**Cell Group Bible Study**

**2 Corinthians Sermon Series 2024**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the start of our church’s sermon series and cell group bible study on 2 Corinthians! We will be embarking on this journey for 13 weeks based on the sermon series.

*Why study 2 Corinthians passages?*

1. To **encourage** us as his people to **trust** in God’s leading in our lives, even through trials and sufferings. God is sovereign in all things and works in all circumstances for our good (Romans 8:28). We can commit all our ways to him with joy and thanksgiving.
2. To **spur** us on towards **authentic ministry** for Christ in his church. The work of his ministry takes place in every aspect of our lives, as soon as we acknowledge him as Lord and Saviour, to shine his light to the world through word and deed.
3. To **grow** in **fruitfulness** as God’s specific will and leading for COA in 2024. By participating in this together, we can experience growing together and make this year one that is a most fruitful, meaningful and blessed one.

*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.

**2 Corinthians Bible Study (7 Jul)**

**#1 – Comfort of God in Ministry**

**Big Idea – God’s comfort is all we need for ourselves (and others)**

Key Verse: *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God
of all comfort.”* 2 Corinthians 1:3

***A. Introductory Question***

1. Give thanks for an encouraging episode or person in your life this week. How did the encouraging event make you feel?

***B. Discussion Questions***

**[Read 2 Corinthians 1]**

There are ten words for suffering in the Greek language. In 2 Corinthians 1:5-6, Paul used the word *pathēmata* “suffering,” which was also used for the suffering of our Saviour (1 Peter 1:11, 5:1). There are some sufferings that we endure simply because we are human and live in a fallen world but there are other sufferings that come because we are identified with Christ and endeavour to serve Him.

1. How can God use the Christian’s trials and sufferings for good? Explore 3 ways in this passage.

Paul was a gifted and experienced servant of God, who had been through many different kinds of trials. Surely all of these experiences would be sufficient for him face new difficulties and overcome them. Yet the Lord brought him time and again to a place of utter weakness.

1. What does Paul’s circumstances teach us about the importance of trusting God rather than our gifts or experiences? How does our weakness reveal and lead us to God’s strength for us?

***C. Application***

Discouragement is no respecter of persons. In fact, discouragement seems to attack the successful far more than the unsuccessful. We are not surprised then to read that the Apostle Paul was “so utterly burdened beyond strength” that he “despaired of life” (v8). Yet God comforts us through His word.

1. Choose one verse or phrase from this chapter that stands out to you. This could be something that puzzles you, something that makes you feel uncomfortable, something that resonates with you or something that you want to examine further. Write or type it out on your mobile device.

Other terms for comfort are to “encourage” or “embolden another in belief or course of action” (sermon). The God of all comfort seeks to embolden us to persevere through suffering through His word.

1. What are some other verses in the bible that encourages and strengthens you through trials? Is there a word (or a kind gesture) that you can share with another person in need this week?

Share and end with prayer for one another in small groups.