

CONNECT

Sensory activity for the week leading to Kampungku BEC Reflection (April)

Here are some suggestions for a “sensory activity” that may help you connect better with our ever-present loving God. Choose any one that works best for you.

- Get a **hat** to reveal the role you played today & your emotions eg. A basketball cap – played with my son & daughter and we were happy. A clown hat = needed to make someone happy today. A straw hat = it was a hot day and I watered the plants and I am feeling satisfied, etc
- Make one of your favourite snacks or beverages and while enjoying it, share and talk to God about your day



Embracing the Word of God

CDM Kampung-ku Connection

Theme: Believing in Hope

April 2021

Embracing the Word of God

O **pening prayer:** God our Father, thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus. Jesus, we thank you for giving yourself to us, so that we may experience the peace, love & joy that you promised us, through Your Life-giving word. As we come together as a faith community, we ask through the power Holy Spirit, to anoint us with the gift of faith to believe and embrace your holy Word. We pray that this time will be a time of grace to come to understand your Word in an extraordinary way. **We make this prayer in your precious name, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Listen with open hearts and minds

<https://youtu.be/O9Hoi2kXrU>

optional- (video clip) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yol87Dt1t8>
(10 mins plus- may watch individually if desired)

Embracing the Word of God is literally holding the Word of God close to your heart. Embracing the Word is first step to realise that the Word of God is indeed Jesus. That is why we use the term “embracing” because we literally embrace Jesus! When “Jesus” the Word, is read out aloud, we are making way for Jesus to come into our lives, into our difficult situations, so that He is able take over completely. That’s how literal it is!

There is a banner that hangs in our Church and it quotes Jeremiah 15:16, “**Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.**” Surely there is a question popping in your head: How do we eat the Word of God let alone embrace the Word of God? Well, when we have taken the first step towards understanding that the Word of God is indeed Jesus and Jesus is the Bread of Life, something happens. When we read out aloud the Word of God, our faith rises as promised in Romans 10:17, “**So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**” Then, we begin to experience His assurance that we would not want to let go and literally embrace it as long as we can. His Words become such solace to our hearts that “**His peace which surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Jesus**”. (Phil 4:7)

Peter states that “**the word of the Lord stands forever**” (1 Pet. 1:25). Each time we open the Word of the Lord and allow it to penetrate our life, we are placing something eternal within us. Allowing the Word to move us makes us want to “embrace” and not let go because the world is not able to give us that peace that we long for so much.

Last month we were reminded to dwell in the Word of God. When we dwell in something, we tend to get close to it and we will not want to let go, especially when it’s real & alive! Same goes for the Word. When we dwell in the Word of God, we will fall in love with Him because His Word is alive. In Heb 4:12, it says, “**Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**”

WHY do we need to embrace the Word of God?

- The Word of God builds us in our Soul (Mind, Emotions & Will)
- The Word of God strengthens us when we are weak
- The Word of God is near to our lips so we can speak it anytime
- The Word of God increases faith in times of trouble

It is similar to reminding God of His promises to us! When God hears us, He is so pleased because we, like Moses, took God by His word and God answered his plea. Today, we are like Moses, standing in the gap for our families and community.

WHAT are benefits in embracing the Word of God?

- **Protects** us from harm and danger
- **Increases** faith as we persevere
- **Gain** wisdom to run our daily work
- **Experience** extraordinary blessings
- **Assist** us to overcome sin & walk in faithfulness
- **Experience** peace of mind & freedom in mind & body

HOW to embrace the **Word of God**: -

- **Believe** in the Scriptures. Believe what God has spoken in the Scripture
- **Memorise** a short verse that touched your heart and confess it throughout the day. Make it your favourite verse.
- If you do not believe, just **say a prayer** asking God to give you the faith to believe in His Word.
- Continue to *ponder or meditate* on the Word of God eg. If you are in fear, read Isaiah 41:10 **loudly** and **believe**. The keyword is "**believe**."
- **Personalise** the scriptures and make it your personal prayer. Change the "You" to "I" eg." Isa 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you" change it to "I **will not fear, for God is with me.**"
- Capture His word into your heart. Repeat the promises of God over and over again throughout the day until it gets rooted in your heart.

The secret behind embracing the Word of God is believing every word He has spoken and making it yours and yours alone. We will experience His peace in the midst of our storm and we will be able to move one day at time, in His strength. We were never meant to be in this storm alone. That is why embracing "**JESUS**" who is the "**WORD**" is our only way out!

share

1. Share your struggles/challenges in embracing the Word of God.
2. Share testimonies when you embraced the Word of God.
3. Share how are you going to embrace the Word of God

Conclusion

Embracing of God's Word would be evident in our lives when we start memorizing and meditating that Word daily that it becomes part of our daily thought and conversation with others.

As we let those verses ring in our mind that Word will come out in our praying, in our encouraging and even in correcting in love of our fellow believer.

By filling our minds with Scriptures, praying with Scriptures, singing the Scriptures and embracing the Scriptures as your own, we will be faithful recipients of the Word of God. That Word will come out naturally in our behaviour and lifestyle. How serious have you been taking the Word of God?

The Help you need:

Here are some links to help you in reading the bible:

Visit [Ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear](https://www.ascensionpress.com/bibleinayear) (sign up for a guided podcast with Fr Mike Schmitz for an animated walk through the bible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hb7nSL1gKU>

https://youtu.be/CpulbTZ_YZ8

<https://chnetwork.org/free-resource-updated-version-of-our-read-the-bible-and-the-catechism-in-a-year-guide/>

<https://brandonvogt.com/how-to-easily-read-the-whole-bible/>

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Losing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for walking with us patiently as we learn to embrace your Word, Your Jesus, today. We pray that we will continue to be faithful to you by trusting You in Your Word that you have given us so willingly. Holy Spirit, anoint us and give us a hunger for the Word just like a deer panting for the water, let our mind, emotions and will pant for You. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord and Saviour. AMEN

As the deer pants

[Verse 1]

As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after You
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You

[Refrain]

You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You

[Verse 2]

You're my friend and You're my brother
Even though you are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything

[Refrain]

You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You

[Verse 3]

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye

[Refrain]

You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You