Lesson 8 – Set an Example for the Believers
January 3-4, 2013

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:
1/13-3/17: Sunday Equipping Class – Supernatural Living @ 1:45-3:15pm
2/2: Men’s Conference
2/14: Single’s Valentine Dance Party
March: Holy Spirit month
3/1-3/2: Holy Spirit Conference
3/23: Financial Management Seminar

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: Set An Example for the Believers

| Scriptures: | 1Timothy 4:12-16 (Please read Bible verses in turns) |
| Memorizing Verse: | Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Tim 4:12) |

Foreword: On our growth path, it is common for us come across someone we admire and inevitably set him (her) as a role model. We are aspired to emulate the good examples. The same thing goes to church members. Paul’s teachings here reminds Timothy of not letting anyone despise him for his youth, but setting an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity for the believers. At church anyone should adopt the same attitude suggested by Paul for setting a good example, disregarding at what age you are.

1. Setting an example for believers (1Tim 4:12)
   1. **In speech**: Speech gives away one’s thoughts, education, concepts and degree of maturity. Speech must be proper, such as “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.” (Proverbs 25:11). Always avoid frivolous remarks.
   “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.” (Ephesians 4:29)
   2. **In conduct**: Lip’s grace without elbow works means not doing whatever one is preaching. This won’t make a case of good example.
   3. **In love**: Jesus Christ is Love, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35). “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12). Love is a sincere expression of kindness rooted deep within. Without love no one can become disciple of the Lord Christ.
   4. **In faith**: Faith is an unchanging attitude one possesses towards others and God. Abraham’s steadfast faith made him the Father of Faith. Those with such wonderful faith are bound to make good examples for others in the same way.
   5. **In purity**: Purity means being faultless. Here it means striving for the standards set by Christ Jesus, instead of following the patterns of the world. Disciples are required to live a godly life, the one that reflects the holiness of Christ himself.

2. Devotion to the reading of Scripture (1Tim 4:13)
   God’s word is the living standards of daily life, the focus of different services and the guideline of all believers in their lives.
1. **Proclaim God’s word**: For God’s word is powerful. On proclaiming it loudly, believers are strengthened in faith and can lead a life that sheds light to the world.

2. **Exhort one another with God’s word**: By doing so, we help one another and grow in spirit to become more and more Christ like.

3. **Teach Scripture**: In each cell group meeting, share God’s word, give testimony of its works, and experience the leading as well as one’s growth in it. Study the Scripture in a systematic way and lead a life of prayer are the only way for spiritual growth.

3. **Let all see your progress** (1Tim 1:14-16)

1. **Do not neglect the gift you have**: Gifts are endowed by God. They have a purpose to benefit the body of Christ, so that believers can build one another in Him. Therefore one shouldn’t neglect the gift(s) he or she has received.

2. **Practice these things, devote yourself to them**: Live out the teachings of the Bible and bring into the full play of the gifts you have. Do not stop but keep on growing up into maturity in knowledge and the grace of God. So that all may see your progress and set you as a good example.

3. **Persist in doing good**: It is of great impact to have become an example of many others. Sometimes inadvertently one falls and gets trapped in the devil’s scheme. Not only does the person stumble and hurt himself, but also he makes others stumbled at the same time. Therefore, one needs to be alert for many are watching, listening and learning from the good example you have set.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Who has been the most influential person in the growth of your spiritual life? Are you trying to follow the good examples?

2. In cell group it is expected to encourage and build up one another in love among members. Impact others with a changed life. What kinds of gift do you think you have that can be used to serve others?

3. Among speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, which area do you think you need to improve the most? Which of the above do you consider as the most difficult thing to master on?

4. Being a good example is a natural flow of inner life. The life however must be rooted in God’s word. Please share with all how to become a good example in reading and memorizing God’s word, as well as putting it into practice?

5. Share with all your daily Bible reading. If you don’t have a systematic plan, are you willing to join others in reading the One Year Bible Reading Plan?

6. Share your journey of faith. What status are you in at the moment? Does the growth seem to get stagnant or do you show progress in certain way?

7. In the pursuit of faith, what are those things might make you fall and cause others stumbled? Please share your opinion.

**Prayer:**

Dear Lord, We thank you and give you our praises. You have led many brothers/sisters into our life to be our timely help; they have helped in building up our faith and become our role models. Some are good in the knowledge of the Word and they have helped us understand the Scripture, while others have inspired us with their faith and love. They lead us closer to you by their conduct and holy attitude. We thank you for all of them. We pray that Lord you will help us to root in your truth, to be more like you, and to encourage and learn from one another. Help us not to neglect our gifts, so that we may continuously grow in knowledge and the grace of God. May we become more and more mature in the faith, holding tightly to your truth so we won’t fall and stumble. Please make us a good example of the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Thank you for listening to our prayers. In your name we pray! Amen!

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

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