

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 (29 Sep)**#13 – Test of Truth in Ministry****Big Idea – God’s grace is everything that we need**

Key Verse: *“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”*

2 Corinthians 13:5

A. Introductory Question

1. What was one memory of a significant test or exam that you had to sit for? Share with one another.

B. Discussion Questions**[Read 2 Corinthians 13:1-14]**

The Judaizers in the church had accused Paul of being a weak man (2 Cor 10:7-11). Their approach to ministry was one of pride and self-exaltation, while Paul was gentle and humble (2 Cor 1:24). Now Paul assured them that he would show them how strong he could be – if that is what it took to solve the problems. “I will not spare!” was his warning, and he used a word that means “to spare in battle.”

2. What did Paul declare war on and why was there a change in his approach from being gentle to being combative? What does this tell us about Paul’s concern and heart?

In 2 Corinthians 13:5-8, Paul then turned the spotlight to shine on the Corinthian Christians. They had been the ones who were judging and measuring Paul’s ministry and also each other’s behaviours. Paul took a firm stand to ask the Corinthians to examine their own hearts instead.

3. Specifically, what did Paul want the Corinthians to look out for? In other words, what are the tests to our lives to be certain that we are the children of God?

The closing benediction in 2 Corinthians 13:14 is one of the most beloved used in the church. It emphasizes the work of the Trinity in our lives. *“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ”* reminds us of his birth and life, when he became poor so that we can be rich (2 Cor 8:9). The *“love of God”* takes us to Calvary, where God gave his Son as the sacrifice for our sins (John 3:16). The *“fellowship of the Holy Spirit”* reminds us of Pentecost, where the Spirit came to lead us into all truth and to be with us forever.

4. What was Paul’s ultimate message and heart for the Corinthians seen through this final blessing?

C. Application

Balance in the Christian walk is so important for us in our Christian life and ministry. It is so easy for us to over-emphasize the grace of God to the neglect of his truth or vice versa to our detriment. Yet Jesus is *“full of grace and truth”* and both *“grace and truth”* comes to us through Jesus Christ. (John 1:14-17)

5. How can we maintain the fine balance between God’s grace and God’s truth in our personal Christian journey with God and ministry towards others? Give some examples.

The book of 2 Corinthians is ultimately Paul’s letter to the Corinthian church of how authentic, effective and fruitful Christian ministry to others, to the church and ultimately to God should be like. And *all* of us called to the work of the ministry of reconciliation as ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:18-20).

6. What step(s) are you taking to be more conscious of and be involved in God’s ministry?

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