Mark Series 17 - Jesus Has Risen!
November 8, 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:
- 11/15-16 Leaders Annual review and Planning Weekend.
- 11/24 Thanksgiving English Family Luncheon
- 11/28 Thanksgiving Day.

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: Jesus Has Risen

Memorizing Verses: “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.” (Mark 16: 6)

Foreword:
Compared to other book of gospel, the book of Mark documented less about Jesus’ resurrection and appearance in front of disciples. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome discovered Jesus’ body was gone. There sitting a young man dressed in white robe told them that Jesus has risen. Then Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, and afterwards to two disciples while they were walking in the country. Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven and said to them about the great commission. This book ended with Jesus’ ascended to heaven and the disciples went out and preached gospels.

1. Empty tomb means Jesus has risen (Mark 16: 1-8)
   A. Empty tomb (Mark 16:1-4). Those women who went to anoint Jesus’ body saw the stone rolled away from the entrance and surprised that the tomb was empty.
   B. Declaration of the young man (Mark 16:5-6). “Don’t be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.” This is a powerful and true declaration. Jesus has risen and gone, so we do not need to find a living person in the dead. Do not be bewildered and afraid; Jesus was indeed alive!
   C. Comfort disciples and Peter (Mark 16:7-8): The young man asked the women to tell disciples about Jesus’ resurrection. The book of Mark mentioned about telling Peter in particular because Jesus already told Peter about his denial of Christ three times (Mark 14:30). Jesus’ resurrection brought great comfort to Peter who was in agony and repentance. Jesus’ resurrection also brings us great comfort because we do not believe in a
dying man, but rather a living God. Jesus had told disciples about his revival and He will see them in Galilee (Mark 14:28).

The empty tomb proves Jesus’ resurrection; it brings comfort and hope. We will meet with Jesus. We do not believe in a dead man, but rather a resurrecting Christ.

2. Resurrecting Jesus appearing to disciples (Mark 16: 9-14)
   A. Jesus appeared to Mary and two disciples (Mark 16: 9-11):
      Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and two disciples going to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). They were filled by sorrow and fear. Jesus showed that He is the one being prosecuted, crucified, and now resurrect. He is among them to strengthen their faith. He also asked them to tell other disciples.
   B. Jesus appeared to eleven disciples (Mark 16: 12-14): Jesus appeared to eleven disciples as He said, and rebuked them for their lack of faith and stubborn refusal to believe his revival. Now Jesus appeared among them to strengthen their faith and courage toward him.

Jesus’ revival confirmed the prophecy that many will not believe until they see the wounds in his body. But Jesus said “blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

3. Disciples received the great commission and preached gospel with power (Mark 16: 15-20)
   A. Preached gospel (Mark 16:15-16): When disciples saw Jesus appeared among them, their unbelief and confusion disappeared because they knew Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus gave out the great commission and the disciples received. They preached gospel and brought people to God all because He has risen.
   B. Signs and wonders to confirm the preaching (Mark 16:17-20): After Jesus resurrected and was taken up into heaven, He left the power of Holy Spirit so disciples were filled with power to perform miracles and preach.

When Jesus was crucified, went through death and then buried, disciples lost their leading Lord all of a sudden. Peter was in deep repent and chagrin. When the women told them about Jesus’ resurrection, they were still bewildered, fear and disbelieve until Jesus appeared to them. They changed to be filled with power, preached the gospel with signs and wonders. This is the power of Jesus’ resurrection. We believe Jesus has risen, and His revival brings us power so we can testify for God. Just as Paul mentioned in 1 Corinthians “and if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” (1 Corinthians 14:15). We believe the incarnation of Jesus Christ, who was crucified to redeem us and absolve us from our sins, and now resurrect and be with us always. He is a God now and forever. Let us give the good news to the world.

Discussion: (please choose the discussion according to the member’s needs)
1. How do you feel when you hear about Jesus has risen?
2. How can you tell that Jesus has risen from Mark 16?
3. What did Jesus commend to the disciples after he resurrected?
4. What is the meaning of Jesus’ resurrection to individuals and cell groups? How can we live out the power of revival?
5. How can you obtain this power of revival and willing to preach the great commission for Jesus?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we praise you and thank you for your reviving power so we are capable to preach gospel for Jesus. May God strengthen our faith to believe in Jesus’ revival and He lives in our heart. We just look upon Jesus to pray everyday; His reviving power will come upon us and direct us to be a wonderful witness for God. 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: Matthew 5 – Blessed are the Meek