

4Ws for Week 47, 20-26 Nov 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. Thanksgiving Day – November 23rd

On this day, let's take a moment to express our gratitude to God for the past year. Consider choosing a quote to bless each other, such as:

“Thank You, for I can count on you!”; “Thank You, from the bottom of my heart, for real!”; “Sow love and reap abundance!”; “Wishing you a Thanksgiving overflowing with peace, love and laughter”; “Wishing you the gift of faith and the blessing of hope!”; “A moment of gratitude makes a difference in our attitude”; “When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed!”

Remember, in everything, give thanks!

2. One Thing in Common

Pair up with someone and discover something you both share in common. Once you've found that connection, join forces with another pair to uncover one thing in common among the entire group. You never know what interesting connections you might discover!

WORSHIP (20 minutes)

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

Suggested worship songs:

- 1) Everything That Has Breath - Hillsong
- 2) Come Holy Spirit

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: Rev. Daniel Khong

Scripture Passage: Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon Title: Choosing Joy

Introduction

In a world marked by wars, disasters, and personal challenges that often dim the prospect of joy, the Bible consistently emphasizes joy as a deliberate choice rather than a fleeting emotion. Scripture encourages us: ‘... Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength’ (Neh. 8:10); ‘Rejoice always... in all circumstances’ (1 Thess. 5:16-18); ‘Rejoice in the Lord always..., not be anxious about anything’ (Phil. 4:4-6).

SP Daniel shared that joy is something that we must choose because if we don't consciously make it a point to choose joy, it is much easier to fall into sadness. He highlighted that in whatever situation we may be in, we can choose joy when we know who our God is. He is:

1. A **Present** God - We are not alone.
2. A **Personal** God - You are precious.
3. An **Empowering** God - You are able.

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. Does God listen and care?

A1. God is our refuge and strength, an **ever-present** help in trouble (Psa. 46:1). God promises that He will always be there; He is **near** (Phil. 4:4). Being in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7) means that God is **with** you wherever you go. He will not abandon you, even in your lowest moments. He is a present God who came down and **walked** among us (Phil. 2:5-7).

In every situation, we are commanded not to be anxious but to pray and make our requests to God (Phil. 6-7). His name Immanuel, meaning “**God with us**,” points to the truth that we have a present and personal God who is with us (Matt. 1:23).

Q2. Why was Paul able to experience joy despite all the suffering and pain he went through?

A2. God is a powerful God who chose to empower Paul to endure and persevere through any circumstances. In challenging situations, God helps us and empowers us (Phil. 4:6-7) so that we can emerge victorious. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak (Isa. 40:28-31). Therefore, we are called to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4). Joy is not the absence of sorrow but the result of God’s presence.

Quote: “Outside of Christ, I am weak; in Christ, I am strong.” — Watchman Nee

Application Questions

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

Q1. Share a time when you chose to be joyful despite a trying situation.

Q2. Share a testimony of how God has empowered you to achieve victory in your life.

WORKS (15 minutes)

Focus on *edification, equipping and evangelism*.

Celebration of Life (COL) 10 - 26 November.

1. Pray at every CG gathering.
2. Book tickets.
3. Explore ways to expedite your invitations, e.g., arranging transportation for your invitees or planning a meal together before the show, etc.
4. Challenge members to each bring at least one pre-believer. (NOTE: This is not an event for you or the CG to enjoy together; encourage everyone going to bring at least a pre-believer.)
5. Update status of CG Members’ Invitees List.
6. For those who have watched the show, cater time for thanksgiving and sharing about guests who attended COL, including their response/s.
7. Invite them to our weekend worship services.

For more information on COL, go to <https://www.fcbc.org.sg/COL2023>.

For FCBC announcements: visit www.fcbc.org.sg/announcements or our social media platforms – Facebook and Instagram @fbcsg.