**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 (21 Jan)**

**Growing in Fruitfulness in Our Ministry**(Extracted from Say To Archippus by Henson Lim)

**Big Idea – We all have a ministry given us by God**

Key Verse: *Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.”* Colossians 4:17

***A. Introductory Question***

Have you ever felt that you were too unknown or insignificant to do anything for the Lord? What made you feel such a way?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read Colossians 4:2-18]**

Other than what is revealed in Colossians 4:17, we don’t know much about Archippus and his ministry. There are four possible scenarios for Archippus’ background:

1. **Archippus knew his ministry, was faithful and needed encouragement**. Ministry can be tough and tiring. There may be days when one wonders why he keeps doing what he is doing. Perhaps Archippus needed a word of encouragement from the Apostle Paul to keep going. Paul therefore reminds him of the privilege of serving Jesus; and not give up but persevere until the assignment is completed.
2. **Archippus knew his ministry, was faithful once, but had slackened or stopped**. Perhaps Archippus was discouraged or disappointed in people, politics or persecution, which caused him to slow down or give up. Paul therefore warns him not to be lulled into a state of complacency; thinking that he had done enough and could rest when his assignment had yet to be fulfilled.
3. **Archippus knew his ministry, but did nothing about it**. Perhaps Archippus had been plain disobedient. He had heard from the Lord and knew what he needed to do. Yet he had done nothing about it. Or perhaps he had been distracted with his studies, his job or his family. Thus the Holy Spirit prompted Paul to awaken, warn and remind him of the assignment he had received.
4. **Archippus did not know his ministry, and had to be prompted by Paul**. Perhaps the moment Archippus became a Christian, he had received a ministry from the Lord. However, he had not discovered what it was. Hence, the wake-up call by Paul to find out his ministry.

Take some time to consider the four possible scenarios. Which category do you identify with most?

***C. Application***

Four chief characteristics of an **Awakened** **Archippus** are **Almost Anonymous**, **Aware** but **Not** **Apathetic**, **Not Activity** but **Assignment** and **Anything** but **Aimless.** (See book for details.)

1. What do you think is the difference between a Christian activity and a God-given assignment? Are you busily engaged in activities instead of being focused on God’s assignment for you?