Lesson 9 - Treat Brothers and Sisters with Absolute Purity
January 10-11, 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: Treat Brothers and Sisters with Absolute Purity

Scriptures: 1 Timothy 5:1-16 (Please read Bible verses in turns)
Memorizing Verse: Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as your brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. (1 Timothy 5:1-2 NIV)

Foreword: The church is like a big family in spirit. It is also consisted of people from different walks of life and ages. At church, we establish relationships with one another; likewise, the shepherding of cell groups should also focus on relationships. It wouldn’t matter when there aren’t any relationships, but it matters when there are. It’s all about relationships! In this chapter, Paul taught Timothy how to handle all the different relationships at church, that he must exhort the older man as if he were his father – very much like the filial piety in Chinese (Confucius) ethics, that he must take care of orphans and widows, and that he must treat all brothers and sisters with absolute purity.

1. Treat everyone with right attitude (5:1-2):

   1. **The Older Men and Women**: Treating the older people as if they were our parents. We should never rebuke them, but advise them nicely, teach them to be “temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.” Honor the older people. “Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life. Give honor and glory to the elders in humility, so that they can be comforted.” The Golden Age is the dedicated club in our church to serve our senior brothers and sisters. We encourage you to participate in serving them.

   2. **Younger Men**:

   Treat younger men as brothers and love one another, purify ourselves by obeying the truth so that we have sincere love for our brothers and love one another deeply from our hearts. (1Peter 1:22)

   3. **Younger Women**:

   Treat younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. This tells us to deal with younger women with pure hearts, like with our own sisters, without any evil thoughts. The love of brothers and sisters “comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” (1Ti. 1:5)

2. Treat the Widow with Right Attitude (1Ti. 5:3-16)

   A widow is a woman who has lost her husband by death and has not remarried. Back then, widows were an under-privileged group who had difficulty being self-sustained and needed to rely on support from the church. Paul advised Timothy with the system and approaches he should take.

   1. **Widows with grown-up children** (5:4 & 8): These children should
take the responsibility of taking care of their single mother and provide for her needs. “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than unbeliever.” (1Ti.5:8)

2. **Solitary Widows** (5:3 & 5): These women had lost their husbands, and had nothing to rely on. They are truly in need of support and supply from God and His church.

3. **Younger Widows** (5:11-15): Due to their age, they may still have sensual desires. Besides, they may tend to gossip and be busybodies. So Paul counsels younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes.

3. **Some Rules of Thumb for the Church When it Comes to Caring and Charitable Deeds:**

1. Follow the teaching of the Bible (1Ti.5:8): Follow what is taught in the Bible. As for individuals, do what’s needed to take care of our loved ones.

2. Do the good deeds as the disciple of Christ (1Ti.5:10-11): Don’t just do it, do it with our best efforts. In 1Timothy, Paul gave us an example of what good deeds even a widow can do: she brought up children, showed hospitality, washed the feet of the saints, helped those in trouble and devoted herself to all kinds of good deeds.

3. Do it with a working system and method: (1Ti5:9): The church has limited resource, it’s better to focus the caring and charitable support only to those who are really needed. Paul suggested to those widows who are above 60 and make them a list and support them on a regular basis.

4. Do not leave rooms for doubts and judgment (1Ti. 5:11-14): Be fair. Only give to whoever is in need to avoid any dispute.

5. Do not burden the church (1Ti. 5:16 & Acts 6:1-3): The members of the church are supposed to carry out their own duties in caring and loving of their beloved ones. Pastors in church then can be freed up to focus on preaching instead of dealing with all the routine tasks.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How do we honor and help the older people in church? What are the honorable actions we can do together as a cell group?

2. What is the most appropriate way to treat brothers and sisters in the church?

3. How do you help those who are in need? Especially the widows or single moms.


5. It is a must for Christians to do good deeds, and do their very best. Let’s discuss as a cell group what we can all do together in the Thanksgiving and Christmas season to do something for others?

**Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, we thank you and we praise you! During the seasons of Thanksgiving, bring us your abounding love, grace and blessings. We also thank you for your rich giving. Fill us with thanksgiving hearts so that we may happily share our blessings to others. Lord, we thank you to give us today’s verse and remind us to honor the older people in our church, treat our brothers and sisters in absolute purity, and to follow your truth taking care of and providing our beloved ones. Enable us to do good deeds and do it with our very best, so that we may partake the grace and blessings to those who are around us. Let us be the representation of God’s love. Thank you for listening to our prayer, in Jesus’ great 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.