**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 (4 Sep)**

**1 Corinthians 9**

**Theme – Examining our Life’s Motivations**

Key Verse:

*“I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”* 1 Cor 9:22

***A. Introductory Question***

1. What is one thing you look forward to achieving every morning when you wake up?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23]**

The Apostle Paul writes, “*Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.”* (v19) He made great sacrifices for the sake of winning others.

Christ too made similar sacrifices to secure our salvation: *“For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* (Hebrews 12:2)

1. How do you feel when Jesus or others made great personal sacrifices for your benefit? Would you be willing to make similar sacrifices for others’ benefit as well?

Paul offers a helpful boundary to his enslavement to others with his statement *“To those not having the law I became like one not having the law* ***(though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law)****.”* (v21) In other words, he is saying that he will not deviate from Christ’s commands even when interacting with those who live without obedience to God’s laws.

1. What, in your opinion, are some of the limits to becoming slaves to the expectations of other people in order to share the gospel with them?

***C. Application***

*“I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”* 1 Cor 9:23

Paul’s overriding motivation in life was for the gospel – to live his life in such a way so that the gospel may be presented without hindrances to as many as possible. This is so that he can share in the future heavenly blessings that the gospel brings.

In his subsequent letter to the Corinthian church, he explained that the apostles’ motivation for Christ’s glory caused them **not to put obstacles** in other people’s paths:

*“We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.”* (2 Cor 6:3)

1. What, do you feel, may have become a stumbling block to others as a result of your actions or lifestyle choices? Or what actions have you adopted which are helpful to the advancement of the gospel? Feel free to share in your group.

*For further personal reflection*:

1. How does the motivation of the gospel compare with the all of the other motivations in your life? Are you seeking for true heavenly rewards or merely preoccupied with earthly ones?