

## 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 (1 Sep)**  
**#9 – Generosity of Heart in Ministry**

**Big Idea – God is the One who enables us to give, but we must plan to give rightly too**

Key Verse: “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

**A. Introductory Question**

1. What is one good way (that you have practiced) to deal with praises or appreciation from others without appearing to be proud or dismissive of their words? Share with each other.

**B. Discussion Questions**

**[Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15]**

Paul the apostle prefaces all that he has to share by emphasizing a divine principle that governs all of our lives here on earth: “*whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully*” (2 Corinthians 9:6).

2. What do you think is Paul’s intention of this principle at the very first instance with the Corinthian church? What impact does hearing this principle have on your life?

Paul next shares about the importance of our attitude in giving: “*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver*” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

3. List the *wrong attitudes* to giving highlighted by Paul and explain what they mean (by providing examples of how they might happen). What is Paul’s solution for countering such wrong attitudes?

Paul then ends by sharing that all of their giving is only possible because of God’s grace on the Corinthian church. He quotes from Psalm 112:9: “*He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever*” (2 Corinthians 9:9).

4. How does knowing that all things came from a most good and generous God motivate the church to give generously? Why do you think that Paul turns the attention of the church back to God?

**C. Application**

The context of Paul’s letter to the Corinthians is this: the Corinthians had promised to give money to help the poor saints in Jerusalem but somehow had backtracked on their promise to give. Paul had to write this letter to remind and motivate them to complete what they had undertaken to do.

Ultimately, the proof of our generosity is found in our **act** of giving, not our promise to give. We need to give *intentionally, regularly and proportionally* with our income (see 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

4. Do you have a plan of giving or do you give only at the spur of the moment? It may be time to come with a plan so that you can steward God’s resources in your life faithfully.

Our giving may sometimes result in the *less-than-ideal* situation where others think (too) highly of us. Paul deals with this by focusing on God’s generosity to us: “*Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*”

5. Do you find that you enjoy (too much of) the praises of others in your giving? How can you deal with this situation if it arises?

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:8*