

## 4Ws for Week 8, 20 - 26 Feb 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. Close to my heart

Leaders can use either of the following questions, depending on your assessment of how comfortable and open the group will be in sharing:

- Q1: What is something/someone that you hold dear to you? Why?
- Q2: If there is a loss/death of something/someone today, that you know will devastate you, what/who is it? How would you respond to that loss?

#### 2. Footprints in the sand

Questions are intended to draw to and remind members about the faithfulness of God in their lives, and that they can put their trust in Him.

Questions for sharing:

- Q1: What was one moment in your life where you doubted God and felt all alone, only to discover later that God was there with you every single step of the way?
- Q2: What was one moment in your life where you know with full certainty that God was in it, that makes you want to shout out: "Yes! I serve a faithful God!"

### 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) Great Things – Phil Wickham (C)
- 2) 10,000 Reasons – Matt Redman (G)

### WORD (45 minutes)

**Preacher:** Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

**Scripture Passage:** Matthew 15:10-11; 17-20 (NIVUK)

**Sermon Title:** Heart Defence

#### Introduction

"Follow your heart" – is a well-intended advice given by many as a form of encouragement. However, the word of God tells us that we need to follow after God's heart, and not our own.

If we truly desire to live a Godly life, we need to consciously steer away from following our own hearts by building up a Godly heart defence. To do that, we need to know...

2 fundamental truths about our hearts:

1. Our Hearts are Deceitful – God's Heart is Faithful
2. Our Hearts are Divisive – God's Heart is For us

## Discovery and Understanding Questions:

**Q1. If I am a committed Christian who loves and follows Jesus, it should be ok for me to do what I feel convinced and convicted about right?**

**A1.** The word of God is extremely clear to talk about the extremely deceitful and conceited nature of our Heart. If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! One can never be too careful when it comes to matters of the heart.

If we are assuredly walking in a close relationship with God and we've truly and clearly heard the voice of God – then definitely we should move in obedience. However, it should always be tested and weighted against the timeless truth – that is the word of God. Otherwise, over time, if we are not careful, we might find ourselves bending the truth and nullifying the word of God to fit our own narrative. Such is the hypocritical and deceitful nature of man's heart.

**Q2. But I'm a committed, serving leader in Church! I pray and read the Bible daily. How is it possible that I would bend the truth of God?**

**A2.** On top of having deceitful hearts, we also have divided hearts. Oftentimes, we don't start off that way. But when we are placed in a position of testing and we have to choose between making a very painful decision (and obeying God) or to take the option that brings us the most "peace" and comfort, we tend to make choices that does not reflect our confidence and trust in the Lord.

Even King David, who was known as a man after God's own heart, grappled with dealing with a divided heart. Let's ask the Lord to teach us how to trust in His faithfulness and everlasting love.

## Application Questions

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

**Q1. Is your praise and service to the Lord that of true worship? Or is your service to the Lord borne out of self-gratification or human traditions?**

**Q2. Do you find yourself being consumed and always giving in to your emotions? Have you in your moments of weakness, succumbed to sin? Repent and come back to the Lord.**

**Q3. Do you find yourself desiring more and more of God in your life? Or do you find yourself trying to carve out more time for other pursuits, and then giving God the rest?**

## **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. Press on in praying together for Bests and pre-believer contacts.

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