

4Ws for Week 41 (7 - 13 Oct'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. Word Association

Divide the group into pairs. One person in each pair chooses a colour, and the partner names something associated with that same colour, e.g., Red – Blood, or Green – Broccoli. Continue until all colours have been used.

2. The Best Location

If you had the option to relocate to a different area in Singapore, which area would you choose, and why? Share your thoughts with the group.

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) Now I'm Free
- 2) Holy Forever

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: **SP Daniel Khong**

Scripture Passage: **Ephesians 4:1-6**

Sermon Title: **A Strong Family**

Introduction

God desires to cultivate strong communities and families—not only our biological families but also the spiritual family, the church. The Christian faith is not an individualistic faith; the Bible repeatedly emphasises the importance of harmonious relationships within the Christian community. The Apostle Paul's teachings to the Ephesian church, as illustrated by SP Daniel, highlight the significance of living as a community and family. He envisions FCBC becoming a cohesive and strong family.

What makes a strong family? Two fundamental principles:

1. Not the absence of **DIFFERENCES**, but the presence of **UNITY**.
2. Not the absence of **CONFLICT**, but the presence of **RECONCILIATION**.

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. How can our differences teach us to be united?

A1. The strength of a family is defined by its unity, not by its similarities. Unity reflects God's character. Jesus prays for us to be united and reminds us that He and the Father are one (John 17:11). God's concept of family begins with unity (Ephesians 4:4-6), and He commands us to make every effort to maintain this unity through the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3).

At the tower of Babel, the people's similarities led them to disobey God by staying together and trying to make a name for themselves. In response, God confused their language and scattered them, so they would fulfill His command to fill the earth.

Q2. Why must we be willing to resolve conflicts and pursue reconciliation?

A2. A strong family is built on the ability and willingness to resolve conflicts. We must be patient and make allowances for one another (Eph.4:2), understanding that others may have different perspectives and needs. The Bible teaches us that we must be reconciled both to God and to one another.

First, we must be reconciled to God before bringing our offerings to Him (Matt.5:23-24). Reconciliation is the foundation of our salvation (2 Cor. 5:18-21). God chooses reconciliation over rejection (Jn. 3:16-17), and He desires that we be reconciled to Him and that we choose reconciliation with one another (2 Cor. 5:19, Eph. 4:2-3, Matt. 5:9).

Application Questions

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

Q1. What are you doing to maintain unity in your family despite the differences among siblings?

Q2. Are there any unresolved conflicts in your life? If so, what steps do you plan to take to achieve reconciliation?

Q3. What can you do to strengthen the relationships within your cell and foster unity?

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.

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