the new visitors.)*

Suggested icebreakers:

#### 1. Sing along (onsite)

Divide the members into two teams. Starting with one team, a member will pick a piece of paper containing a word from a box. The team will then try to sing as many songs as they can, using that word. The other team takes their turn when there is a 10 second pause. The facilitator tallies each team's songs, and the team with the most songs after 5 rounds wins.

**Materials needed:** Paper printed with words + box.

<b>Sample words:</b>	rain	sun	sea	time	heart
	baby	star	love	day	friend
	try	tell	free	why	way
	know	hand	step	need	every

#### 2. Island Daze (online)

Members to pick a random item from their room without revealing it, then take turns sharing their what they picked with the group. Next, divide them into groups of 4 to 5. Facilitator will then disclose that the groups are stranded on a deserted island and must use their chosen items to develop a survival plan. The groups can meet in separate breakout rooms to discuss their creative survival strategies. Lastly, all groups reconvene to present their survival plans in the main virtual meeting.

### WORSHIP (20 minutes)

*(Encourage members to allow the Holy Spirit to minister through them by sharing words, vision, tongues and interpretation of tongues.)*

**Suggested worship songs:**

- 1) Friend of God
- 2) I Stand in Awe - Hillsong

### WORD (45 minutes)

**Preacher:** Pastor Jeff Chong

**Scripture Passage:** Luke 14:15-24

**Sermon Title:** Filling the Open Chair

#### Introduction

Every disciple of Christ *must* have three foçi:

1. Upward (Godward) focus
2. Inward (Growth/personal development) focus
3. Outward (Go Forth) focus.

While most disciples intuitively embrace the *upward* and *inward* foçi, the *outward* focus tends to be neglected.

Isaiah 25:6-9 speaks of God's desire for *all* peoples to be present at the Great Banquet He has prepared for those who respond to Him. He wants every single chair around His banqueting table to be filled. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to share in His desire by inviting as many as possible to partake in His Banquet.

Last week's sermon focused on how disciples of Jesus Christ can develop an *outward* focus - by having:

- a) unyielding hearts – which do not give up/yield (Luke 14:21)
- b) embracing hearts – which make room for more/embraces many (Luke 14:22-23)

### **Discovery and Understanding Questions:**

#### **Q1. Read Luke 14:15-20. What pointers can you derive from these verses?**

**A1.** This Parable shows:

- a) God is the generous Banquet Provider, desiring to provide all things desirable to the human soul.
- b) Despite His invitation, some may reject it, because the evil one blinds them (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- c) As we seek to invite people to be part of this Banquet, they too may reject us and our message.

#### **Q2. Meditate on Luke 14:21-24 and describe the heartbeat of the Banquet Provider.**

**A2.** The Banquet Provider (God) is desirous that:

- a) His banqueting table be filled with His guests (the saved) (v21)
- b) Every class of persons to be represented at His banqueting table – the poor, crippled, blind and lame (v21)
- c) People from all locations be invited – from the streets and the alleys of the town nearby (v21), to the further parts (the highways), and even to the remotest regions (the “hedges”) (v23). He wants those who are currently unreached to be reached.
- d) He wants His Banquet to not only be filled, but to also be full (filled to *maximum capacity*) (v23). He doesn't want any empty seat at His Banquet.

### **Application Questions**

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

**Q1.** According to a national Survey done in 2017:

- (i) 89.9% of respondents strongly agree that Christianity should be embraced by as many people as possible.
- (ii) 24.9% actively seek opportunities to touch lives through the Gospel.

a) Are you among the 89.9%.

- If not, you need to come before God to change your heart and your viewpoint.

b) Are you part of the 24.9%?

- If Yes, what are the ways you seek opportunities to touch lives through the Gospel?

- If No, what can you do to touch lives for God? Share specific action steps.

**Q2.** Recall the sermon and visualise the faces of the people in your life occupying these seats:

- Stool (Friends)
- Small Chair (School mates)
- Office Chair (Colleagues)
- Sofa (Family Members).

- a) List at least one name for each seat that you want to move them into the Church Chair (Worship Service).
- b) Share the steps you plan to take to ensure they become invited guests at the Great Banquet.
- c) If there are people, like Ps Jeff's university mates, who you think may be unresponsive, share how you want to take the step of faith to reach out to them.

### **WORKS (15 minutes)**

Focus on *edification, equipping and evangelism*.

#### **Celebration of Life (COL) 10 - 26 November.**

1. Pray at every CG gathering.
2. Book tickets.
3. Explore ways to expedite your invitations, e.g., arranging transportation for your invitees or planning a meal together before the show, etc.
4. Challenge members to each bring at least one pre-believer.  
(NOTE: This is not an event for you or the CG to enjoy together; encourage everyone going to bring at least a pre-believer.)
5. Update status of CG Members' Invitees List.
6. For those groups meeting after 10 Nov, provide time of thanksgiving and sharing on guests who had attended COL, and their response/s.

*For more information on COL, go to <https://www.fcbc.org.sg/COL2023>.*

*For FCBC announcements: visit [www.fcbc.org.sg/announcements](http://www.fcbc.org.sg/announcements) or our social media platforms – Facebook and Instagram @fbcscg.*