The Characteristic Traits of a Spiritual Leader  
Dec. 6-7, 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. Ministry Coworker Recruiting Day: 11/11, please pray that people will join to serve and grow through serving
2. 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: Characteristic Traits of a Spiritual Leader

   Scriptures: 1 Timothy 4:12 (Please read Bible verses in turns)
   Memorizing Verse: Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 12 NIV)

Foreword: A few days have passed since the 2012 election. Did you give a serious thought for who you have voted? We valued your decision regardless if the candidate you voted won. In today’s Bible and Life series, we would like to discuss what characteristic traits a spiritual leader should have. We will also examine other elements of leadership from a biblical perspective.

1. A leader’s traits:
   1. A leader has a dream, a goal and a vision.
   2. A leader has certain abilities and charisma. He is persuasive. He can make people agreed on his dream and be his follower.
   3. Please share about what you think the traits of a leader should be?

2. What kind of leader do you prefer? Please pick only one of the following 3 answers in each category and share why you made the choice with one another.

   1. How he carries out things:
      A. Decisive, know what he is doing. He makes decisions on almost everything.
      B. Knows people, trusts his employees and gives them opportunity to develop and grow.
      C. A good co-worker at work and a good friend after work.

   2. How he accomplishes things:
      A. He speaks well and is persuasive.
      B. He is very observant and has a keen awareness of problems.
      C. He has a sense of mission, and accomplishes meaningful things with a vision.

   3. How he leads: A. The main purpose is for him is to achieve a goal.
      B. Developing the employees is more important than achieving the goal.
      C. He would do anything to achieve a goal.

   4. How he takes advice:
      A. He is humble and willing to listen.
      B. He has his own opinion and he is not willing to take people’s
advice.
C. He is willing to listen to others, but when it comes to making a decision, he goes his own way.

5. Social interactions:
   A. He is fair when he makes decisions, he follows certain principles. He promotes or demotes people with no exceptions.
   B. He deals with people with compassion and understanding.
   C. He follows principles but will make exceptions for individual cases.

3. What are the elements of a biblical leader:
Which one of the following is the characteristic trait described in Bible? Mark “O” for correct, mark “X” for wrong. Please share what you think the characteristic traits should be for a biblical leader?

1. People do things with their own methods nowadays, but by learning from Bible, God uses people who are suitable for God’s use. O
2. The biblical leaders seem all born and not trained. X
3. As long as he is an excellent leader, he should have followers. O
4. Some of the biblical leaders were not necessarily perfect; many of them were even flawed and morally imperfect. Yet God used them anyway as God could not find a better suited vessel. O
5. The political leaders (kings) in Bible had greater impact to ordinary people’s religious life than that of the religious leaders (prophets). X
6. God may not be scrupulous to ordinary people’s transgressions, but may apply meticulous standard to spiritual leaders. O
7. Majority of Jesus’ twelve disciples were not well-educated, such as fisherman, Peter. God can use him to take initiatives for Christianity, which tells us God cares more about how a spiritual leader loves him than what his education or gift is. O

4. A Vessel that is good for God’s use:
Many leaders were mentioned in Bible and they were greatly dedicated to God’s kingdom. Please try to figure out why they may be used by God? What are their specific characteristic traits that were used by God?

1. Disciple Paul established many churches in Europe and Asia. He wrote 13 books of Bible and expounded gospel in great detail. O
2. King David established the biggest kingdom in the ancient Israel history with the largest territory. He also wrote some 70 psalms. O
3. Moses led millions of Israelites to excel out of Egypt, went across the Red Sea, and set the Israelites free. He also wrote Torah, the Five Books of Moses. O
4. Nehemiah took the initiative to encourage the returned Israelites from captivity and rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem. He also helped to revive them spiritually. O

Discussion Questions:
1. What are the different characteristic traits between the leaders of the world and the spiritual leaders?
2. What kind of traits should a leader have from a biblical perspective?
3. What kind of leader is considered pleasing to God?
4. The cell group leader is the leader of a cell group. What traits should they need to have in order to be recognized as leaders used by God? Would you like to be used by God and serve Him in his Kingdom?

Prayer:
Dear Jesus, we thank you and we praise you! You chose us to be your children among thousands of people. You allow us to serve each other in your house. We are so grateful that we may learn and grow together in Christ with the lead from our cell group leaders. May God inspire us to pray and help one another. Help us to know better of your will, and be obedient to your guidance so that we may become a suitable vessel for your use. Bless us that we may also become leaders in a cell group and be a blessing to others. In Jesus’ 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.