

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:
 - a. **Introductory question** for discussion (related to the focus of the bible study)
 - b. **Discussion question(s)** based on the passage
 - c. **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 (4 Aug)
#5 – Compelling Love of Christ in Ministry

Big Idea – A new creation has new hope and new responsibilities

Key Verse: *“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”* 2 Corinthians 5:18

A. Introductory Question

1. Share about an experience where you shared the gospel to someone else. How did you feel and how was his or her response?

B. Discussion Questions

[Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-21]

In biblical teaching, believers who die today exist in the intermediate state, living in disembodied spirits with Christ. But this is not our final state. Our permanent state after Jesus returns to earth will be an embodied physical existence with imperishable bodies (see v1; 1 Cor 15:35-56; Phil 3:10-11, 20-21).

2. How does Paul speak about the intermediate state in verses 2-4 and 6? What is the *most ideal* state of existence for him and why is it so?

In verses 9-10, Paul speaks of his sole aim to please God before he declares that every human being will appear before the judgment seat of Christ after death and be repaid for what he has done in his life.

3. How is the aim to please God related to being vindicated at the final judgment? How does working out our righteousness (good works) work together with having faith in Christ (grace) for salvation?

Verse 21 is one of the Bible’s clearest statements on the substitutionary atonement of Christ for our sins. (See Isaiah 53:5-6 for another.) According to the reformer Martin Luther, a “happy exchange” took place on the cross in which we bankrupt sinners receives Christ’s perfect righteousness and Christ the righteous one took on our bankruptcy and is punished for it. This is the essence of the gospel.

4. Who are the ones who made this exchange possible and what are their roles? At what point of a sinner’s life does this exchange become effective in his life?

C. Application

5. Paul says that *“we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us”* (v20). Think about the ambassadors sent out to represent our country. How can we be more effective ambassadors for Christ? List some of the ways that we can represent Christ better to others.
6. [Personal] Do a motive check on your ministry. Take stock of all the things you do in ministry – everything from your work to your church attendance to leading worship or a small group, to sharing the good news with others. Consult a spiritually mature leader or friend if needed.
 - What compels you to do things that you do?
 - Are your motives aligned with the motives Paul has mentioned in this chapter (eg. fear of the Lord, love for others, aim to please God)? If different, how can you change your motivations?

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:8