

FBC TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



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First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Article:	
WFH is FBC's New Normal	01
Life Group Splash:	
Featuring CIA LG	04
Pulpit Program	05
Prayer Spotlight	05
Upcoming Events	05

WFH is FBC's New Normal



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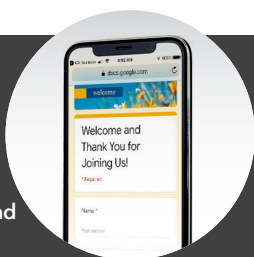
By Leong Yew Lum
Yew Lum is an Elder and serves as the Chairman of FBC

Ever since the Covid-19 Pandemic started, the acronym WFH, which stands for 'Work from Home', has become common, everyday vocabulary. However, WFH is also the acronym for another reality that Christians have had to get used to. I'm talking about **Worship from Home**.

As a result of the MCO, our corporate worship has for some time now taken the form of online streaming or broadcasting. The question is: *Do we take as much care in our Worship from Home as we would for in-person worship or even when compared to our attitudes when working from home?*

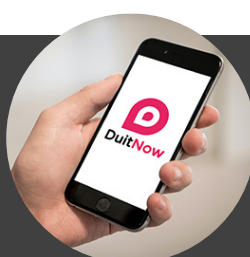
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In FBC, we have noticed that the number of views for our online Sunday services have fluctuated and dropped substantially. Perhaps we need to re-examine the mandate and importance of our corporate 'gathering' on the Lord's day and restore Worship from Home to its proper place in our lives. If our gathering on Sunday is to come into God's presence to worship Him, what should our attitudes be? May I suggest the following thoughts when we Worship from Home:

1. Our WFH should be Christ-centred rather than man-centred.

In a culture where the ultimate aim is the pursuit of one's personal happiness and comfort, and where the self takes precedence above all else, it's easy to come to church service with the expectation of being "served". Even for well-intentioned Christians, we may unconsciously hope that our church will serve up an eloquent sermon or music that's pleasing to our ears, or even

prayers that focus more on what we want rather than what conforms to the will of God. Not that a good sermon or great music or prayers for our needs are wrong in themselves, but our edification and experience are not the primary focus when we come to worship. It's not about us as much as it is about God! *It's about coming with the intent and expectation to honour and glorify Jesus who is the reason and reality for our worship.* God is not an abstraction but a Person. Worship concerns both His praise and His presence.

2. Our WFH should be sacred with a sense of reverence.

Are we mindful that we are coming into the presence of a Holy God?

I remember once attending a CNY function that had the Agong as its guest-of-honour. There was a seemingly endless list of royal protocols that we had to follow to show respect for a king whom I did not even

have a personal relationship with. While we should not be legalistic on how we present ourselves, I do think we need to maintain some basic decorum when we come to meet our King of kings.

As a church, I think we need to desperately recapture a lofty concept of who God is. He is the Ruler and Judge of the whole Earth!

Let's remember that our God is the same God who told Moses to remove his sandals because he was standing on holy ground (Exodus 3). He's the same God who provided Isaiah a glimpse of His power and glory that immediately reminded the prophet of his own unworthiness.

In other words, let us regard the space we come into for worship as sacred. Let us come to worship with an attitude of humility and reverence, for our sacrifice to God "is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise" (Psalm 51:17).

3. Our WFH should engage our hearts and transform our lives.

The danger of watching a service unfold on a screen is that we reduce our involvement to being mere spectators at an event rather than full engagement of our faculties in the act of worship. When the music starts, are we content to just listen and be entertained or do we rise to our feet and sing out loud to be fully engaged? When we listen to the sermon, are we just 'downloading' into our minds a monologue or do we allow that information to transform our lives by going beyond our *heads* to our *hearts* and eventually to our *hands* as it propels us to act in obedience to the will of God (James 1:22)? Sunday worship should be a transformative experience that binds us closer to God and to His people.

4. Our WFH should give us a longing to come back to worship with others in-person.

Our isolation from the rest of the body of Christ is akin to the early Christians who were scattered all over the Roman empire because of persecution from the authorities. Our current situation should cause us to long for the day when we can once again meet face-to-face. Bodily presence matters and worshipping from home is but a poor substitute for in-person corporate worship where we can hear one another's voices, greet each other with a handshake (holy kiss) and fellowship over a cup of tea.

