Lesson 7 - Be a Good Steward of God’s Words
Nov. 29-30, 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.)

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

Scriptures: 1Timothy 4:1-11 (Please read Bible verses in turns)
Memorizing Verse: For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:8 NIV)

Foreword: Heresies, false teachings and interpretations of the Bible often cause great disturbance to believers. What demons and deceitful spirits want to see the most is the division of the church. In order to be a good and faithful servant, one must keep the faith, stay away from profane myths and deceitful teachings, train oneself in godliness to become a good steward of God’s words, “distribute allowance of food at the proper time” when teaching believers and spiritually nurture them, follow God’s way in one’s life and faith, study the truth, become godly, be free from Satan’s accusation, and enjoy the true freedom in the Lord.

1. To stay away from false teachings – destructive opinions (1Tim 4:1-5):
   1. They are from the demons: False teachings are the tricky demons and deceitful spirits always use to lure people away from the faith. (4:1)
   2. They are from the liars: Lying is to spread unconscionable lies. These false teachers misinterpreted the biblical teachings for their own agendas and benefits. Their consciences are repeatedly seared with a hot iron, numb and stoic. (4:2)
   3. They are wrong teachings: It seems very godly to keep one’s celibacy and stay away from certain foods. However, marriage between a man and a woman is actually set up by God. Everything created by God is good. We just need to receive it with thanksgiving. It is a false teaching with lack of understanding of the faith to ask people to become godly through deliberate abstinence and abstention. One can only become fully godly through faith – salvation of Christ and one’s supplication. (4:3-4)

2. Keep the sound doctrine and godliness (1Tim 4:6-11): For those who serve in the cell group, in order to lead Bible study and share testimony, and to act as the steward of God’s house, you must study hard the words of faith, get equipped, follow the sound teaching (4:6)
   1. Start from godliness: Godliness is to trust in Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 3:16), to live like Jesus, stay away from profane myths and old wives’ tales, and be faithful to God and live a godly life (4:7)
   2. One needs to be trained in godliness: One needs physical training to stay healthy. Likewise, one needs to be trained to keep the faith and live a godly life. By doing so, you will not only be blessed in your life and become blessings to others, but also get everlasting life. Paul specifically reminded Timothy to follow the sound doctrine, teach in godly way, live a real and accountable life as a Christian, and stay away from destructive teachings. (4:8-9)
3. It takes effort to be godly: Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8). One needs to keep alert in order to live a godly life. The road to the Cross is different from the worldly one. We always get rejection, mocking, persecution and temptation from the world. It takes effort to keep the faith and live a godly life. We need to welcome the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts every day as our guidance, keep the faith, bear good testimonies for the Lord and share with each other about our victorious lives. (4:10)

4. There is hope for godliness: God is not only the savior for believers, but the one for everyone. Since God is the only hope for the world, He is the Lord of life. He saved us with His precious blood, so that we shall not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16). This is the greatest hope for believers. (4:10)

The pre-requisite for being a good steward of God’s words is to become godly like Jesus, and live a godly life. Sharing God’s words in a cell group is to share with brothers and sisters the experience in your pursuit for godliness, to influence and change other lives with yours, so that we can grow together by mutual encouragement. (4:11)

Discussions:

1. Why would someone renounce the faith? How can we keep the faith?
2. What is a destructive opinion? Can you name some of the sects in the world now?
3. What is the difference between destructive opinion and sound doctrine of Christianity? How can you tell if it is a destructive opinion?
4. Do you feel restricted after becoming a Christian? Why do we need to be restricted by the faith? Take a moment to figure out what the real freedom is.
5. What is the main purpose of sharing God’s words in a cell group? How can you become a good steward of God’s words in a cell group?
6. Please share why one needs training in godliness and how to train in godliness. Please remember to share your experience in training in godliness in the next meeting.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, We thank you and give you our praises. You are the creator and ruler of the whole universe. Everything you created is good for us to receive with thanksgiving. We thank you for giving us your words, the Bible, so that we can understand the faith and live a godly life. May your light shine upon us and guide us in your way when we train ourselves in godliness and live a godly life, influence others with our lives, pass on godliness to others, and become a good steward of God’s words. Thank you for listening to our prayer. We say this in the Holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

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

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