

4Ws for Week 12, 20-26 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. My First Response

A popular and well-known person evokes a response from us, e.g. when we see the word "Sir David Attenborough", the word "conservationist" comes to mind; Lee Kuan Yew – Singapore's founding father. Take turns to name someone in the Bible or from our world today and share what is your first response to that person. Have fun!

2. Complete the Sentence

Fill in the blank, "I am". Say something about yourself that you think the CG does not know.

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) Worthy - Elevation Worship (D)

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: Rev. Poh Wee Long

Scripture Passage: 2 Chronicles 7:14

Sermon Title: The Pride of Prayerlessness

Introduction

Last weekend's sermon was on pride - our greatest enemy because it makes God our enemy. One sign of pride is prayerlessness, which declares, "I am self-sufficient", "I don't need God's help" and "I can manage on our own abilities and resources."

Prayerlessness affects our lives, deprives and rob us of the gifts of God. When we are not prayerful, we lose touch with:

1. Intimacy – Where we Embrace His Presence
2. Intercession – Where We Encounter His Power

Prayer is an accurate thermometer of our humility before God.

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. How does prayerlessness affect our intimacy with God?

A1. When we pray less and less, we gradually stop seeking God's face.

Prayer allows us to experience fellowship with the Lord. *Psalm 145:18* "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." However, prayerlessness leads us to walk further and further away from God, like what happened to the kings and the nation of Israel.

When we don't pray, we deprive ourselves of experiencing the intimacy of God's presence. Edward Farrell says, "The penalty of not praying is the loss of one's capacity to pray."

Q2. How can we encounter God's power in our lives, and as His people?

A2. God gives us the gift of intercession - "If My people would humble themselves, pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Just one Christian faithfully praying and standing in the gap, could have stopped destruction. (Ezekiel 22:30)

'And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So, He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." (Mark 9:28-29)

The place of intercession is where we encounter God's power.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Ponder over your intimacy with God and your prayer life. What are some things you can do to improve your prayer life?

Q2. What changes must you make to see the power of God manifested 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.

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