**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 (18 Sep)**

**1 Corinthians 11**

**Theme – Guarding against Self-Centredness and Discrimination of Others**

Key Verse: *“Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”* 1 Cor 11:28

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Share about an incident where you felt you have been discriminated against. How did you feel?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34]**

The situation in the Corinthian Church was dreadful when it came to eating the Lord’s Supper. Some were eating the meal ahead of others so that when the others arrived, they had nothing left to eat.

And this was not simply a case of the early bird catching the worm.

Those who were early for the Supper were the richer people within the church. As they were the owners of their businesses, they were at liberty to arrive early for the feast. The working class and slaves could only arrive after they had completed their working hours.

Instead of reserving some food for their poorer brothers, these rich people ate up all the food and even got drunk on the wine. The poor could only go hungry and were humiliated at the Lord’s Supper. As a result, the apostle Paul was furious with their attitudes and practices. “Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not,” he writes to them.

1. *“Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.”* (v27) With the above scenario in mind, what was Paul specifically referring to about them eating and drinking in an unworthy manner?
2. *“So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another— if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment.”* (v33-34) What is Paul ultimately concerned about in the participation of the Lord’s Supper?

***C. Application***

*“Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”* 1 Cor 11:28

The verdict that the Apostle Paul pronounced for those who participated in the Lord’s Supper unworthily was frightful. They would fall sick and even die due to God’s judgment. Yet participation in the Lord’s Supper is also commanded by the Lord for us as Christians. We are to do so as often as we gather. And we proclaim Christ’s death when we celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

1. How can we be obedient to Christ to participate in the Lord’s Supper regularly and yet be careful to do so in a worthy manner?

*For further reflection*:

1. Are there other way(s) as a church community we have been preoccupied and concerned about the needs and interests of a particular group to the exclusion and even neglect of other groups of people? Have we practiced discrimination? What is the Lord speaking to us to correct this?