**Cell Group Bible Study**

**Growing in Fruitfulness Sermon Series 2024**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the start of our church’s sermon series and cell group bible study on Growing in Fruitfulness! We will be embarking on this journey for seven weeks based on the sermon series.

*Why study Growing in Fruitfulness passages?*

1. This is primarily God’s call to us as His disciples. Both our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to bear fruit for His glory (John 15:8). It is not just a choice but a command (John 15:16).
2. Growing in Fruitfulness helps us find **true meaning in life**. We may be beset by many priorities and distractions in our lives but bearing fruit for Christ is the only activity that ensures eternal rewards for us, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal (Matthew 6:20)
3. Growing in Fruitfulness is God’s specific will and leading for COA in 2024. By participating in this together, we can experience growing together and God’s gracious blessings upon us as a community. We are also strengthened to reach out together for Christ.

*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 planning and participating in 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 need to include all of the elements in a single cell group session but do not neglect any of the **4 W’s** over the long term.

*What can be helpful for cell members to be more involved?*

1. Everyone should try to read the bible passage beforehand or during the meeting.
2. Cell members can be rostered to lead in the various elements within the cell meeting: welcome, worship, bible study or prayer. This will help involve more members for the cell.
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.

*What is helpful for you as a cell leader to have a fruitful meeting?*

1. Start and end every meeting **on time**. This honours the commitment that all the cell members have made to attend cell on time.
2. Encourage everyone to share and thank them for sharing – there are no wrong answers (unless it contradicts what God says!) 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 if the Spirit is leading you to – **you don’t have to complete all of the discussion questions.**
5. Keep your cell group meeting and your members in prayer throughout the week.

**Growing in Fruitfulness Bible Study (7 Jan)**

**Growing in Fruitfulness in our Families**

**Big Idea – Bearing Fruit includes Transformation in Our Families**

Key Verse: *“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”* Ephesians 5:22

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Give thanks for how the beginning of the year has been for you.

***B. Discussion Scenarios (You may just select one or go through all three.)***

**[Read Ephesians 5:21-6:4]**

**Scenario 1:**

Louis and Joanne have been married for ten years. They had obediently and dutifully gone through their church’s marriage preparation course and enjoyed a blessed church wedding. Yet while the first year of marriage had been blissful, married life has proven to be more challenging with each passing year.

Lately, both Louis and Joanne had been more absorbed in their work and hardly have time for each other. Worse still, the pressures of school work on their two young children meant that week nights and even weekends are spent ferrying their children for tuition or supervising their schoolwork. Church attendance and regular devotions have suffered as a result.

At the start of 2024, Louis has been convicted of the need to be more serious about seeking God’s will for the family and to make a fresh commitment to serve actively in church. Joanne, on the other hand, finds that daunting with all the family commitments and is reluctant to commit. They have had some serious disagreements because of this.

**Scenario 2:**

Tommy is a bright and outgoing primary school student. Recently though, he has been hooked on computer gaming and demands to play his favourite games most of his waking hours. He finds it hard to concentrate in school and is disinterested in his studies. Teachers have noticed the change in Tommy and informed his parents about his misbehaviour. Lately, he has even displayed rudeness to his mother when she restricted his game time. She finds it hard to get him to do anything else besides his games. She has voiced her frustrations with her husband.

**Scenario 3:**

Mary and her husband had just converted to Christianity from a folk religion. Part of her family tradition growing up involves visiting temples and eating food dedicated to the deities of the temple. Her mother understands her change in beliefs but hopes that she could still hold joss sticks to pray to her departed father. She is silent about her decision in this matter.

***C. Application***

1. What advise would you give to these people from Paul’s letter to Ephesians?
2. Are there any other scenarios that you have experienced and you would like to share about?

End with prayer for one another in small groups for God’s blessings to grow in fruitfulness in our families.