Mark Series 13 – Be Alert for the 2nd Coming of Jesus
September 6, 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 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 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:
   - 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. Newcomers: ________________ Confirm newcomers’ name(s) 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 was the key message from last Sunday’s 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: Be Alert for the 2nd Coming of Jesus

   Verses: Mark 13: 5-13; 32-37 – Please take turns to read God’s words.
   Memorizing Verses: Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. (Mark 13:33)

   Foreword:
   After Jesus told His disciples “… not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down”, he and four disciples went to the Mount of Olives and sat opposite the temple. Out of curiosity, the disciples asked him privately about the sign of the temple being destroyed. Jesus asked them to be on the guard for his return. (Mark 13:1-4)

   1. Be alert and not be deceived in the wake of pains (Mark 13: 5-8)
      A. Be on the guard so one cannot be deceived by a false Christ. For there are people who act in the name of Jesus to deceive others and mislead them to turn away from God.
      B. Be on the guard so you are not astonished. The beginning of pains is like the end-times where people will rise against people, nations against nations. Wars and disasters are ever-present. However, God is still in control, so do not be panicked.

   2. Be God’s witness in the midst of disaster and prosecution (Mark 13: 9-13)
      A. Be God’s witness in persecution
         a. Do not be afraid of religious or political persecution. On the contrary, seize the opportunity to testify in front of the authorities and nobles because the gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14).
         b. Do not worry about what to say because the Holy Spirit will give us the words at the right time. We just need to follow His guidance.
B. Persevere until the end when facing persecution (Mark 13:12-13)
   a. Broken relationships – family members hate one another because of faith conflicts.
   b. Believers are being hated or betrayed either by non-believers or faithless believers. But be persistent and focus on God; He will bring us out of the storm. (Mark 13: 12-13)

3. Be on the guard and pray to prepare for the Lord’s return (Mark 13: 32-37)
   A. Be on the guard and pray. For us it’s not about when the Lord will return, it’s about us being a faithful servant. We need to be alert in Christ and seek Him through prayers, use the authority and power he gives us to preach gospel and build people up to accomplish the task that the Lord assigned to us.
   B. God may come suddenly (Mark 13: 35-37)
      Even though we do not know the exact time when the Lord return, we should not fool around or sleep, but keep alert instead to wait upon God.

Discussion:

1. What are the phenomena in today’s world that Jesus described in the Bible?
2. What are the reminders or revelations in these phenomena?
3. How can we not be startled in the midst of calamities but testify and preach the gospel for God instead?
4. Why does Jesus repeatedly admonish us to be cautious, alert and pray? What should we do?
5. What expectation do you have about Jesus’ return? What do you want to do for God the most?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for admonishing us to be on the guard so we will not be deceived by false Messiahs and can stand firm when facing disaster and persecution. We can testify for you and preach the gospel. Father God, help us to be like the wise virgins who were alert in prayers and waited upon You for Your glorious return. 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: Bible Study