

4Ws for Week 48, 29 Nov – 5 Dec'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. Dream Vacation

What is your vacation destination when you get to travel? Share what your destination offers you. Dream on!

2. Your go-to Work-from-Home (WFH) Snack

What snack have you been munching on this year? Poll the response to see what everyone's favourite snack is. Happy snacking!

Transition to Worship:

Lord Jesus, You have demonstrated Your love for us when You died on the cross while we were still sinners. As the Creator, You came to the world not to be served but to serve us. Help us to follow in Your footsteps to serve You and Your church. You are worthy of our worship and service!

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

1. Glorious Day (E)
2. Agnus Dei (D)

Let's pause to wait upon the Lord for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Let's use this time 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:

¹⁶ "All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work." - 2 Tim. 3:16-17. Lord Jesus, please let your holy words instruct and equip us; so that our lives become a blessing to you and others.

WORD (45 minutes)

Memory verse of the week: Habakkuk 3:2(NIV)

"LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy."

Sermon Title: Thanksgiving Struggles

By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

on 27-28 Nov'2021

Scripture Passage: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Exodus 15-17 (NIVUK)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIVUK)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Introduction

The Apostle Paul exhorts us in 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 to "Rejoice always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This captures the Christian mindset and spirit towards thanksgiving, and it reminds us of the saying: "It's not happy people who are thankful; it's thankful people who are happy."

Last week, SP Daniel shared from Exodus 14-17, on what we can learn from the Israelites in their exodus from Egypt, and how we can overcome "Thanksgiving Struggles". In summary, he shared on the three main struggles that hold us back from being thankful, including the three corresponding truths that can help us overcome our struggles with being thankful.

What overcomes our struggles with being thankful?

- 1. Sufficiency in God**
 - overcomes the Spirit of Lack
- 2. Contentment in God**
 - overcomes the Spirit of Want
- 3. The Grace of God**
 - overcomes the Spirit of Entitlement

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. How can we be thankful when we are in lack?

A1. For the Israelites in their exodus from Egypt, God came through for them in every turn. For example, when the water was bitter, God made the water drinkable (Exodus 15 & 17). When we find our Sufficiency in God, we will overcome the Spirit of Lack. We need to know that we have His presence, His power and His promise and that He will provide for what we need.

Exodus 15:22-23 (NIVUK)

²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they travelled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, 'What are we to drink?'

Exodus 17:1-2 (NIVUK)

¹ The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarrelled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.'

Q2. Describe "the Spirit of Want" and how does it hold us back from being thankful.

A2. "The Spirit of Want" says: "You can't be thankful because you don't have what you want." The Israelites had a spirit of want — more than having food to survive, what they really wanted was to have their way. They were not finding contentment in what God has given them and what God was

doing in their midst. When we find contentment and satisfaction in God, it helps us overcome “the Spirit of Want.”

Exodus 16:2-3 (NIVUK)

² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, ‘If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat round pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.’

Exodus 16:10-12 (NIVUK)

¹⁰ While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked towards the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud. ¹¹ The Lord said to Moses, ¹² ‘I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, “At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning, you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.”’

Q3. What are some signs of entitlement that the Israelites had, and how did it held them back from being thankful? How can we overcome the Spirit of Entitlement?

A3. Some signs of entitlement that the Israelites demonstrated include: demanding and blaming Moses and Aaron for their problems; grumbling against Moses and Aaron, etc. They wanted all the good things, but what they deserved was death (Exodus 32:9-10). But by God’s grace, He keeps helping and delivering them, again and again. They should be thankful for not getting what they deserve – which is death.

We should never have a Spirit of Entitlement because what we truly deserve is death – eternal death because of sin. But because of the grace of God (Roman 3:24) we get what we don’t deserve, forgiveness and eternal life. We should live a life of gratitude, thankful every day that by His grace we are saved. The Grace of God overcomes the Spirit of Entitlement.

Exodus 15:24 (NIVUK)

²⁴ So the people **grumbled** against Moses, saying, ‘What are we to drink?’

Exodus 16:2 (NIVUK)

² In the desert the whole community **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron.

Exodus 16:6-8 (NIVUK)

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, ‘In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning, you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your **grumbling** against him. Who are we that you should grumble against us?’ ⁸ Moses also said, ‘You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your **grumbling** against him. Who are we? You are not **grumbling** against us, but against the Lord.’

Exodus 17:2 (NLT)

² So once more the people **complained** against Moses. “Give us water to drink!” they **demand**ed.

Exodus 17:3 (NIVUK)

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they **grumbled** against Moses.

Exodus 32:9-10 (NIVUK)

⁹ 'I have seen these people,' the Lord said to Moses, 'and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may **destroy** them...

Romans 3:24 (NLT)

²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Which of these do you struggle the most - the Spirit of Lack, the Spirit of Want or the Spirit of Entitlement?

Q2. How can we lay hold of these 3 truths – Sufficiency in God, Contentment in God and the Grace of God so that we can remain thankful in all circumstances?

Q3. What is one thing you are thankful to God presently?

Transition to Works:

²¹ Was our father Abraham not justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected (James 2:21-22). Lord, may our lives be authenticated by works of faith just like Abraham and the many others mentioned in Hebrews 11; who demonstrated their faith in you through works.

WORKS (15 minutes)

1. Volunteering in the Church

Provide an opportunity for each Member to consider and share an area of ministry that he/she may want to go into. Perhaps as a CG, you may want to decide to go into an area of ministry in the Church. Get Members to go into the FCBC portal to volunteer. If possible, do it together during the Cell time. But be careful that CG Members don't feel pressured to do so.

2. 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.

3. Pray over the COVID-19 situation

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

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.