Mark Series 11 – Praise Jesus, the Glorious King
August 16, 2013

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.
Prepare a couple of simple, fun, and delightful icebreakers to help your group warm up. Help your cell group members to put aside their busy and tiresome lives 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 should 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 EVENTS:
- 8/24 Intern Cell Leader Training
- 8/30 Evangelism Outreach
- 9/01 English Family Luncheon
- 9/07 “Identity Unleashed” Event (with Jeremy Lin, Francis Chan)
- 9/08 Ministry Coworker Recruitment Sunday
- 9/14 Men’s Breakfast with Pastor Tong
- 9/15 Cell Group Promotion Sunday

C. Newcomer: _________________ 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.)
1. What was the key message from last Sunday’s sermon? How did God talk 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: Praise Jesus, the Glorious King

| Scriptures: | Mark 11: 1-11, 15-19 (Please read Bible verses in turns) |
| Memorizing Verse: | Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11: 9 NIV) |

In Mark 10, Jesus told the twelve disciples that He was going to be slain. He also told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles.” In order to accomplish the mission that His Heavenly Father gave Him – to die on the cross and save the world, He proactively entered the city of Jerusalem in the glorified way, on a colt normally ridden by a king.

1. Jesus the King entered the city of Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-10):
   1) The colt and its owner submitted to Jesus the King (Mark 11:3-6):
      a. The colt entered the city of Jerusalem as the King, as in Zachariah 9:9.
      b. The colt greeted the King as in the past.
   2) The crowd blessed Jesus the King (Mark 11: 9-10):
      a. Jesus came in the name of the Lord (Psalm 118:28). b. Jesus was expected to restore the kingdom of King David which would no longer be ruled by the Roman Emperor.
2. Jesus the King cleared the temple courts (Mark 11: 15-19)

1) Jesus inspected the temple (Mark 11:11): Jesus always cares for what His Heavenly Father does. He cares for the city of Jerusalem. And He cares for the temple, too. The temple is God’s house. And it is Jesus’ house, too. When Jesus returned to His house, he inspected everything to find out whether the temple was managed according to His will. Although He found something wrong, he did not take any action because it was already late on that day.

2) Jesus cleared the temple courts: Jesus cleared anything that was not supposed to happen in the temple courts in righteous anger. He drove out the merchants and turned over the tables of the money changers, because a. people were supposed to worship, praise, and pray to God when they came to the temple, but the courts were filled with commotions like a market, which spoiled the atmosphere of worship and distracted people from their focus on God. If someone needs to purchase the animal sacrifice or exchange money for offering (or paying tax), he needs to get it done outside the temple (Mark 11:15); b. the courts were a shortcut to the Mount of Olives from the east part of the city. People went through the courts for their own convenience. But they distracted others from praying. (Mark 11:16)

3) The temple is the house of prayer for all nations: The Lord cares for all nations and all peoples. Even though the temple is the place for Jews to pray, the Lord still keeps the courts outside the temple for Gentiles (all nations and all people) to pray and seek Him (Isaiah 56:7). Therefore, Jesus proclaimed, “My house must be called the house of prayer for all nations”. However, those improper transactions and money changing made the temple look like a den of robbers.

4) Jesus’ clearing of the temple courts and his proclamations were against the authority of the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and damaged their personal gains. So they planed to murder Jesus (Mark 11:18)

Discussion:

1. Why did Jesus enter the city of Jerusalem on a colt?
2. What were the reactions of the disciples and the crowd when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on a colt? Why did they have such reactions?
3. Why was Jesus so agitated that He drove out the merchants from

the temple courts? What were the reactions of the chief priests and the teachers of the law? Why?
4. How can we learn about the attitude of the ministry from the submission of the colt and its owner?
5. What does the incident that Jesus cleared the temple courts remind us of, what should we be careful of in the church or the cell group?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, You are the glorious King! You were not afraid of death and proactively entered the city of Jerusalem in order to save us. You let us know that someone was submissive to You, someone was honoring You, someone was doing something improper in the temple courts, while the chief priests and the teachers of the law wanted to kill You. But You still dauntlessly cleared the temple courts and proclaimed, “My house must be called a house of prayer for all nations”. Yes, Lord! We love You, and we thank You. We want to submit to You and focus on You, to pray to You and see You in our church, cell group, or any gathering. Please alert us when we have done or said anything that displeases You. Please also help us repent and make corrections. May Your presence come down from Heaven. May Your will be done in the church, cell group and our personal lives as You have planned for us. 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