After all, corporate worship is supposed to be a foretaste of the gathered church depicted in the Apostle John's vision in Revelation 7:9, where "there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb".

With WFH a necessity at the moment, FBC is trying to make our online worship a more holistic and engaging experience, which is why on March 14, we will be switching to a Zoom format for Sunday service. More information will be provided in the weeks to come.

In the meantime, let me leave you with an interesting thought from Pastor Jay Y. Kim, author of the book *Analog Church*. Jay made a distinction between a *Church Online* and an *Online Church*. The first is a gathering of God's people wanting to engage and participate in the life of the church while the second is a packaged product to be downloaded and consumed. One is a community while the other is a commodity.

Which one is FBC? 🗣️

[Read Full Article](#)





Life Group Splash Featuring

CIA LG

How did CIA get its name?

CIA stands for 'Christians in Action'. Our name is derived from 1 John 3:18 as we strive to be a community of believers that loves one another in actions and in truth.

What is CIA's story?

CIA was formed in April 2019, with the aim to provide LG community for parents with young children. But we welcome anyone who would like to join us, especially if you enjoy the company of active children!

Describe your LG using a movie or show.

'Cheaper by the Dozen' if all the kids show up for LG, and 'Geostorm' after LG ends.

What is the LG experience like?

To us, LG has been more than just a group of people meeting for fellowship or Bible study. It has become a family unit which we have a sense of belonging to. We have journeyed together through times of joy and sorrow, and witnessed God's faithfulness and goodness together. It is always encouraging to see LG members reaching out to meet each other's needs, and we are incredibly blessed to be part of this family in Christ.

LG is a great platform for us to be disciples of Christ and to be disciple-makers. You get to build genuine relationships and you'll most likely enjoy a lot of good food along the way!



What are some memorable CIA events?

Visiting Elvis and Ketch's newborn baby in 2019 and praying over their family as an LG was very special. Another was visiting each other's homes during CNY last year. We went from house to house and our group of 25 concluded at Nando's for lunch- with all the kids in tow! ☺

At present, CIA is an LG of individuals and families, comprising of 22 adults and 14 kids (of which, 10 are boys aged between 1 to 7, and more are on the way!)

Prior to the MCO, we met in LG members' homes in the Subang area. We currently meet online via Zoom, fortnightly on Saturday afternoons at 4:00pm.

Interested to join us? Contact Johnson Lee or Alex Tan.

[Join A Life Group Today](#)

| Pulpit Program

February 14, 2021

The Norms of the Kingdom: Merciful and Pure

(Matthew 5:7-8)



PREACHER
Samuel Khew

February 21, 2021

The Norms of the Kingdom: Peacemakers & Persecuted

(Matthew 5:9-12)



PREACHER
Ps. Joash Chan

February 28, 2021

The Norms of the Kingdom: Meek and Hungry

(Matthew 5:5-6)



PREACHER
Alex Tan

March 7, 2021 (Mission Sunday)

The Norms of the Kingdom: Salt and Light of the Earth

(Matthew 5:13-16)



PREACHER
Ps. Massimo Gei

| Worship with Us



MAIN SERVICE

| ONLINE |
Sundays 8:45am



YOUTH SERVICE

| ZOOM |
Sundays 9:00am



SUNDAY SCHOOL

for ages 0-12yrs
| ZOOM |
Sundays



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PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Worship Ministry



1. Thank God that we have been able to gather virtually and worship Him on Sundays in spite of the pandemic.
2. Pray for the team who is organizing the Zoom Sunday Service on 14 March.

3. Pray that we will have hearts of humility and reverence when we come before God on Sundays.
4. Pray that our worship will be Christ-centred, that we will worship from our homes in a manner that glorifies God.
5. Pray that God will draw us closer to Himself and bind us together as a church.
6. Pray that we will be able to physically gather and worship with one another again soon.

| Upcoming Events



Is There More to Life Than This?

Every Wednesday
8:00pm to 9:30pm

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Sunday Worship on Zoom

14 March 2021

Stay tuned for more
information.



Every Saturday to Thursday 9:00pm

Zoom ID:
929 735 694
Password: **pray**



Encountering God 27 February (Saturday) 2:00 to 3:30pm

Zoom ID:
851 5039 1038
Password: **pray**

More Information on Upcoming Events