**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 (14 Jan)**

**Growing in Fruitfulness in Our Work**

**Big Idea – Our work is ultimately for God’s glory**

Key Verse: *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,.”* Galatians 3:23

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Have you ever been involved in office or school politics? What kind of behaviours by colleagues or classmates who practice politics irritate or irk you the most?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read Colossians 3:22-25]**

While none of us would qualify as slaves in the modern context, yet Paul’s letter to the Colossian Church is still very relevant to us. This is because we are all working under supervisors or employers or teachers, whether as employees or students. The same biblical principles applied to slaves in the past also apply to all of us who are serving under authority.

1. According to the text, what is one negative trait highlighted by Paul of workers (or slaves) that we should avoid?
2. What should be the main driving motivation of all of our work or study be and why is that motivation important to possess?

***C. Application***

There are divided views towards working for rewards. On the one hand, some Christians think that if we serve God for the sake of rewards, our faith is not genuine. These Christians think that we should only serve with the “pure” motive of bringing glory and praise to God alone. Yet on the other hand, Jesus and the apostles frequently referred to rewards that believers can look forward to receiving in heaven when serving God faithfully (see Matthew 5:11-12, John 6:27 and Colossians 3:24). If this is the case, then working for heavenly rewards should not be a bad thing.

1. What is your view towards working for heavenly rewards? How does working for such a reward change your attitude towards your current approach to work or study as an employee or student?

For employers, supervisors or teachers (ie. people in authority): you are also not exempt from God’s commands while given the responsibility of leading and managing others. You should also follow God’s example in caring for your flock.

1. From the text, what is one aspect of God revealed to us in the way he leads us? How can you apply this same characteristic in your duties as a supervisor?

End with prayer for one another in small groups in this endeavour.