

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 (18 Aug)
#7 – Repentance of Godly Sorrow in Ministry

Big Idea – Godly sorrow brings about the good fruit of repentance that leads to salvation

Key Verse: *“See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done.”* 2 Corinthians 7:11

A. Introductory Question

1. What is one most disagreeable personality aspect or behavioural trait in a person that will put you off pursuing a friendship with him or her? Why is that trait so disagreeable to you?

B. Discussion Questions

[Read 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1]

The apostle Paul argues in this passage for the Corinthian church to separate themselves from all that is contrary to God’s will in their lives. This path is essential and inescapable if one intends to progress in the Christian life.

2. What is the motivation for personal holiness in 7:1? What are the promises referred to by Paul in 7:1? How do these promises act as strong motivators for the pursuit of holiness in living?

[Read 2 Corinthians 7:2-16]

Paul acknowledges that his earlier harsh letter to the Corinthians in response to their sins had upset them. He even admitted that for a brief period of time he regretted the sorrow he had caused them (7:8). However, that brief regret gave way to joy as the church responded positively to the letter.

3. What are the similarities and differences between “godly grief” and “worldly grief”? What is God’s intention in allowing the Corinthians to be “sorrowful” according to Paul (7:9-11)?

C. Application

Paul uses very stark terms like light and darkness and God and Satan to distinguish between holiness and sin. Through the Spirit, he calls us to separate from all things that is not good for us or can potentially compromise our faith.

4. Think of one or two areas of *sinful practice* or *potential compromise (something that could possibly result in sin)* in your life that you would like to work on in the coming week. Take decisive steps to separate yourself from them. Remember that growth in holiness is all about quality and not quantity. It is better to do well in one area than to be distracted and haphazard in many areas.

Repentance is needed in our daily lives not only to be rid of sins but also because it is the only path to salvation (7:10). Which is why whatever that leads to our repentance is good in God’s sight.

5. Reflect on the ABC’s of repentance (as shared in the related sermon). What is one aspect (from either A, B or C) that you would like to work on to grow in that area? Pray for each other in that respect.