**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 (31 Dec)**

**The Call to Fruitfulness**

**Big Idea – Abiding in Christ is key to all that we do for God**

Key Verse: *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”* John 15:4

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Think about your closest friend or relative. What do you do to maintain the close relationship?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read John 15:1-17]**

As crucial as bearing fruit for Christ is for us as his flock, there is something even more important and fundamental in this passage that our Lord emphasizes we do. What is it?

The exhortation to “abide” has been frequently misunderstood, as though it were a special, mystical, and indefinable experience. It is not. Jesus makes clear that it actually involves a number of concrete realities.

From the passage, list down at least 3 practical ways you can abide in Him and provide the biblical reference. (Do give an explanation for why you selected this.)

1.

2.

3.

***C. Application***

Another helpful way of understanding how to abide in Christ is by understanding the meaning of the Greek word “to abide”. It has the idea of space or geography. In other words, “to abide” means to stay close to Jesus, much like a child would stay close to the parent in a crowded shopping mall so that the child will not get lost.

1. In what ways can you stay close to Christ in the year ahead? Make reference to the ways you have listed just now. Make this your resolution for the year.

Another way to know if we are abiding in Christ is to tell by our fruit. Jesus says, “By their fruit you will recognize them.” (Matthew 7:20) We can tell by examining our lives if we are abiding in Christ.

1. With reference to the sermon on the evidences of the 3 C’s of biblical fruitfulness, what is one aspect you are challenged by the Holy Spirit to work on for the year ahead?

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