

4Ws for Week 49 (02-08 Dec 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. Christmas Season

One of the cherished traditions of Christmas is exchanging gifts with family and friends. What is one gift you would love to receive this year?

2. Give Thanks

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on gratitude. What is one thing you're especially thankful for this November?

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) God So Loved
- 2) Believe (You Are My Light)

WORD (45 minutes)

Preacher: SP Daniel Khong

Scripture Passage: 1 Thessalonians 5 / Philippians 4

Sermon Title: The Life of Thanksgiving

Introduction

The act of giving thanks is an essential aspect of lives as Christians. The early pilgrims expressed their gratitude to God for the harvest and the blessings they had received throughout the year. This tradition eventually evolved into Thanksgiving Day, celebrated in North America on the last Thursday of November. The Apostle Paul, in his letters to Christians in Thessalonica and Philippi, urges them to give thanks not only once a year but frequently and consistently.

From Paul's writings, we learn not only the importance of giving thanks but, more significantly, the need to cultivate a lifestyle of thanksgiving. We can embrace this by:

- Giving Thanks for *the Big and Small Things*
- Giving Thanks during *Good and Bad Times*

Discovery and Understanding Questions:

Q1. What are examples of giving thanks in the Bible?

A1: The Apostle Paul teaches us to give thanks in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

- Jesus gave thanks for the five loaves and two fish before feeding the five thousand (John 6:11).
- Paul gave thanks for the Christians at Thessalonica and Corinth (1 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 Corinthians 1:4).
- The Psalmist calls on the people: "*Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures for ever.*" (Psalm 106:1).

There is always something to be thankful for, especially when we look beyond just the big things.

“When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude.” — G.K. Chesterton

“Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.” — A.W. Tozer

Q2. How can we draw near to God in every situation?

A2. In the story of Job, despite his struggles, *Job continues to worship God* (Job 1:20-22). Similarly, Paul teaches us to rejoice in the Lord always (Philippians 4:4). He further encourages us: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6).

When faced with challenging situations, what we need most is God’s presence. The best way to enter into His manifest presence is by cultivating a heart of thanksgiving. As Psalm 100:4 reminds us: “*Enter his gates **with thanksgiving** and his courts with praise; **give thanks** to him and praise his name.*”

“I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages.” — Charles Spurgeon

Application Questions

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

Q1. How can your cell group encourage one another to give thanks to God? Share your thoughts.

Q2. What is one step you can take to start cultivating a lifestyle of thanksgiving? Share your answer.

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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