**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 (28 Aug)**

**1 Corinthians 8**

**Theme – Walking the Way of Love**

Key Verse:

*“Knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.* 1 Cor 8:1

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Have you ever experienced “spiritual” encounters in your life? How does that affect your view towards the reality of the spiritual world?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13]**

The Apostle Paul writes, “*Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist..*” (v4-6)

1. What is Paul’s reason for a Christian being assured with eating food offered to idols?

The Apostle Paul then writes, *“However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.* (v7)

1. According to Paul, what is one reason for some Christians’ weak conscience towards eating food offered to idols? Why do you think such a reason affects these Christians so greatly?

***C. Application***

Many people, including Christians, think that it is their personal right to do **whatever** they are entitled to do for the sake of their own self-satisfaction and fulfilment.

However, the apostle Paul highlights a sequence of priorities that every Christian should have. Enjoying free access to food is not as important as protecting and building up a brother’s faith. This is because in the larger scheme of things, ***s***upper is temporary (and doesn’t bring you closer to God) but ***s***alvation is eternal and of the greatest consequence.

Instead he concludes that “*But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.*” (v9). Walking in love considers the needs of others first.

1. Is there any situation that the Holy Spirit is leading you to act in love by giving up your right to personal fulfilment and enjoyment for the sake of the faith of others? How about as a cell group for the good of others?

*For further personal questioning*:

1. In this chapter, Paul seems to put a lot of emphasis on our conscience as vital to our continued salvation. Wounding our conscience, he writes, is sin against Christ (v12) and can lead to a Christian stumbling. Is there anything that is pricking your conscience concerning your actions and behaviour?