

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 (25 Aug)

#8 – Proof of Love in Ministry

Big Idea – Generous giving to others is proof of Christ's love in us

Key Verse: *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."* 2 Corinthians 8:9

A. Introductory Question

1. Describe a situation where you have been blessed by either giving generously to others or receiving a generous gift when in need. How did you feel in that situation?

B. Discussion Questions

[Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15]

Paul the apostle presents the Macedonian church as an example of exceptional giving (v1-5), exhorts the Corinthian church to follow their example and finish the collection for God's people in Jerusalem (v6-7) and explains his motives for his exhortation (v8-15).

2. List at least three reasons or motivations Paul gave in this passage for the Corinthian church to *give generously* to the saints in Jerusalem. Explore and elaborate the significance of each reason.

One of the most powerful verses in the bible about the sacrificial love of Christ for us is actually situated in the context of giving (see key verse of 2 Cor 8:9).

3. What does the example of Christ's incarnation and death reveal to us about the true nature of love? How is the generous giving of the church to others related to Christ's sacrifice for the world?

C. Application

The Macedonian churches that Paul was using as an example had experienced severe difficulties, and yet they had contributed generously to the needs of the saints in Jerusalem. They had not simply gone through "affliction"; they had experienced a "great trial of affliction" (8:2). They were in deep poverty, which means "rock-bottom destitution". The word describes a beggar who has absolutely nothing and has no hope of getting anything. Their difficult situation may have been caused in part by their Christian faith, for they may have lost their jobs or been excluded from trade guilds because they refused to participate in the idol-worship that came with being employed.

4. How does the "adverse circumstances of life" sometimes discourage you from giving? What can you learn from the example of the Macedonian church?

Paul urges the Corinthian church to "show these men the proof of your (their) love... so that the churches can see it" through their gift (v24).

5. What is one area that God is leading you to show your love in giving?