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

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.
Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead the cell group members to worship God. The worship leader would encourage members to come before the throne of God to seek God’s face, and lead them into God’s presence. During this time, the cell group 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:
- Potluck BBQ outreach: 7/20 @ 10:30am-4pm @ Ortega Park, please bring a friend and sign up with Cell Leader
- Intercessory Training: 7/28 @ 1:45-3:45pm, in Fellowship Hall, please sign up on Sunday
- Glocal Impact Conference: 8/1-3 @ ROLCC, 8/4 @ Santa Clara Convention Center, please register online (www.rolcc.net/engministry)
- Proposed new service time: 9:45am starting on August 11.
- Intern Cell Leader Training: 8/24, Please sign up with Cell Leader

C. New comer: __________________Confirm new comers’ name before the meeting.
For sick members, friends or relatives:
_______________Please discuss how you may show your care to them.

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

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 did God speak 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: Becoming Influential
Scriptures: Mark 8: 27- 38 (Please take turn to read Bible verses)
Memorizing Verses: Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Mark 8: 34)

Foreword:
Disciples personally followed Jesus and went through many things with him, but their minds were still closed so their perception about Jesus was ambiguous. Jesus didn’t want the disciples to follow Him with ambiguity, so He asked them “who do you say I am?” when they were still troubled by the yeast of the Pharisees and that of the Herod. It is very important to know God, because that’s the only thing to enable one to follow God precisely and touch His heart to become an influential person in this generation. There are three must-have characteristics in an influential person:

1. Knowing Jesus (Mark 8: 27 - 30):
   1) Who do people say I am (Mark 8: 27-30)
      John the Baptist, Elijah and other prophets are the servants used by God. They are like Jesus in certain way, but they are not Christ. Disciples who followed Jesus didn’t seem to know Jesus, let alone other people.
   2) Who do you say I am (Mark 8: 29)
      Some disciples saw Jesus performed the miracle of “five loaves and two fish”, but they are still blind (Mark 8: 1-9). And some saw Jesus have the authority to cast out demons and heal the sick, but they still didn’t know him (Mark 8:17-21). Why? Because they know God superficially and there are confusion. As a result, how can they completely depend upon God when difficult situation arise? How can they live an influential life?
3) God’s revelation (Mark 8: 29-30)
   Peter said “You are the Messiah” doesn’t mean he knows God well; it’s the revelation by God (refer to Matthew 16:16-17). Today we need to welcome Holy Spirit to open our mind to truly know Jesus, and invite Holy Spirit to work in our life to make us influential Christians.

2. Follow Jesus (Mark 8 : 31-34)
   1) Jesus obey God’s will (8: 31)
      Jesus was anointed by God to come to the world to complete the redemption. Jesus obeyed God’s will and walked on the way of cross. He rose from death to prove He is Christ and only He can complete the redemption.
   2) Influential people are Jesus followers (Mark 7: 33-34)
      Peter had human concern in mind and dissuaded Jesus from the cross, which hindered God’s salvation plan. Those who hinder God is a servant of Satan because it’s against God’s will. To become influential and impact on the generation, one has to know Jesus and follow the example set by Him, and focus on how to please God.

3. Follow the example of Jesus (Mark 8 : 34-38)
   1) Take up one’s cross (8: 34)
      Jesus was crucified on the cross to redeem people. He was hung on the cross until the last breath and resurrected again. Jesus was capable to leave the suffering behind, but He chose to abandon himself and obey God completely to finish salvation. Our cross is to deny ourselves to follow Jesus. Only when you are willing to let go yourself can Holy Spirit work in your life without restriction.
   2) Pay the price for Jesus and gospel (Mark 8: 35-37)
      Life here means “soul” - the mind, thought and emotion of a person. When you strive hard to earn worldly materials, you are still considered poor in God’s eye because what good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? If you invest your soul in God’s kingdom, the worldly materials might be less but think about the eternal abundance and blessings, it wouldn’t matter so much.
   3) Determined to walk in God’s way (Mark 8: 38)

God’s way leads us to the eternal glory while the worldly way leads to perish. God’s people need to be determined to walk in God’s way to influence the generation, so that the truth of God can be manifested through you like a light shining through the darkness. You will get the reward from God in eternity.

Discussion:
1. When people ask you “who is Jesus”, how will you answer that?
2. Why did Jesus rebuke Peter? What kind of spiritual principle do you see here?
3. Why do we need to take up our cross in order to follow Jesus?
4. What does it mean to deny ourselves? What is your cross?
5. What kind of price do we need to pay to become influential? What kind of impact do you want to bring to your family? How do you do it?
6. How can we make the cell group to be influential?

Prayer:
Dear Jesus, we thank you and we praise you! You are the Son of God. You sacrificed yourself on the cross to complete the great salvation plan all because you love us. And because of this love, our sins are absolved so we are in a gracious position to reconcile with God and to receive favors. We are willing to follow your example, to take up our cross, and to deny ourselves to follow you. But God you know we are weak, may Holy Spirit increase our strength so we can run after you and please you in everything we do. May we become influential so we can shine for you. Thank you Jesus, we pray in Jesus’ precious 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.
Next week: Mark 9:14-29