

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 (11 Aug)
#6 – Dangers of Compromise in Ministry

Big Idea – True Christian ministry leads us to stay untainted by sin

Key Verse: *“Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.”* 2 Corinthians 6:1

A. Introductory Question

1. Share about a thanksgiving of God’s goodness in your life this week.

B. Discussion Questions

[Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-10]

One of the greatest obstacles to the progress of the gospel is the bad example of people who profess to be Christians. Unbelievers like to use the inconsistencies of the saints – especially pastors and preachers – as an excuse for rejecting Jesus Christ. Paul was careful not to do anything that would put a stumbling block in the way of either sinners or saints (See Romans 14). He did not want the ministry to be discredited (“fault found”) in any way because of his life.

2. Review 2 Corinthians 6:3-10. What were *some* of the trials and sacrifices that Paul endured for the gospel listed here? What is the big picture idea that Paul was conveying through listing out his sufferings for the church?

[Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18]

Paul presented at least three arguments to try to convince the believers that they must separate themselves from that which is contrary to God’s will (“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers” v14). He referred to quotations from Isaiah 52:11 and Ezekiel 20:1-7 to buttress his arguments.

3. What are some of these arguments and what do they tell us about God’s relationship with us?

Paul seemed to suggest that our being made “sons and daughters” of God (v18) is based on our response of separating ourselves from sinful situations and people. In other words, our salvation is based on our work of being and staying uncontaminated by sin.

4. How does this square with the teaching of salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9)?

C. Application

5. What does it mean to not be “unequally yoked with unbelievers” seeing that we are living in a world that is essentially opposed to God? Is there any situation in your life that God is calling you to be uncompromising in your walk of faith?
6. If this separation from sin is so good for us (see God’s blessings in vs 17-18), why do Christians so often find it hard to do?

Spend some time to pray for one another for strength to be faithful to God’s word.