**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 (28 Jan)**

**Growing in Fruitfulness in Our Personal Lives**

**Big Idea – The Gardener prunes the branch so that it will be more fruitful**

Key Verse: *“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does
bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”* John 15:2

***A. Introductory Question***

Describe a time when you have grown plants or reared pets. What was your purpose in doing so what gave you the greatest joy from your endeavour?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read John 15:1-11]**

According to the Gospel passage, what are some of God’s **means** to prune our lives? In other words, what are the **tools** that God uses to prune our lives? (There are altogether four tools. State the tool, read out the bible reference and verse and explain how it is used.)

*For example*,

1. **God’s word**. John 15:7 - *If you abide in me, and* ***my words abide in you****, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you*. Reading, meditating and memorising God’s word guide us to live according to his will for our lives. As we live according to his ways, we will bear much fruit for him. God’s promises also give us strength to trust in God and hold on to God even though the circumstances of our lives may be difficult.

***C. Application***

The heavenly Father prunes fruitful branches so that they will be more fruitful (John 15:2). Pruning is according to God’s good purpose in our lives for our good.

The Apostle James therefore writes, “***Consider it pure joy****, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance*.” (1:2-3)

1. Examine your attitude towards God’s pruning process in your life. What is your attitude towards that process? Is there a place to revise your attitude towards God pruning?

The writer of Hebrews says, “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. **Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees**.” (Hebrews 12:11-12)

1. The process of pruning is always painful. In what practical ways can we strengthen both our own and others’ “arms and knees” in this journey? (You can make reference to the tools that were listed out earlier in the bible study.)

End with prayer for one another in small groups to implement **ONE** specific way in your lives this week.