**Cell Group Bible Study**

**The First Letter to the Corinthians**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the start of our church’s sermon series and cell group bible study on the Book of First Corinthians! We will be embarking on this journey for next five months from July till November.

*Why study First Corinthians?*

1. As part of our vision of ‘**Rebuilding God’s House’** for the year, this letter is a very helpful New Testament teaching on not only personal but corporate seeking of God’s will for us.
2. The Corinthian church faced issues which we can relate to and identify with. We can learn to adopt God’s perspective to the issues we are facing.
3. Many teachings and doctrines are crucial to build our understanding of our faith and hope in God’s coming kingdom

*What is a suggested cell group and bible study format?*

1. You can incorporate the elements of the **4 W’s** for your cell meeting: **Welcome** (personal thanksgiving), **Worship** (songs), **Word** (bible study) and **Works** (prayer for each other and upcoming events of the church).
2. Each of the bible study will consist of three elements:
   1. **Introductory question** for discussion (related to the focus of the bible study)
   2. **Discussion question(s)** based on the passage
   3. **Possible application(s)** in daily life
3. You may not include all of the elements in a single cell group session but please don’t ignore any of these elements over the longer term.

*What can be helpful for cell members to be more involved?*

1. Everyone should try to read the bible passage and prepare for the questions beforehand
2. Cell members can be rostered to lead in the various elements within the cell meeting: welcome, worship, bible study or prayer
3. In smaller groups, cell members can keep in touch with one another about how they have been applying the lessons learnt in the sermon/bible study throughout the week. You can also ask cell members to share and update about their previous week’s resolution that they have set for themselves.

*What is helpful for you as a cell leader to have a fruitful meeting?*

1. Keep your cell group meeting and your members in prayer throughout the week
2. Encourage everyone to share and thanks them for sharing – there are no wrong answers and each opinion should be valued
3. Look to affirm what your members are sharing – especially about how God may be speaking or leading them in their lives
4. Feel free to stop at any point to elaborate more if the Spirit is leading you to – **you don’t have to complete all of the discussion questions**
5. Look to end every meeting in prayer committing everyone and the week ahead to God’s blessing and keeping

**Cell Group Bible Study (7 Aug)**

**1 Corinthians 5**

**Theme – Church Discipline**

Key Verse:

*“Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.”* 1 Cor 4:15

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Share about a difficult thing you had to do for the past week/month/year? Why did you have to do that difficult thing and what benefits did it bring about in the end?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5]**

The Apostle Paul expresses his shock that the Corinthian church was tolerating a situation of a man sleeping with his father’s wife. The tense in the passage indicates that this incestual relationship is ongoing. Such a behaviour was not even tolerated in the permissive pagan Corinth society!

What was even more shocking was their attitude towards their own tolerance.

*“****And you are proud!*** *Shouldn’t you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?”* (1 Cor 5:2)

1. Why do you think the Corinthian church would tolerate (or even celebrate) such a behaviour in their midst?

**[Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8]**

The Apostle uses a lot of Old Testament imagery to express a truth: *“Don’t you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?”* (1 Cor 5:6)

1. What is Paul’s concern about the danger of tolerating sin in the church?

**[Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13]**

Paul then goes on to give the God-given solution for dealing with sin in the church.

The solution is to “*hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.”* (1 Cor 5:5)

In 1 Timothy 1:19-20, Paul also dealt with Hymenaeus and Alexander in the same manner: *“…whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.”* What does it mean to hand a sinner over to Satan?

1. What does it mean to hand a sinner over to Satan?

(Ans: In the context of this chapter, it is explained in vv2, 11 and 13)

1. What is the final intention (God’s perspective) of handing over someone to Satan? (If they answer so that his spirit may be saved, follow up with the question – How can handing someone over to Satan save the spirit of a person?)

***C. Application***

Jesus says, *“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”* (Matthew 18:15-17)

1. Is there someone you need to reconcile with in the manner detailed by Jesus?
2. Is there a sin that needs to be addressed in the cell group / church that is affecting many? How should this be done?

(Cell leaders, you may select one of the two application questions)

*End with* ***praying*** *for each other to have wisdom to deal with sin and the church to have courage to deal with sin.*