

## **4Ws for Week 49, 30 Nov 2020 - 06 Dec 2020**

*(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. Sale Galore**

We just crossed the weekend where parts of the world celebrate thanksgiving. Following which is Black Friday and Cyber Monday where products are being sold at great discounts. With the advent of online advertisements and shopping. Share which is your favourite “bargain hunting” sales (be it 11.11 or 10.10 sales or Black Friday) and how do you usually prepare for it. Or share when was the last time you set aside time to make a purchase.

We tend to stay up late or set aside time to attend to these special discounts and purchases. We do these through the means of saving the dates in our calendars or setting our alarm clocks. How excited are you to setting aside time to spend time to pray and seek the Lord? Do you find joy and take excitement in entering the presence of God?

#### **2. Thankfulness is Tankfulness**

Imagine yourself to be a vehicle. Based on what has happened in the week, how would you rate your “petrol tank”? From a scale of 1-5, with 1 being E (Empty) and 5 being F (Full), where would you be? And why?

Ask yourself, have you been spending more time in the week griping and complaining about your circumstances? Or have you been spending time in seeking and hearing the Lord. Or maybe even giving thanks to God for the circumstances that you are in? Thankfulness results in Tank-full-ness

#### **Transition to Worship:**

*The word of God says godliness with contentment is great gain! (1 Tim 6:6) As we enter into a time of worship, allow our hearts to first be filled with gratitude towards God and allow that expression of gratitude be shown in our worship to our Heavenly Father. Let us look towards Him and praise Him.*

### **WORSHIP (20 minutes)**

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) Faithful – Chris Tomlin (D)
- 2) Goodness of God (G)
- 3) Waymaker (G)

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, we thank You that You are a good God! All that we are and all that we have comes from You. Teach us to always rejoice, seek You and pray unceasingly, and wholeheartedly give thanks in everything. Amen.*

**WORD (45 minutes)**

**Memory verse of the week: Daniel 6:26**

“I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.”

**Sermon Title: The Attitude of Gratitude**

**By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong**

**on 28 & 29 Dec 2020**

**Scripture Passages: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Introduction**

The book of Thessalonians was written by the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonica church to encourage and reassure them, as they continue their faithful pursuit of the things of God. Paul was reminding the Thessalonica church about their responsibilities as well as what were some things that they needed to be watchful for.

A constant theme in the letters of Paul was the theme of ‘thanksgiving’. So much so, that Paul was also (appropriately) coined the “Apostle of Thanksgiving”. Regardless of the hardship he was facing, the Apostle Paul always had something to be thankful about.

It is easy for one to give thanks when everything is going well, or when a difficult situation turns for the better. But can we do the same when things don’t quite go our way? One can say that the Apostle Paul’s heart was always full of gratitude. There are 2 things that can help us develop an attitude of gratitude:

1. Contentment – Trust in God’s Provision
2. Confidence – Trust in God’s Plan

**Discovery and Understanding Questions:**

**Q1. I really struggle with my day to day living. I don’t earn enough to put food on the table, I struggle with mental health issues, I feel a deep sense of loss and that life is purposeless. How does one in my position be thankful? I don’t feel thankful.**

**A1.** It is definitely the case that some of us are placed in unfortunate and difficult situations in our lives. The truth of the matter is that we won’t feel like giving thanks in every single circumstances of our lives. We tend to feel happy and give thanks only when things go the way we want it to go. However, there are times where thankfulness is a choice that we need to make. It is when we make the choice to be thankful and grateful, that we actually find happiness.

**Philippians 4:11-13 (NIVUK)**

<sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned

the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Apostle Paul was no stranger to suffering. He was beaten with rods, shipwrecked, robbed, betrayed and the list goes on. Yet this is the same person who says that he have learned the secret to being content – whatever the circumstances! Bold words! He isn't claiming that it is easy – but he states succinctly that it is only through God's strength – that he is able to do so!

### **Psalms 23:1 (NIVUK)**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

So if today, you feel that you are not able to be thankful due to the hardships that you are facing in life, remind yourself that the Lord is the Good Shepherd. He will look after you. He will lead you. And He will guide you. You will lack nothing.

The secret behind having a spirit of thankfulness is not about our possession but our position. It is about taking on the position of trust – trusting that God will provide. And in His provisions, we can choose to be content. Let's focus not on what we do not have, but on what we do have.

**Q2. It's easy to talk about contentment if you do have your basic needs met. However, I feel that my basic life needs are not being met. I am starting to feel overwhelmed and I wonder why I am going through this suffering. Has God forgotten about me?**

**A2.** The Apostle Paul was able to go through the hardship he went through, fully acknowledging his weakness and giving all credit to the strength God has given him. What was important, was that Paul knew wholeheartedly that regardless of how bad the situation in front of him appears to be, God was at work and there was a plan for him. He was able to maintain his position of thankfulness.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks

### **2 Corinthians 11:30-31 (NLT)**

<sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am. <sup>31</sup> God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, who is worthy of eternal praise, knows I am not lying.

The Lord has definitely not forgotten about you. You may feel crushed, but do not despair. You might feel persecuted, but you are not forsaken. You may feel struck down, but you will not be destroyed.

### **2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. <sup>9</sup> We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.

Jesus has gone before you and has taken on the harshest of suffering on the path to the Cross. Why was He able to bear it all? Because He knew he was fulfilling a plan – God's plan. To bring about the salvation of the world. Jesus being fully man, completely and confidently trusted in the plan of the

Father. That is the love of Jesus. He lived for the eternal. Will you place your trust in Him? Will you trust your eternity to Him?

### **Application Questions**

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

**Q1. Are you a “serial grumbler”? Is praise always on your lips or are you quick to gripe and complain? Allow the Lord to search your heart.**

**Q2. Both contentment and confidence, stems from the root of trust. Do you truly trust God’s plan for you? Do you truly believe that God will provide all your needs?**

**Q3. If giving thanks is a trait of the godly, then a lack of thanksgiving is actually a trait of the ungodly. Is there something that is preventing you from giving thanks today?**

### **Transition to Works:**

*Heavenly Father teach us how to be truly contented. Help us to place our trust in You in all that we do. Give to us an unwavering spirit and show to us your plans. And when we can’t see Your plans, teach us to trust Your heart. Amen.*

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

#### **1. Continue to Connect**

##### **a) With cell group members**

1. Hold your cell members accountable to watch the Livestream Service or download the message to listen later.
2. Seek ways and means to stay connected with each other. For example:
  - a. Synchronize prayer times
  - b. Share devotional thoughts through WhatsApp. Encourage your members to post 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 that you like on Instagram by leaving these in your cell group hashtag as a comment. Everything that has been tagged with your cell group hashtag will be available for the entire group to see!
  - 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](http://www.fcbc.org.sg/connectwithus)
  - For Chinese -- [www.fcbc.org.sg/zh/connectwithus](http://www.fcbc.org.sg/zh/connectwithus)

Encourage 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.

3. Organise activities for your CG members to connect face-to-face with their contacts, e.g. go for a nature walk, meet together for meals, etc. But please keep to social distancing guidelines and limit to no more than 5 per group.

## **2. 3x3 Prayer**

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the strongholds that bind the people. Ask Him to set up divine appointments for us 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.

## **3. Consolidation of New Converts**

Assimilate them! Let them have a sense of belonging with 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.

### **Announcements:**

For more announcements, please visit [www.fcbc.org.sg/announcements](http://www.fcbc.org.sg/announcements) or our social media platforms – we can be found on Facebook and Instagram @fbcscg.