

4Ws for Week 3 (15-21 Jan 2024)

WELCOME (15 minutes)

(If there are first-time guests, begin with a round of introduction and warmly welcome the new visitors.)

Suggested icebreakers:

1. Image of Growth

Everyone in the group to take turns to share. What is one image you see in your mind when you think of the word “growing” or “growth”?

2. Superhero Mission

Everyone in the group to take turns to share. These questions are to be asked one by one, allowing all participants to answer the first question before asking the second.

- a) If you could be any superhero you want, what superhero would that be?
- b) What do you think is the mission of this superhero? Do you think he/she took action to accomplish it?

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

(Encourage members to allow the Holy Spirit to minister through them by sharing words, visions, tongues and interpretations of tongues.)

Suggested worship songs:

- 1) Praise – Elevation Worship
- 2) Divine Exchange

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: Rev Poh Wee Long

Scripture Passage: 1 Timothy 4:7-16

Sermon Title: Growing in our Christian Faith

Introduction

The Apostle Paul provided clear instructions to his disciple, Timothy, guiding him on what to focus on so that he could grow in his faith. Similarly as believers, we should desire to grow in our faith – not only inward, but also one that is visible. Let our hearts cry out for growth!

How can we grow in our faith? We can grow our faith by:

1. Living Right for God (Godliness)
2. Walking Close to God (Intimacy)
3. Doing Works of God (Action)

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. How does sin prevent us from growing in our faith?

A1: Sin typically starts small, but it can deteriorate and grow, hindering our Christian growth. If we detect that sin is increasing in our lives, it becomes evident that we are no longer growing in our Christian faith.

When this occurs, it becomes challenging to sense God or understand the things of God. Sin affects our emotions and our minds and it can even bring about curses in our lives. Therefore, it is important that we adopt a regular posture of godliness, where we choose to live right for God.

Q2. It is so difficult to live a sin-free life. How can I overcome?

A2. When we become believers, the penalty of our sin has been paid by the precious blood of Jesus. However, it is a deliberate decision for us to choose not to continue gratifying the desires of our flesh. In order to live a victorious life over our flesh and avoid entanglement in sin, we need to walk by the Spirit and live a life of intimacy with God.

Living a life of intimacy with God includes praying, reading the Bible, attending church, participating in cell groups, serving, worshipping and meditating upon Him as well as seeking His guidance on what we should do. If we do not make an effort to engage in activities that build a life of intimacy with God, we cannot expect our faith to grow.

Q3. I engage in various spiritual disciplines, and I do sense the presence of God. However, I don't feel like I am growing. Why is this the case?

A3. It is not merely about experiencing the rain (God's presence); it involves faith and taking action to nurture our spiritual growth. It is not enough to say that we want to grow; we need to take action.

When we read or hear the Word of God but fail to act upon it, we deceive ourselves. If fear or other hindrances deter us from stepping out of our comfort zone, our faith remains cognitive. However, by choosing to engage in the works of God and avoiding laziness, we will be able to grow our faith and live a victorious life.

Application Questions

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

Q1. Have you felt your faith grow? Yes/No, and why?

Q2. How would you "make every effort" to grow in your faith this year?

WORKS (15 minutes)

Focus on *edification, equipping and evangelism*.

- 1. Build on the momentum of all your outreach efforts** – continue praying for your pre-believing friends and family, connect with them, and invite them to your Cell and our Weekend Services.
- 2. Consolidation of new believers** – Diligently pray for and reach out to friends and family who have decided to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, guiding and helping them grow in the faith.

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