**The Beatitude Series 4**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**

January, 10 2014

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:**

- 1/12 & 1/19 Healing Ministry Training
- 1/9 & 1/23 English Prayer Meeting
- 1/26 Steps to Freedom in Christ
- 2/2-3/9 Love and Respect
- 2/8 Men’s Breakfast

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:** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

**Verses:** Matthew 5: 6 – Please read God’s words and memorize it.

**Memorizing Verses:** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” (Matthew 5: 6 NIV)

1. Ice Breaker (for reference only)

Please prepare different pictures, such as those of animals, flowers, numbers, etc. Cut each picture into two halves. Mix them. Ask each person to take half a picture. Then ask each of them to find the other half of the picture. So people can pair up this way and share to the whole group: what is the thing you want to do the most right now? Why? (Each person takes 2-3 minutes to share.)

2. **Personal Evaluation:**

What do you desire the most, deep in your heart (multiple choices):

- ( ) Direction for your future
- ( ) Wealth
- ( ) health
- ( ) Faith
- ( ) Happy Marriage
- ( ) Fame
- ( ) Wisdom
- ( ) Knowledge of God’s love
- ( ) Realizing your dream

• Please share whether or not such pursuit can really satisfy you. Why?

3. **True Story:**

After WWII, the president of Coca Cola announced to his subordinates that their sales strategy is to let everyone in the world have a taste of Coca Cola. Eventually this product became popular in the whole world. People will become thirsty again even after drinking Coca Cola. But the scripture says: There is one kind of living water. People will never be thirsty after drinking it. And a spring will flow out of him. (Please read John 7:37-38)

• What is this living water? Would you like to drink it?

4. **Definition of hunger and thirst for righteousness:**

Hunger and thirst for righteousness is to hunger and thirst for God’s righteousness and truth.
5. Examples from Bible:
Psalms 63:1-7

1 You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.
2 I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.
3 Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.
4 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.
5 I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.
6 On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.
7 Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings.

- David was a person that pleased God, for he fully understood that he could only be satisfied and live a glorious life by being hungry and thirsty for God. A life in God must be one filled with joy and peace, which cannot be given or taken away by anyone or anything, or any circumstance.
- How do you feel about David’s great hunger and thirst for God?
- Why can hunger and thirst for righteousness bring the blessing of “being filled”? Please describe what kind of life is one that has been filled?
- How can one keep this life of being filled? Is there any practical approach?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we praise you and thank you! Since you are the source of spring in our lives, in your presence, we can find the purpose of our lives. In your presence, our lives can be filled. Only in you, we can find the true satisfaction. Dear Lord, please give us a hungry heart for your presence, for your filling us with the Holy Spirit, for the cleansing with your Words, and for everything from you, so that we can revive in our body, soul and spirit and become filled, and enjoy all the aspects of an abundant life. We thank you. 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: Matthews 5: 7 Blessed are the merciful