Mark Series 15
Learn from Jesus’ Obedience
September 20, 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:
- 9/08-10/20 Equipping Class: Apologetics by Kevin Gordon
- 9/19, 9/26,10/17,10/24 Course: ROLPLI Five Fold Ministry by David Cannistraci and Scott Abke.
- 10/6 Baby Dedication
- 10/13 Ministry Coworker Recruitment Sunday
- 10/18-10/20 Mission Conference

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. Topic of the week: Learn from Jesus’ Obedience
Verses: Mark 14: 32-42 – Please take turns to read God’s words.
Memorizing Verses: “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” (Mark 14:36)

Foreword:
When Jesus and disciples had Passover dinner in Jerusalem, he said that one of them – Judah - will betray him. He also taught them to remember him through the symbolic objects of the bread and cup. Then they came to Mount of Olives and Jesus said they will all fall away. Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.” Jesus answered, “Today - yes, tonight - before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.” They went to a place called Gethsemane (means oil press), and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.

1. Learn from Jesus about obedience when facing struggles (Mark 14: 32-34)
   A. When Jesus was having a difficult time, he took three disciples close to him (Mark 14:33). He also took these three when he was transfigured at the mountain. Jesus taught and nurtured them all the way through. He believed in them and asked them to be alert and pray for him. At that moment Jesus showed his human side – his weakness and the need of trusting spiritual friends – to support one another. Mark used a strong word here to describe Jesus’ state of mind – distressed and extremely sorrow.

   B. Jesus’ soul was overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death (Mark 14:34-35a). Jesus was overwhelmed to the point of death in his mind and his body bore the burden of all mankind. The pressure was so heavy to a point that he could not walk anymore. He didn’t move far and stumbled to the ground. Jesus asked those three disciples close to him to be on the watch.
2. Learn from Jesus to pray before Father but still submit to His will (Mark 14:35b-36)

A. Jesus told God what he wants: “Abba, Father,” he said, “Everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me.” Jesus prayed in his mother tongue (Aramaic language); Abba is the name for father in Aram. Jesus called out to Father in two different languages showing how desperate he was when he prayed. He was like a child being wronged and came to his father and cried out “Dad, Dad, please remove the suffering about to come down upon me.” Jesus brought his difficult situation to God without reservation.

B. Jesus totally submitted to God’s will: “Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Jesus cannot bear such great responsibility and pressure in his body, so he prayed to God to remove the cup from him. But from beginning to the end, he totally submitted to Father’s will and took the cup and bore the burden of the world to fulfill God’s salvation plan.

3. Learn from Jesus to pray with alertness, earnest and obedience (Mark 14:37-42)

A. Jesus scolded Peter for being unable to keep watch for an hour. It was quite a busy day for Jesus and disciples. They had the Passover dinner and worshiped together, then went to the Mount of Olives where Jesus prayed quite often. It was about midnight by then, no wonder the disciples could not keep alert not even an hour and fell into asleep. Jesus was tired then but still kept watch to pray. Although Jesus scolded Peter, he still had mercy on the disciples so he said, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

B. Jesus prayed earnestly and submissively: even though disciples fell into asleep, Jesus continued to pray three times while He had a weak body and distressed emotions. Jesus was determined and fully submitted to the plan of mankind’s salvation.

Although Jesus was so distressed and powerless to a point that he fell on the ground and expressed his own desire to Father, he was determined to obey to Father’s will. So when Judah came with armed soldiers to arrest him, he faced it with ease and courage. Their plot came to pass and Jesus was arrested (Mark 14:43-50).

Discussion: (please choose the discussion according to the member’s needs)

1. In your spiritual life, have you ever experienced a situation when you feel so distressed to the point as dying like Jesus?
2. Please describe in your own words about Jesus’ state of mind and feeling at that time?
3. What did you learn from Jesus’ prayer (Mark 14:36)?
4. Have you ever faced struggles when submitting to God’s will? What kind of reminder do you see from Jesus’ example?
5. Jesus asked Peter to be on the watch and pray. When you choose to submit to God’s will, how do you keep on the watch and pray with your spiritual partners? How can their alertness help you?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we praise you and thank you for your obedience to accomplish the salvation for this world. May you guard us so we learn to be alert and pray with spiritual partners. At the time when we submit ourselves to God, we know how to learn from Jesus’ example – to pray with alertness, earnest and obedience – and leave it to the Lord. 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 15:21-47