

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 (21 Jul)
#3 – Freedom of Spirit in Ministry

Big Idea – The Freedom that the Spirit Gives is Fully Glorious

Key Verse: *“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”* 2 Corinthians 3:17

A. Introductory Question

1. Share about a time where you experienced freedom. What were the circumstances and how did you feel?

B. Discussion Questions

[Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-18]

A prominent theme in this passage compares and contrasts the fading glory of the old covenant through Moses (3:7) with the surpassing glory of the ministry of Spirit in the new covenant (3:10).

2. Make a list of the different names Paul used for the old covenant and the new covenant in 2 Corinthians 3. What do they tell you about the nature of both of the covenants? In what ways are they similar and in what ways different? (You may refer to other Scriptural passages for greater insights, eg. Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Hebrews 8-10).

Paul says that by the Spirit we are being transformed into the image of Christ from one degree of glory to another (3:18).

3. What does this tell you about the journey of faith that we all must take? What is the Holy Spirit’s intended end goal for our discipleship journey according to Paul?

C. Application

Life apart from Christ might feel like freedom for unbelievers, but those who have tasted walking with him know this to be the only **true** freedom. Life lived independently from Christ is slavery – slavery to the flesh, to sin and even to the law. In Christ we are freed – freed from condemnation, from spiritual blindness, from guilt and from shame. To those on the outside, discipleship to Christ looks like bondage, but those in Christ know that discipleship is the only way to live abundantly in God’s blessings.

4. Reflect on your own life to see (by the Holy Spirit’s insight) if you have been living in slavery in any way. How can you submit and live according to the lordship of the Spirit for release and liberty in your life?

The lure of legalism still exists in our churches. Proponents spend a great deal of time dealing with the externals but neglect the cultivation of the inner life. They exalt standards and denounce sin, but fail to magnify the glory and sufficiency of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. In our interactions with our fellow believers and new Christians, how can we minister with the grace of the new covenant and not with the legalism of the old covenant?