**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 (11 Sep)**

**1 Corinthians 10**

**Theme – Guarding against Complacency and Pride**

Key Verse: *“**Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.”* 1 Cor 10:12

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Share about how a person (whether a close relative or a public figure) has a great influence in your life and why.

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-22]**

The Apostle Paul makes a bold claim: “*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”* (v13)

God’s promise is that we as God’s people will **never** be tempted beyond what we can bear and we will be able to overcome all the trials that come our way through his grace for us.

1. If this is the case, why do you think the Israelites were not able to stand against the temptations and testing that they faced in the wilderness? How does that change our attitude towards sin in our lives and the feeling of being helpless when faced with temptations?

Earlier in 1 Corinthians 8, Paul permitted the eating of food sacrificed to idols by writing,

“*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.’”* (v4) He implied through this statement that idols do not have any power to affect or influence our lives through food sacrificed to idols.

Yet here in 1 Corinthians 10, he tells the church to flee from idolatry by not eating sacrifices to idols:

*“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.”* (v21)

1. What, in your opinion, should Christians do when faced with eating food offered to idols? What, do you think, is the main point that the Holy Spirit is speaking to us on this subject?

***C. Application***

*“Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.”* 1 Cor 10:12

Paul gave many examples of how the Israelites had sinned in the OT even though they saw and experienced God’s miracles of provision. These accounts were written for our learning so that we may not engage in idolatry, sexual immorality or be unbelieving and ungrateful towards God.

1. What attitude is most important to have (or to avoid) when dealing with temptations and trials so as to not fall into sin?

*For further personal reflection*:

1. What are some safeguards you can put in your life to help you live a righteous and holy life before God that is free from intentional sin? Be diligent to put them into practice so that you may not be complacent about sin.