**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 (25 Sep)**

**1 Corinthians 12**

**Theme – The Importance of Exercising Spiritual Gifts**

Key Verse: *“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”* 1 Cor 12:7

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Spend some time to appreciate one another for one of his/her strength and contribution to the cell group. If there are newcomers to the cell, they can simply listen in.

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11]**

The gifts of the Spirit as listed out by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 are not meant to be exhaustive. (There are other lists of spiritual gifts in Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:1-16 and 1 Peter 4:8-11 comprising of different gifts. Altogether, there are at least 20 gifts mentioned in total). Yet they are all distributed by the **same** Spirit of God to everyone.

1. *“For to one is given through the Spirit* ***the utterance of wisdom****, and to another* ***the utterance of knowledge*** *according to the same Spirit, to another* ***faith*** *by the same Spirit, to* ***another gifts of healing*** *by the one Spirit, to another* ***the working of miracles****, to another* ***prophecy****, to another* ***the ability to distinguish between spirits****, to another* ***various kinds of tongues****, to another* ***the interpretation of tongues****.”* (v8-10) Briefly discuss what the Holy Spirit determines through each of these nine gifts and how it helps others in the church.

**[Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31]**

The Apostle shifts now from the one Spirit to the many members and their functions. He now says that every part is important to the growth of the whole body, even the parts that are not prominent.

1. *“Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”* (v29-30) What do these verses tell you about the roles which we play in the church?

***C. Application***

*“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”* 1 Cor 12:7

One of the remarkable aspects of this chapter is Paul’s description of just how closely related to each other God’s people should be. We are actually so interconnected that if one member suffers, all suffer together; and if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. (v26)

1. Suggest ways you can strengthen the community bonds within your cell group so as to better care for and support each other. Be free to be creative as our God is a God of diversity!

*For further personal reflection*:

Sadly, in our modern world focusing on individualism, this crucial communal identity may be diminished in many church communities to the detriment of our faith. And the solution to this lies with each one of us personally to purpose to build others up.

1. Are you prepared to let the Spirit change your mindset and your commitments in life to be church and other-centred so as to fully fulfil God’s purpose for your life?