2 Timothy Lesson 1 - The Glorious Gospel
February 21-22, 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
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 key message from last Sunday sermon? How God talks to you through the message?
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Discussion Topic: The Glorious Gospel

Scriptures: 2 Timothy 1:1-18 (Please read Bible verses in turns)
Memorizing Verse: For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. (2 Timothy 1:6-8 NIV)

2 Timothy is the last epistle Paul wrote in the New Testament. Paul was in prison when he wrote this epistle. Paul knew that it would not be long before he left the world, so he wrote this letter to his son in Christ, Timothy, and tried to provide his last lesson to Timothy (and to us as well) with teaching, encouragement, and advice. Paul did not fail to bring the focus right on the gospel from the very beginning. Let’s all receive his teachings together.

1. To understand and to hold on to the glorious gospel (2Timothy 1:1-7):

   1. Receive Gospel with a clear conscience and a sincere faith (1-5):

   a. With a fathering heart, Paul recalled in prayer and thankfulness for how Timothy got saved with a clear conscience and a sincere faith to receive the gospel. With a clear conscience, God may count us worthy; a sincere faith is a steadfast faith. Both are fundamental factors for receiving the gospel. God has always been concerned with the heart of man. Because of Abraham’s faith, he became the ultimate example of how the Israelites should serve the Lord. Paul carried forward the teachings from his ancestor, passed this gospel to Timothy’s grandmother, Lori, and his mother Eunice, so that they may also be rooted in this same teaching of Timothy’s heart.

   2. Stand firm on gospel with spirit of power, love and self-discipline (6-7):

   b. Paul reminds Timothy, in order to stand firm on the gospel, Timothy needs to carry on “the flame of preaching gospel,” from which Paul passed to Timothy through laying hands on him. The spirit of power, love and self-discipline is given by God. Different from the spirit of timidity, the heart of agape comes from God, which will enable us to love our church, our brothers in Christ, with self-control and with obedience towards God. That’s how the gospel can be held on to, and the flame of the gospel may be kindled and not to be quenched but carried on.

2. Press on and spread the gospel of glory (2Ti. 1:8-12)

   a. Paul went on and discussed the essential attitude Timothy should have towards the gospel.
1. **Not be ashamed to testify about our Lord; but to join in suffering for the gospel** (8): By using himself as an example, Paul, though he was in prison, still kept preaching the gospel. He encouraged Timothy not to be timid, or be ashamed to preach the gospel or to testify about our Lord. The gospel is glorious which brings people hope to be saved.

2. **The glorious gospel is worthy of our suffering** (9-10):
   A) The glorious gospel is a grace bestowed by God: The grace has been given to us since the creation of the world. We did not earn it through our capability. God gave it to us, not because we are worth it, but because he’s gracious.
   B) The glorious gospel has to do with life and is victorious: The gospel is revealed though the resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ. He overcame death so that we may receive the glory of the gospel and bring the immortality to light through the gospel. (10)

3. **Stand firm to the gospel with which we are entrusted** (11-12):
   1. Paul’s three responsibilities: being a herald, an apostle, and the teacher of the Gentiles. These responsibilities are entrusted by God to spread out the gospel, as he is sent out as an apostle to preach the gospel, lead people to believe in God, and teach, edify and train new followers. While doing his best to carry out the mission of preaching the gospel of glory, Paul also suffered tremendously. (Reference to 2Cor.11:23 -27)
   2. Paul did accomplish what have been entrusted to him: Paul truly knows who he believes is the author and the perfecter of the faith. He is the only true God, the almighty, and the one with the great authority of resurrection.

3. **Through faith and love in Christ Jesus, he may hold on to the glorious gospel** (2Timothy1:13-18):
   Paul once again reminded Timothy not to forget the sound teaching and good deposit, as well as fan the flame of the gift of God. Through faith and love in Christ Jesus, he should stay firm with the glory of the gospel, be strong and courageous, and preach the gospel everywhere. He told Timothy not to learn from the ones in province of Asia who had deserted the gospel for being oppressed. On the contrary, he should follow those who served the Lord attentively.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Would you like to share how you received the gospel and what is the calling God has for you? What would you do to hold on to the callings God has for you? Let’s discuss.

2. Let’s discuss what you think it is to be the heart of power, love and self-discipline? What do you do to apply these characters to stay firm in the gospel?

3. Have you ever felt ashamed of testifying or sharing the gospel? Why? What can you do to overcome the sense of humiliation?

4. Have you ever suffered for the gospel? Would you like to share with everyone? Why do you think many missionaries are willing to suffer for the Lord?

5. What has God entrusted you with? Do you have family members or friends who have not become believers? Put one of them in your heart and make them the entrusted from God.

**Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, we thank you and we praise you! God has anointed you and called you to preach good news to the poor. He has sent you to set free the captives, recovered the sight for the blind, and released the oppressed to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. We also desire your Holy Spirit to anoint us, so that we may spread your almighty gospel to all the people and have them all come to your Name. Your will is to save everyone, make known your word. You delight all your children to live the fullness of abundant lives that represents yours. May honor and glory all be on to you, the immortal, forever lasting, and the only King. Amen!

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

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