God Rewards Those Who Give up Everything for Him
August 9, 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 CHURCH MINISTRY:
• New service time: 9:45am starting on August 11.
• Intern Cell Leader Training: 8/24, Please sign up with Cell Leader
• “Identity Unleashed” Outreach Event (with Jeremy Lin): 9/7
• Men’s Breakfast 9/14 with Pastor Tong.

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: God Rewards Those Who Give up Everything for Him

SCRIPTURES: Mark 10:17-31 (Please read Bible verses in turns)
MEMORIZING VERSE: Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Mark 10:21)

When Jesus saw his disciples prohibiting the woman who brought her little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, Jesus rebuked his disciples and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Very often, people have a myth about entering into God’s kingdom and gaining the eternal lives.

1. The young wealthy man would not give up wealth for the eternal life (17-22)
   1) “What good thing must I do to get eternal life?” This question showed that the young wealthy man had a myth. He thought we may gain eternity by making an effort in our power.
   2) “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions.” A. Jesus was actually challenging all Jews who followed the traditional Jewish law and claimed themselves to be righteous. He asked the wealthy young man if he had kept the commandments. The young man replied confidently, “all these I have kept,” yet he forgot the first part and the primary part of the commandments, “You shall not have other gods before me.” B. Jesus indeed loved the young man and had compassion on him. He totally understood the worst obstacle in this young man was making money his god. That’s why he asked the young man to sell everything he had, gave to the poor, and followed Jesus. Unfortunately, the young man still decided to choose wealth over eternal life. He left with his face fell.

2. The greatest obstacle to enter kingdom of God is relying on wealth (23-27)
   1) Relying on wealth can hinder one’s salvation: There’s nothing wrong with being wealthy, yet God wants us to be the master of
our wealth instead of being mastered by it. As Jesus said, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God,” he may have made reference to the eye of the needle as a small door fixed in a gate and opened after dark. To pass through, the camel must be unloaded and pushed and pulled by men to enter. Hence the difficulty of the rich man. He must be unloaded like what the camel did to enter the small gate.

2) It is by God’s grace we may be saved: No matter how hard we try, we would not, and do not deserve to be saved on our own effort. It is God who granted us the grace of salvation and through Jesus we receive the salvation. Just as what’s said on Ephesians 2:8-9, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.”

3. Whoever leaves everything to follow Jesus receives a hundred times as much in this present age and will gain eternal life. (28 – 31) We saw that all of a sudden, Peter spoke up and asked Jesus what they would get for leaving everything behind and follow Jesus.

1) There are two-folded awards for following Jesus: A. Those who paid a price for Jesus and the gospel will not only receive abundant blessings but a hundred times as much in this present age, which includes both material and spiritual blessings. However, these people receive the blessings along with persecutions. (V.30.) B. They will gain eternal life and will enjoy the forever blessings with Christ Jesus.

2) Many who are first will be last, and the last first: This is referring to those who followed Jesus in the first but could not give up everything for Him; the latter followers will exceed their predecessors and win the prize ahead of them.

Discussion:

1. What’s the most important thing in your life now? Why?
2. Why did Jesus ask the young wealthy man to sell everything and follow him?
4. What would be the most difficult thing for you to give up and follow Jesus? What kind of choice will you make if you are to be asked?
5. What are the blessings you receive from God in your path of following Jesus?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we thank you and we praise you! Thank you for granted us the grace of salvation. We want to give up everything to follow you. We thank you for the abundant blessings you’ve given us. Please also help us not to make any blessings our God. We pray for your spiritual enlightenment and insight. Reminds us to know how we can leave behind everything to follow you. 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.