

## 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 (14 Jul)**  
**#2 – Fragrance of Christ in Ministry**

**Big Idea – We are all ambassadors of God emitting the fragrance of Christ**

Key Verse: *“For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.” 2 Corinthians 2:15*

**A. Introductory Question**

1. Share about a strong emotional response that you get when you encounter a particular smell. Was it a positive or negative experience for you? Why is that?

**B. Discussion Questions**

**[Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17]**

The apostle Paul clearly has in mind the Roman practice of triumphal processions and elaborate parades celebrating victory in battle, in which a Roman general was the focus of attention. In front of the general’s chariot, chained prisoners from the conquered regions were made to walk before being sacrificed to the Roman god Jupiter. Aromatic substances were also carried. Referring to this picture, Paul writes that *“He (God) has **made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ’s triumphal procession**”* (2 Cor 2:14, NLT).

2. What does it mean for us to be God’s captives and be part of Christ’s triumphal procession at the same time?

*“Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume”* (2 Cor 2:14-16, NLT).

The **“fragrance”** given out by people involved in the ministry of the gospel is a key image of this passage. Yet this fragrance is perceived differently by two different groups of people.

3. What is the nature of this fragrance inherent in ambassadors of Christ? Share also, in your opinion, about why there is a difference in perception of this fragrance among believers and non-believers.

**C. Application**

Paul concludes with the declaration of intent: *“We preach the word of God with sincerity and with Christ’s authority, knowing that God is watching us”* (2 Cor 2:17, NLT)

4. Sharing the gospel requires a purposeful effort on our part. Ps Edward shared with us a helpful method of praying for 5 persons regularly, reaching out and engaging 3 persons intentionally and trusting God to lead one person to Christ by the end of the year (**the 5-3-1 method**).

Share with each other about who the names might be and end with prayer for one another in small groups.