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 newcomers, the sick.

A. MISSION ORGANIZATION: __________________________, their needs: __________________________

(Please contact the church if you don’t know the needs of the mission organization.)

B. CHURCH MINISTRY:

- 5/19 & 5/26 Baptism Class @ 2:00-5:00PM
- 6/9 Water Baptism @ 1:30PM
- 6/15 Men’s Breakfast with Pastor Cheng @ 9:00-11:00AM
- 7/20 BBQ Outreach.

C. New comer: __________________________

Identify new comers before cell meeting. Sick members, friends or relatives: __________________________

Discuss how to show our cares.

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: Authority of Jesus and Resistance of the World

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scriptures: Mark 1:40 – 3:6 NIV (Please take turns to read God’s words)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorizing Verse: “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.” (Mark 2:21-22 NIV)</td>
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When Jesus preached with authority, taught about kingdom and used authority to heal the sick and cast out demons, some traditional Jews, such as Pharisees, Sadducees, priests and teachers of the law in the synagogue, gathered to resist it and question his power. What Jesus did far surpassed their authority and power because he is God; his power and authority came directly from Heavenly Father. Christians are also empowered with the authority and capability by the Holy Spirit. We also face resistance from the world when we perform miracles and teach about Kingdom culture. Mark documented five miracles that Jesus performed and Pharisees’ reaction and resistance.

I. Cleanses a man with Leprosy – Jesus is full of grace and love (NIV Mark 1:40-45) A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: “See that you don’t tell this to anyone.” (NIV Mark 1:41-44a). Jesus performed miracle out of compassion and grace (filled with compassion), not out of his authority. That’s why he warned the man not to tell about his healing capability because he didn’t want people to mistake it with his authority.

II. Heals a Paralytic – Jesus has the authority to forgive sins and healing (NIV Mark 2:1-12)

A paralytic was carried by four men to Jesus for healing. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins
are forgiven.” Some teachers of the law questioned that no one can forgive sins except for God alone. Some of the sickness derived from sins, so sins have to be dealt with before healing happens. The teachers of the law were thinking about this because they didn’t believe Jesus is God. Jesus is God and he has the authority to forgive sins. He forgave sins first and then healed the paralytic.

III. Eat with tax collector and sinners – Jesus has come to call the sinners (NIV Mark 2:13-17)

After Jesus called tax collector Levi (Matthew) to follow him as a disciple, he was eating with tax collectors and sinners (those who didn’t follow the laws). Pharisees and teachers of the law questioned why Jesus did this. Jesus made it clear that his mission is to save the sinners. We all need Jesus because we all have sinned. (NIV Romans 3:23-25)

IV. Jesus’ disciples didn’t fast – new teaching about fasting for Jesus (NIV Mark 2:18-22)

Pharisees followed the law strictly by fasting on every Monday and Thursday to show off their devotion. Jesus used three parables to answer “the new meaning of fasting”: 1) Wedding is the happiest time for the bridegroom, so the bridegroom and the guests don’t have to fast. Only after the bridegroom leaves will they fast. 2) Old garment is supposed to be thrown away. The new piece of patch will pull away the garment and make the tear worse. 3) New wine requires new wineskin. If we persist on the old tradition, like using the old wineskin that is inelastic to contain the new wine, it will burst the skins after fermentation. Kingdom culture is a new idea that revolutionizes the tradition.

V. Jesus and his disciples did unlawful things on Sabbath – Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath

The disciples were going through the grain field on the Sabbath and picked some grains. They were accused by the Pharisees of doing unlawful things. Jesus healed the man with a shriveled hand in the synagogue. These things are against Jewish tradition. Jesus quoted Old Testament in respond to their accusations: 1) David was hungry when he was on the road; he ate the consecrated bread which is lawful only for priests to eat. (NIV 1 Samuel 21:1-6). People’s needs should be considered prior to the law. So it is okay to conduct charitable act, save and heal on the Sabbath. 2) “Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” (NIV Mark 2:27-28). Jesus preached about gospel of the Kingdom and brought kingdom culture. This culture is to break the bondage of traditional Jewish laws and focus on the needs of other people to provide assistance. New kingdom culture and old man-made culture cannot coexist. The old has to be forsaken in order to apply the new one. The conflict and resistance is because Jewish people still insist on the old law and cannot accept the fact that Jesus is the Messiah and new kingdom culture.

Topics for Discussion:

1. Why didn’t Jesus reveal his authority, power and identity as Messiah when he preached at the beginning?
2. Can Christian forgive sins when they proclaim in the name of Jesus?
3. Why did Jesus preach gospel among sinners? Are you willing to do the same things? And why?
4. Please share how to influence our generation with Christian values and culture.
5. What is the true meaning of the Sabbath? Do we still need to follow the Sabbath in the time of New Testament?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we thank and praise you! You are full of power and capability, but humble yourself to serve in the image as a servant to save us and fulfill God’s plan. You brought kingdom culture and new values to us, but were resisted and accused by the devoted Jews at the time. May God lead us and learn from Jesus’ example to preach kingdom culture through wisdom and a brave heart despite resistance and opposition. We are willing to preach kingdom culture among sinners so more people can hear the gospel and learn to influence the generation. Thank you Jesus. We pray 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.