**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 (2 Oct)**

**1 Corinthians 13**

**Theme – The Most Excellent Way of Living**

Key Verse: *“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”* 1 Cor 13:13

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Share about the most loving person you have ever encountered or seen in your life. (Anyone but Jesus!) What was it about that person’s act or behaviour that was so loving?

***B. Discussion Questions***

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

This chapter is very closely linked with the previous chapter (1 Cor 12) and the next chapter (1 Cor 14) speaking about the correct exercise of spiritual gifts.

*“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”* (v1-2)

1. What do these two verses tell us about the attitude in which spiritual gifts should be exercised?

*“Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.”* (v8-10)

1. In what ways are the value of love superior to the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit?

*“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.”* (v11)

1. What is the relevance of childishness (or the lack of maturity) with acting in love written here?

***C. Application***

*“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”* (v4-7)

Love as described here is best understood as a **way of life**, lived in imitation of Jesus Christ, that is focused not on oneself but on the “other” for his or her good. Love is about action, how a person lives for the Lord and obeys him… and how a person lives for others and serves them.

1. Pick out any one aspect of biblical love listed here that has impacted you greatly and convicted you about how you should change for the better. Why did that aspect speak so strongly to you?

*For further personal reflection*:

The standard of true love listed here seems so high as to be impossible to attain to. This is especially challenging if we have to love those who are unappreciative, rude or downright hateful to us.

1. Is there any value in persevering to love the unlovable? How can you help yourself to be renewed in strength and patience daily to love as the bible tells us?