**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 (23 Oct)**

**1 Corinthians 14**

**Theme – Building Others Up**

Key Verse: *“Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.”* 1 Cor 14:12

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Share about how you have been blessed in the past week or month by someone’s act of kindness to you. In what ways were you blessed?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-25]**

This section compares and contrasts the gifts of tongues and prophecy. Through this the Apostle Paul tries to show the right function of spiritual gifts in the community. Tongues that are unintelligible do not function to build anyone, while prophecy that is clearly understood to the hearer encourages him or her.

1. Do you think that the Apostle was for or against the gift of tongues? Why do you think that way?

Study these verses:

*“I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets,* ***so that the church may be edified****.”* (v5)

*“Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those* ***that build up the church****.”* (v12)

*“I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.* ***But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue****.”* (v18-19)

1. What is the common theme of these verses that is repeated by the Apostle Paul in different ways? What do you think is his main message for the church from this theme?

***C. Application***

*“So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”* (v23-25)

The believers in Corinth enjoyed flaunting their gift of tongues in public worship. They are not particularly bothered about how this affects the unbelievers who visit their services.

1. There may be some practices we like to engage in in church (or cell) but may not be helpful to visitors as they do not understand what we do. Should we change our practices for their sake?

*For further personal reflection*:

1. Look at your current lifestyle. In what ways are they helpful to the building up of the church? If they are not, how can you change your habits and behaviour so that others may be built up?