

4Ws for Week 9, 27 Feb - 05 Mar 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. Picture Perfect

Everyone will be given a piece of paper and pencil.

- In a given time, they are to draw one object that they best identify/resonate with. After which, they are to pair up with someone.
- Without talking, using only gestures or sounds, they are to describe what they have drawn in the picture to the person they are paired up with as well as why they drew that picture (still without talking!)
- Each person will then share with the rest of the group what they think was drawn as well as why their partner drew that picture to describe themselves.

2. What's on your plate?

Leader to prepare a paper plate and a bag of M&Ms or coloured candy.

- Everyone in the group will take turns to share what is one struggle or difficulty that they face (e.g., finances, parenthood, etc.). After which, that person will place an M&M onto the plate.
- If anyone else shares that struggle or difficulty as well, they will take a similarly coloured M&M and add it onto the plate.

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) Forever – Chris Tomlin (D)
- 2) Build My Life – Housefires (C)

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: Senior Pastor Daniel Khong

Scripture Passage: Hebrews 3:7-19 (NIVUK)

Sermon Title: Stone or Flesh?

Introduction

As a follow up from the previous week, this week we continue to examine our hearts – specifically in the area of the hardening of our hearts. When our hearts are hardened, we find that we become uncaring towards others and are not able to be moved by the things of God.

It is extremely easy to point our fingers and blame the circumstances around us. But hardening our hearts is a choice and unless we choose to deal with this hardness, we cannot be transformed by God.

3 things that will harden our hearts toward God, and how can we deal with it:

1. Spiritual Stagnation – Seek God so that you don't stagnate
2. Self-Absorption – Serve God so that you don't become self-absorbed
3. Suffering – Surrender to God so that you look to Him

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. I still read the Bible and pray regularly, but I am in a season of my life where I feel that I am not able to serve or do as much for God – how do I know I am not spiritually stagnant?

A1. While it is not always the case, if you are worrying about spiritual stagnation, chances are – you are conscious enough to prevent it from happening. One key factor about spiritual stagnation is a lack of faith. It is our lack of faith that causes us to be inactive and not pursue growth nor the things of God.

It is true that we can get busy in different seasons of our lives that may change our capacity. But one thing that shouldn't change, is our desire to be more and more like Jesus. Be honest to yourself and observe your every day living. Question yourself – are you doing anything that requires you to stretch your faith? Or have you gotten so comfortable with your daily routine that you no longer desire to grow and mature?

Q2. But you do not know what I am going through! My current situation is extremely difficult and I do not even see the end of this tunnel. In fact, it feels as if that God has forgotten about me.

A2. The Lord knows and sees our pain. You may be going through an extremely tough situation in life and it's been extremely distressing for you, and in such a situation, it's extremely easy for us to give up and choose to turn away from God. However, the Lord is saying to you today that He has not given up on you and He desires to be there with you in your pain and your sorrow.

The Lord is asking of us not to harden our hearts, but to choose to turn to Him and allow Him to pick up the broken pieces of your shattered heart.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Why do you serve God or pursue the things of God? Is it out of routine or obligation? Or does it stem from a deep desire to grow close to Him?

Q2. The very moment you face some form of difficulty in your spiritual journey, do you offer resistance and persist on? Or do you just resign to the situation?

Q3. When is the last time you have done something (for God) that you've never done before? Will you ask the Lord to give you the boldness to do what He has called you to?

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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