Mark Series 9
All things can be done for the one who believes

July 12, 2013

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 cell 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.)

B. Discussion Topic: All things can be done for the one who believes

   Scriptures: Mark 9: 14-29 (Please read Bible verses in turns)

   Memorizing Verse: Jesus said to him, “If you are able! – All things can be done for the one who believes. (Mark 9: 23 NIV)

Foreword:
Jesus took with him Peter, Johan and James, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them to reveal God’s glory. Afterwards, Elijah and Moses suddenly appeared to them. How wonderful it was! So Peter proposed that three dwellings be made for them. But the mission of our Lord Jesus was not just to stay where it was comfortable and safe, for his mission was to save the world, and he had yet to accomplish his mission of dying for the sins of the world. In addition, Jesus needed to lead his disciples to breakthrough the bottlenecks of his ministry and overcome the resistance from the enemies, so that they could be rectified to take over the mission of God’s kingdom. So he led them down the mountain. Then he found the disciples were arguing with others.

1. Jesus’ disciples failed to cast out the impure spirit (Mark 9:14-18):
   The crowd saw that the disciples failed to cast the impure spirit out of the child, and they started arguing with the disciples for solutions. However:
   1) Arguing never brings solutions: Arguing only brings digestion of knowledge, but not the knowledge of spiritual truth.
   2) The disciples failed to cast out the impure spirit: The disciples relied on their experience and knowledge in casting out the impure spirit (Mark 6: 7-13) and failed. Facing others’ doubts, they started arguing. But arguing made them even more confused.

   2. You can experience the miracle if you have complete faith in Jesus. (Mark 9: 19-27): Jesus found out why they were arguing and what had happened to the child. Then he pointed out the cause of the
problem and led the parties to experience the miracle.

1) Unbelief of the father: His child had been tortured by the impure spirit for many years. Perhaps he had already gone around for treatment but without any success. Finally he went to the disciples who were capable of casting out impure spirits. But they couldn’t cast out that impure spirit. He didn’t have any faith in Jesus after all the solutions he could find from others had been exhausted.

2) Challenge by Jesus:
   a. Admit that he had unbelief: When Jesus pointed out the unbelief in his heart, he felt helpless and sad, and admitted over tears.
   b. How Jesus cast out the impure spirit: When the child was taken to Jesus, the impure spirit attacked the child with convulsion. Jesus did not allow the attack to continue, and immediately commanded the impure spirit to come out of the child and never enter him again.

3. Fasting and prayer bring special power (Mark 9:28-29): Why did Jesus ask us to fast and pray? Because:

   1) Prayer: John Wesley once said, “Without prayer, God won’t do anything for us. It takes prayer to achieve anything”, because prayer is to ask for the spiritual power, work with God, receive the spiritual secret and develop the intimacy with God.

   2) Fasting: Fasting can make us humble and obedient in Christ, free from the influences of our surroundings and food our bodies rely on, so that we can fix our eyes on God, hear the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and follow God’s will.

   God’s grace is always enough. Not only can you enjoy the grace and get fully fed, when you pass on the grace, God’s grace can also be passed onto other’s lives through you, and they will get fed.

   It is a good thing that we may have some spiritual experience or some experience serving the Lord. However, Jesus wants us to completely rely on him, rather than on our experience and knowledge, because “not by might, not by power, but by my spirit” (Zechariah 4:6).

   This incidence of Jesus casting out the impure spirit helps us to keep in mind what Jesus said, “All things can be done for the one that believes.” As long as we choose to trust in the Lord in everything, even though it is not originally impossible, the Lord will still accomplish it for us, for nothing is impossible to Him.

Discussion:

1. Why was the crowd overcome with awe when they saw Jesus?
2. What did Jesus say and do when he was casting out the impure spirit?
3. How did the father of the child work with Jesus? Why did he say “I believe; help my unbelief”?
4. Did you even have the experience that by faith you received help from God and got what you asked for accomplished (not limited to healing)?
5. Towards what Jesus said “…only through prayer”, how do you feel? Please share within the cell group how to promote prayer and fasting. (Cell leader may lead the cell members to weekly prayer meeting once or fast together on one night.)

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we thank you and we praise you! Thank you for giving us the authority to heal others and cast out the impure spirits. Thank you for teaching us to use this authority in faith. WE are willing to become the channel of your grace and compassion. Help us come to you for strength every day. May you lift up our faith, so that we can trust in you in our ministry, and shine for you in this generation. 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 6:1-56 Live by faith but not by sight