Lesson 5 - Desire a Noble Task

Nov. 8-9, 2012

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.
Plan one to two icebreakers for the purpose of mixing around and getting group participation or getting acquainted.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.
Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead people into God’s presence. During this time, cell leaders will encourage cell members to listen to the Holy Spirit and release the words of strengthening, encouragement, and comfort they have received for the cell group, the church and nations. Upon each word shared, the cell leader will lead members by thanking and praising God for His promise and/or praying aloud together for the needs, etc.

During this time, the cell leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for: (1) the mission organization or daughter church that the cell group adopts (2) the church ministry needs (3) blessings for new comers, the sick.

MISSION ORGANIZATION: __________________, their needs: ________________
(Please contact the church if you don’t know the needs of the mission organization.)

Prayer Requests for CHURCH MINISTRY:
1. Evangelism Class: 12/1 @ Room G10 from 9am-12pm.
2. Ministry Coworker Recruiting Day: 11/11, please pray that people will join to serve and grow through serving
3. Christmas Party: 12/17 (Sat), please pray that new friends will come to the party and cell groups will have a successful outreach through celebrating the birth of Jesus.

III. WORD, 45 mins.
A. Sharing from last Sunday’s message.
1. What is the main message from last Sunday sermon? What did God say to you from the message?
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Discussion Topic: Desire a noble task

Foreword: Paul reminded Timothy in first 2 chapters of 1Timothy that there are 2 crucial tasks for the church: Conquer heretic or misleading teachings by God’s Word; defeat the hindrance from the enemy with prayers. Thousands of people can be saved by doing that. Exactly by whom a ministry should be lead, taken charge of, and taught? No doubt it is by the spiritual leader in church. Nevertheless, every member works in collaboration to build the body of Christ also needs to incubate the desire to do noble tasks. United, we can establish a glorious church.

1. Select with scrutiny an overseer who desires a noble task to build up the church (1Timothy 3:1-7). Paul listed the criteria for those who may serve God:

   a) Desire a noble task (1Ti.3:1): Desire conveys a zealous longing. An overseer needs to dedicate in his service with passion. An overseer ministers and shepherds in the church he is entrusted with. He is also known as an “elder.”

   b) Hold exceeding integrity (1Ti. 3: 2-3):
   a) Above reproach (3:2a): all that he does will not leave rooms for people to rebuke or criticize, i.e. above reproach.
   b) Temperate (3:2c): he has a clear mind at all time. He retains prudent stance and is with stable temper.
   c) Self-controlled (3:2c): he holds firm and knows how to control what he says and does in a moderate manner.
   d) Respectable: gracious and refined behavior.
   e) Not given to drunkenness (3:3a): It was quite common for people to drink, but an overseer must not get addictive, get drunk, and not to linger over wine or be controlled by the alcohol.
   f) Not violent (3:3b): An overseer is not feisty or confronting. He would never handle anything with violence.
   g) Gentle (3:3c): An overseer is patient, kind, forgiving and just.
   h) Not quarrelsome (3:3d): An overseer retrains himself from fights & dispute, not being stubborn.
   i) Not a lover of money (3:3e): money-craving induces all evils.
3. **Be a life witness with a well-managed family** (1Ti. 3:2, 4-5):
   a) Be a husband of one wife (3:2b): An overseer is faithful to his marriage, but not a capricious lover to his wife.
   b) Manage his own family well (3:4-5): If he knows how to manage his own family, he will take care of God’s church, see that his children obey him with proper respect, and be a good example to others.
   c) Hospitable (3:2f): He is friendly and welcoming to strangers and guests.

4. **Have a mature spiritual life** (1Tim3:2, 6-7):
   a) Mature belief (3:6): It takes time to build up the assurance to the truth. The new converts disregard how capable or how brilliant he is, it still takes time for him to become strengthened in all spiritual characters. That’s why a recent convert shouldn’t be an overseer right away, or he may become conceited and falls under the same judgment as the devil.
   b) Good at teaching (3:2g): He is responsive and is with unparallel ability to teach and guide.
   c) Have good reputation with outsiders (3:7): be a good witness, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the trap of devil who is accusing God’s children day and night.

2. **Select with scrutiny deacons to assist in serving** (1Ti.3:8-13): Deacons are brothers and sisters who serve others. They are also good helpers of the overseer. They may serve with good witness.

   1. **Have Integrity**: A deacon, either man or woman, should have integrity (3:9,11): a) they are to be worthy at respect. b) they are to be sincere: never says anything that’s dishonest or contradictory. c) they would not influence people, tell slander, gossip, or twist the truth.

   2. **Keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience** (3:9): A serving heart must be full of love, and we know that the love comes from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1Ti.1:5)

   3. **They must first be tested and be faithful to everything** (3:10-11): Those who serve are chosen through the seeking of Holy Spirit. They must be tested in everything and proved to be “above reproach,” (similar to that of criteria of the overseers) they also need to be faithful in everything, so that they may provide an exceptional witness in their ministry.

   4. **Family life should be a good witness** (3:12): A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. (Same as the overseer.)

5. **Those who have served faithfully will achieve spiritual maturity** (3:13): A faithful servant not only gains an excellent standing but wins great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **What criteria do you think a leader in church needs? Why are these criteria so important?**

2. **Why would Paul emphasize all these criteria or characteristics for overseers and deacons? What would it be like, as you think, if they do not gain such criteria?**

3. **Based on today’s verses, which criteria do you think you already have? Which are the ones you need to work on? Why?**

4. **In which area are you serving in cell group or church? Why would you participate in these services? What is the greatest satisfaction you obtain from these services?**

5. **Do you desire to do a noble task? In your opinion, how can the church help you to participate in noble tasks?**

6. **Let’s talk about your spiritual life! Could the cell leader lead your members to proclaim this verse? “If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.” (1Ti. 3:1) Make sure that in your next meeting, you could examine with one another to see if your motivation to serve each other has been enhanced? Please also encourage each other to attend the cell meeting regularly.**

**Prayer:**

Lord, we thank you and we praise you! How you wish everyone who belongs to you to partake in the task of building your glorious body. This is a great chance for us to co-work with you. Help us, Lord, to desire more of your noble tasks, diligently practice the merits in our lives. Allow us to be your majestic witness so that the whole church would be filled with the glory of yourself. Thank you, Lord, in Jesus’ precious name. Amen!!

**IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.**

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other’s needs.