

## 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 (15 Sep)**  
**#11 – Marks of Apostleship in Ministry**

**Big Idea – A true mark of an apostle is self-sacrificial living for others**

Key Verse: *“And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about.”* 2 Corinthians 11:12

**A. Introductory Question**

1. Give thanks for something you are proud of accomplishing this week.

**B. Discussion Questions**

**[Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-33]**

True love is never envious, but it has a right to be jealous over those who are loved. A husband is jealous over his wife and rightfully resents and resists any rivalry that threatens their love for one another. Paul saw the local church as a bride, engaged to be married to Jesus Christ (see Eph 5:22). Meanwhile, the church must keep herself “a pure virgin” for the Bridegroom (2 Cor 11:2).

2. What does it mean for the church to keep herself pure? What does Paul say will contaminate and defile the church before she meets her Beloved at the coming wedding?

Satan is “the father of lies” (John 8:44). He was the one who first deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. He continues to try to lead Christians astray today with his lies. Paul identifies Satan as the one who was behind all of the false apostles at the church in Corinth. Their modus operandi is to “masquerade as apostles of Christ” just as Satan often poses as “an angel of light” (2 Cor 11:13-14)

3. Why do you think Paul highlights the devil so much in his letters? What do you think is the message of the false gospel that Satan is trying to sow in the hearts and minds of the Corinthian church?

Paul sacrifices his rights to financial support from the church just like a loving parent would to provide for the needs of his family. Make no mistake, he is entitled to the financial support for his work as an apostle (see 1 Cor 9:11). However, he chooses otherwise and gives his reasons for doing so.

4. What are Paul’s reasons for not accepting financial compensation and help from the Corinthians church? What does Paul’s actions say about Paul as a person?

**C. Application**

Christian ministry is definitely a calling and a privilege to serve in God’s kingdom. It promises eternal rewards. None of us takes on this honour upon ourselves but receives it as we are called by God (see Hebrews 5:4). Yet our motives for serving can be varied.

5. What are some of the lessons about motivation for ministry that you have learnt from the actions and behaviour of Paul? Would you follow his example? Why or why not?

Instead of boasting about his credentials, Paul boasted about his weaknesses and suffering. He says, “If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.” (2 Cor 11:30)

6. What do you regularly take pride about in your life? Can we as Christians legitimately boast about anything in ourselves?

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