Mark Series 4
Expanding God’s Kingdom
May 30-31, 2013

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.
Prepare a couple simple, fun and delightful icebreakers to help your group warmed up. Help your cell members to put aside their busy & tiresome life, prepare their hearts to come before God.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.
Prayerfully choose a few songs that will lead cell members to worship God. The worship leader should encourage cell members to come before the throne of God, see God in face, and lead them into God’s presence. During this time, the cell leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for the following prayer items:

A. MISSION ORGANIZATION: ________________, and their needs are: ________________
(Please contact the church if you don’t know the needs of the mission organization.)

B. CHURCH MINISTRY:
- 06/09 Water Baptism @ 1:30PM
- 06/15 Men’s Breakfast with Pastor Cheng @ 9:00-11:00 AM
- 07/20 BBQ Outreach

C. New comer: ________________ Identify new comers before cell meeting.
Sick members, friends or relatives: ________________ Please also discuss how you may show your cares to them.

III. WORD, 45 mins. By sharing God’s word, the group may discuss how to apply it to their daily lives.

A. Sharing message from last Sunday’s sermon: (It would be helpful if you could listen on-line once again.)
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: Expanding God’s Kingdom

Scriptures: Mark 4: 1-34 (Please read Bible verses in turns)
Memorizing Verse: Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.” (Mark 4: 20)

Foreword:
Jesus was teaching the crowd from a boat next to the lakeshore. Among the crowd, some humbly received Jesus’ word and being docile, some were suspicious, and others became absent-minded. There is not much difference nowadays – although we all listen to the same sermon, with different mindset and attitude, it turns out to have different impact among different people. In order to expand God’s kingdom, we not only should have a desire for God’s word, but for good soil in our hearts.

1. The parable of sowing seeds (Mark 4: 1-25): The kingdom of God is expanded through the good soil in one’s heart.

1) There are 4 types of soil (mindsets) that seeds may fall on: (4: 1-8)
 a) Along the path – this refers to the heart that’s like hard soil (4:3-4; 13-15): which is hardened as it is always stamped on. Not only God’s word is hard to grow in it, but the birds (Satan) may come and eat it up. The clay-hearted does not limit to the unbelievers, those who listen to God’s word yet ignore also attribute to this type.
 b) Rock places – where it did not have much soil (4:5-6; 16-17): if a heart is full of rocks, there will be very little space for soil. It will be difficult for God’s word or the Spirit to work in it.
 c) On top of thorns – where the soil is mixed (4:7; 18-19): while a heart allows God’s word to root in it, it also allows thorns to grow. Eventually God’s word will get choked, so it can’t be fruitful.
 d) Good soil (4:8-9; 20): Desire for God’s word and welcome the work of Holy Spirit. The seeds will come up, grow and produce a crop. The more a person is willing to submit himself, the more it multiplies.
2) God’s word can’t be hidden in one’s heart (4:21-23) While God’s word enters into good soil, it will root, shoot and grow continuously. Just as our lives grow and are strengthened, so will God’s kingdom be manifested.

3) God’s word extends the capacity of our life (4:24-25)
   The word of God is full life. The more you desire, the more you will be filled; the more you give out God’s word and love, the more fruit you will bear!

2. The expanding of God’s kingdom is on God (Mark 4:26-29)
   It is natural to expand God’s kingdom, just as sown seeds become mature and we harvest! Nevertheless, we should always be sensitive to the work of Spirit. We only sow or harvest at the right time!

3. The parable of mustard seeds (Mark 4:30-34) – Follow the Lord with faith
   The growth of a Christian’s life is the process of how his faith is cultivated. As long as we have faith as small as a mustard seed, humbly and submissively receive God’s word, learn to listen to Holy Spirit’s voice, the kingdom of God will be able to expand through us. (2 Cor. 5:7)

Discussion:
1. What is the greatest inspiration you receive from the parable of sowing? What kind of mindset you will be using to learn God’s word?
2. Have you ever had “along the path” or “shallow soil” stages in your spiritual life? How would you pass through it?
3. How would you prepare yourself to participate in services so that God’s kingdom can be expanded through you?
4. What kind of force enables Christians to bear fruit? What kind of fruit do you expect yourself or your cell group to bear in this year?
5. What do you think a “bearing fruit” culture can be developed in cell group so as to impact the generation?

Prayer:
Dear Jesus, we thank you and we praise you! For you have revealed the secret of your kingdom to he who desires for you. You make it clear that the kingdom of God can only be manifested through every single saved and reborn person. Lord, we pray that you give us good soil in our hearts, that your way can be flourish and greatly developed. Help us to have humble and submissive hearts. Guide us with Holy Spirit, and give us strength so that we may bear abundant fruit that pleases you. How we wish to be able to impact the generation and introduce the Kingdom’s culture to this world! 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.