**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 (14 Aug)**

**1 Corinthians 6**

**Theme – God’s Ownership of Us**

Key Verse:

*“You are not your own; you were bought at a price.”* 1 Cor 6:19-20

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Have you ever owned a pet? Did you ever expect (or even trained) your pet to do something for you? How did you feel when it met (or did not meet) your expectations?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-11]**

Members within the Corinthian church are taking each other to civil courts before unbelieving judges for judgment. The irony is obvious. Shouldn’t saints who have received divine wisdom through God’s Spirit be more qualified to make judgments?

1. According to this passage, what is wrong about taking out a civil lawsuit against a fellow believer in court?

*“The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already.* ***Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?”*** (1 Cor 6:7)

1. What does Paul’s rebuke to the church reflect about where his ultimate concern lies? (Or what is Paul trying to achieve by telling the believers to be wronged and cheated instead?)

**[Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20]**

“*Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, ‘The two will become one flesh.’?”* (1 Cor 6:16)

1. There are many dangers of sexual promiscuity, such as getting STDs and becoming pregnant. According to Paul, what is the primary danger of sexual relations outside of marriage?

***C. Application***

Ultimately, today’s passage is trying to change our perspective of ***who*** has ownership of our lives.

Instead of thinking that we are our own masters and *free to pursue our rights*, we are told that we do not have the right to fight for our own benefit to the point where we bring shame and dishonour to God’s name. This is sin and will bring about God’s judgment upon us (1 Cor 6:9-10).

Instead of thinking that we are our own masters and *free to indulge our pleasures*, we are told that our bodies belong to the Lord and are temples of the Holy Spirit. We are to honour God with our bodies (1 Cor 6:13-20).

1. Is there a right that you are fighting for that will not bring honour to God nor benefit the extension of His kingdom?
2. Is there a sinful pleasure or habit that you are indulging in that you find it hard to give up?

*Spend some time* ***praying*** *for God’s strength to forego our own benefits and pleasures so that we can please God fully.*