

4Ws for Week 49, 5 Dec-11 Dec 2022

WELCOME (15 minutes)

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

Suggested icebreakers:

1. Childhood Happiness

- Everyone to share what is one fond memory of their childhood that brings a smile to their hearts whenever they think about it.

2. Even though... I still choose to give thanks because...

- Everyone will share and start off their sentences with “Even though” – and share about a difficult situation that they are/have been facing.
- They will end off the sentence with “I still choose to give thanks because”

Thankfulness and praise are infectious! When we choose to be thankful and put on the garment of praise, we steer our spirit man to move beyond our current situation and look to God. As we enter into a time of praise and worship, let us affirm and believe that God has indeed rescued and redeemed us!

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

(Remember to pause for the Holy Spirit to minister through the members. Encourage members to release a word, a vision, tongues and interpretation of tongues, to minister to each other.)

Suggested worship songs:

- 1) Glorious Day (G)
- 2) What A Beautiful Name – Hillsong (D)

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: Rev. Roland Lee

Scripture Passage: Psalm 16:11

Sermon Title: Developing Joy

Introduction

Christmas is around the corner and during this season, we often talk about it being a season of Joy. Joy is not merely a social construct but it is an attribute given by and originates from God. It is very different from simply feeling good or happy, and it is the practice (and not the pursuit) of Joy that is important in our lives.

God wants us to develop Joy in our Christian lives and we need to develop it in accordance to the truth of God. How do we develop Joy in our lives?

1. Be Obedient Despite Our Feelings (to God)
2. Be Content Despite Our Circumstances (in God)

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. How is it possible to remain joyful when we feel that the world and everything is against us?

A1. True Joy is not found in our circumstances or feelings, but rather in the fact that we know that we have pleased our Heavenly Father through complete obedience. Jesus Himself showed us the way when He endured not just the physical suffering, but the emotional turmoil when facing the Cross.

Not that our feelings are unimportant, but we should not allow our feelings to run our lives. It is not wrong to feel the way that we feel, but we can learn to develop this attribute of Joy by choosing to not let our feelings hinder or prevent us from our faith and obedience to God.

Our greatest Joy is found in knowing that we have pleased the Lord through our obedience.

Q2. What do we need in order to develop Joy when we feel stuck in a helpless situation?

A2. There is no “easy-way-out” or “quick-fix” solutions. In order to develop Joy in our lives, we need to learn to “be contented in any and every situation” in our lives. We need to learn to “Rejoice Always and Again”.

This might seem like a very tall order for us, and indeed it is – if we rely solely on our own strength or reasoning. We are only able to truly be contented and thankful in all circumstances and situations through the strength of God. We have to speak the language of faith to our spirits and when we have a cheerful heart, it will lead to cheerful behaviour.

We need to return to a place of simplicity and trust in God, seeking His presence.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Are you facing a circumstance in your life right now that you feel is “robbing away” your Joy in the Lord?

Q2. Are you perpetually complaining about everything and anything (even if in jest) around you? How has this affected or influenced your ability to “Be Thankful”?

Q3. Do you feel that you have lost Joy in your life? How can you seek and make room for more of God’s presence in your life?

WORKS (15 minutes)

Focus on *edification, equipping and evangelism*. In every CG gathering, encourage members to reach out right where God has placed them. Give members time to share their outreach efforts. CGs running XFXZ Wave 6 should pray together for their Bests and their XFXZ.

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