

## 4Ws for Week 51, 20 Dec 2021 - 26 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. Christmas Carol Hangman

Visit <https://www.hangmanwords.com/create> to create a custom game:

- Key in the title of a Christmas Carol into the box.
  - o You may put in a few different Christmas Carols all at once, by inputting each carol into a different line.
  - o Suggested carols: Joy to the World, Silent Night, O Come All Ye Faithful, Feliz Navidad
- Click “get link”, and a link will be generated for you.
- The person leading the icebreaker will use the generated link to launch the classic word guessing game – Hangman.
- Get the cell to take turns to say a one alphabet each. The person leading the icebreaker will click on the alphabet. If the alphabet appears in that Christmas Carol, it will appear in the blanks. Otherwise, it will use up a turn.
- The round is over if someone guesses the Christmas Carol correctly, or if 6 wrong guesses has been made.
- You can go to the next Christmas Carol after that by clicking “new word”.

#### 2. Pass it on

Everyone to think of a moment where

- A complete stranger did a kind deed for you
- or
- You did a kind deed for a complete stranger.

If it was a kind deed that was done to you, share how you responded and felt about it after that. If it was a kind deed that you did for a complete stranger, share what was as your initial motivation or hesitation (if any) that led up to it.

#### Transition to Worship:

*Christmas is a time we celebrate the birth of Jesus – God who became man, who hung on the Cross for us. Let’s all quieten our hearts and reflect on what it means for us to celebrate Christmas. Let us take in and receive the joy and privilege to receive this gift of grace.*

### WORSHIP (20 minutes)

You may use the following worship songs:

- 1) Joy To The World (G)
- 2) Silent Night (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, it is the season where we once again come to celebrate the greatest gift of all—Your Son, Jesus. As we celebrate the season, help us to celebrate the reason for the season. Amen.*

### **WORD (45 minutes)**

#### **Memory verse of the week: Isaiah 11:2-3 (NIVUK)**

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

#### **Sermon Title: Jesus Christ: A Gift of Peace**

**By Senior Pastor Daniel Khong**

**on 18-19 Dec 2021**

#### **Scripture Passages: John 3:16-19 (NIVUK)**

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

#### **Introduction**

We continue on with part 2 of our 3-part sermon series that talks about the greatest gift of all – Emmanuel. The previous weekend, we talked about how Jesus Christ is A Gift of Love. Last weekend, we talked about how Jesus Christ is A Gift of Peace.

Peace is an integral concept when it comes to Christmas and the Christian community. Scripture calls Jesus the 'Prince of Peace' and sing about this in both Christmas Carols as well as songs of worship. Even though we were sinners and rebelled against Him and His ways, God chose and desires to make peace with us as this is the very nature and attribute of God.

Why does God desire peace with us?

- 1) He wants to FREE US, NOT FIGHT US
- 2) He wants to BE WITH US, NOT BELITTLE US

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

**Q1. I am so steeped in my sin and constantly rebelling against Him. Is it possible that God can still love a sinner like me? I feel that God is angry with me.**

**A1.** God is not angry with you. God hates sin but he loves the sinner. God loves you! And as a result of that, God does not condemn us and He has no desire to fight us.

#### **John 3:18-19 (NIVUK)**

<sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup>This is the

verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

He desires for us to be freed from the slavery and bondages of our sin, He desires for us to be saved. God truly desires for us to stop living in our sin and to turn to Him. Sin not only traps us, but it also causes us to be distant and at odds with God. That's why it leads us to have a constant fear or thought that God is angry or hates us.

### **Ezekiel 13:32 (NIVUK)**

<sup>32</sup> For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

Once again, God is not angry with you. He does not want to fight you. He takes no pleasure in our destruction and He wants to free you! This is evidenced in Him sending us the greatest gift of all – The gift of Jesus Christ. Jesus sets us free from our sin and brings about peace and reconciliation with God. Claim the truth of God into your life today!

**Q2. Why is the sending of Jesus Christ to die for our sins such a big thing? Yes, it shows that it is a Gift of Peace, but how is it different from a regular blessing?**

**A2.** Receiving the truth of Jesus Christ's dying on the Cross as an atonement for our sins is indeed the greatest blessing we can get. It not only shows the desire of God to make peace with us, but it also shows the position of which God is approaching us. But this truth is incomplete if we fail to have an understanding of the very idea of who God is.

### **Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup> Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Let's not for once forget that God – is God. Even if we disregard our own sinful nature and the fact that God hates sin, we must not forget that the very fact that God chose to come to us and adopt a position of lowliness shows us how important we are in the eyes of God. Do not allow how great the Gift is, to overshadow how much greater the Giver of this Gift is!

It is not just how big of a gift it is, but how the gift was given. He could have easily come as a king or a conqueror. But He chose to come as a human baby – to be with us and to be one of us, as well as to experience the greatest of humiliations and eventually to die a criminal's death on the Cross. All this, in order to show us that He has walked where you have walked; He has stood where you have stood. God understands our pains and struggles. God is with us. He is Emmanuel. He does not belittle us. He wants to be with us.

### **Application Questions**

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

**Q1. In your struggle with sin, do you feel that God hates you? Are you able to freely receive God's forgiveness or do you shy away from God due to your embarrassment or sense of hopelessness?**

**Q2. God lowered and humbled Himself to gift to us the greatest gift of peace. Is there an area in your life where you too need to lower and humble yourself so that you can bring peace to the situation that you are facing?**

**Q3. What is your view of God? Have you made Him too small in your eyes? Will you return to a place of acknowledgement – that God is God. He can, and He will save you.**

**Transition to Works:**

*Dear Heavenly Father, You are the peace that guards my heart, and my very help in time of need. Lead me daily to my knees to find You. Let me stand in awe of Your presence, and remember how great You are. Help me give to You all Glory, Honour and Praise for all that You've done, and all that You are going to do.*

**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](http://www.fcbc.org.sg/connectwithus)
  - For Chinese -- [www.fcbc.org.sg/zh/connectwithus](http://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](http://www.fcbc.org.sg/announcements) or our social media platforms – we can be found on Facebook and Instagram @fbcscg.