

## 4Ws for Week 53 (30 Dec 2024 – 5 Jan 2025)

### WELCOME (15 minutes)

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

#### Suggested icebreakers:

##### 1. Year 2024 – Reflections & Thanksgiving

Reflect over 2024 and share one significant event that took place for which you are grateful and thankful to God.

##### 2. New Year 2025 – Challenges & Resolution Making

Share one resolution you are trusting God for in the New Year.

### 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) You
- 2) Holy Forever

### WORD (45 minutes)

**Preacher:** Ps Charmaine Cheong

**Scripture Passage:** Psalm 23 (NIVUK)

**Sermon Title:** Got Hope

#### Introduction

What's so merry about Christmas? Christmas is merry because God sent His one and only Son, Jesus into this world to die for our sins so we can be set free from our sins and have eternal life – the hope of our destiny. This message of Christmas brings us pure joy through Jesus who is the Light of the World. Christmas is merry also because it reminds us that there is hope in Jesus; this gives us a sense of certainty when life is full of uncertainties.

We can hope in Jesus because God is faithful to fulfil His Word: *“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23).*

In our ever changing and unpredictable world, we can face the uncertainties of life when we:

1. **Look up to God** – and trust Him for His *Unwavering Provision*
2. **Look ahead to God** – and see His *Unfolding Plan*

#### Discovery and Understanding Questions:

##### **Q1. Meditate on Psalm 23; Matthew 11:28 and Psalm 127:2. What promises and encouragements do we receive when we look heavenwards to God?**

**A1:** God is our Shepherd – in Him we lack nothing (Psalm 23:1); He will provide everything for us even in the darkest situations (Psalm 23:4). God provides us rest, direction, restoration and guidance (Psalm 23:2-3, Matthew 11:28, Psalm 127:2).

Because of these promises, we can always look up to Him and be at ease and truly rested.

**Q2. Ponder over Psalm 23:4; Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 8:28. When we are experiencing tough times, how can we still say, “Got Hope”?**

**A2.** Tough times don't last. As we go through the darkest situations in our lives, God is with us (Psalm 23:4); His plans for us are always to prosper us, and not to harm us, in order to give us hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). He will work out all things for good for us (Romans 8:28).

We can have restful hope because Jesus, our Shepherd, remains with us through tough times. Because of this we can proclaim, “I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in His Word I put my hope.” (Psalm 130:5)

### **Application Questions**

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

**Q1. Share an occasion when you experienced God's protection and provision.**

**Q2. "Rest is a weapon given to us by God. The enemy hates it because he wants you stressed and occupied." Max Lucado. Ponder over your life and determine if you trust fully in God's plan for your life? Share why this is so or why this is not so.**

### **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 your 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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