I Peter Series 01
A Living Hope
February 7, 2014

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.
Prepare a couple of easy, fun and dynamic icebreaker games to get your group warmed up. Help your cell members to put aside their busy & stressful life, prepare their minds to come before God.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.
Prepare a few songs that help to bring your members to come to the throne of God. As you worship, help your members to encounter with God and experience God’s presence. During this time, the cell leader should 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:
- 2/2-3/9 Love and Respect
- 2/5 & 2/19 English Prayer Meeting @ 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall
- 2/8 Men’s Breakfast
- 2/14 Valentine’s Day Dinner
- 2/28-3/1 Holy Spirit Conference

C. New comer: __________ Identify new comers before cell meeting.
Sick members, friends or relatives: __________ Please also discuss how you may show your cares to them.

III. WORD, 45 mins. By sharing God’s word, the group may discuss how you may apply it in everyday life.

A. Sharing message from last Sunday’s sermon: (Try and listen to the sermon online once again.)
1. What is the key message from last Sunday sermon? What 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: Living Hope

Scriptures: 1Peter1:1-12 (Please read Bible verses in turns)
Memorizing Verse: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1Peter1:3)

Foreword:
Among all Jesus’ apostles, Peter has always been the one who dared to speak up and take action. Jesus had to remind him from time to time of his improper statement or lack of faith. After Jesus’ ascending, Peter became a witness of Jesus. He preached the gospel, went through many afflictions and oppressions, yet he was able to overcome all difficulties and hold steadfast in Christ to accomplish what he was entrusted with by the Lord. In the first and second Books of Peter, he displayed a brand-new faithfully mature life for us. His God-loving and people-loving words deeply inspired all believers who faced oppression and adversity and those who were on the verge of walking away from God. His diction of fearless faith and true humbleness are rooted from the understanding that he was such a petty person yet Jesus redeemed him with His grace, forgave his transgressions, and chose him to be His apostle. As such, he lives for the Lord; and he dies for the Lord.

Peter started by greeting the exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. He then described how the people of God may defeat adversaries, win over calamities and be a witness of God.

1. We are redeemed by Jesus (2):
   A) We are chosen by God: God chose us with His grace and foreknowledge. He sanctified us to become his people. This is an unalterable fact.
   B) We are sanctified through the work of the Spirit: The Holy Spirit works within us, he convicts us, empowers us to keep away from the control of sin and to live a holy life.
   C) We should obey Jesus Christ: As we no longer live in the power of sin, we’ll be humbled and obedient to Jesus and experience grace and peace from God.
2. We have a living hope (3-5):
   A) We have new birth through Jesus’ resurrection (3): With mercy and love, God has given us his only son, Jesus, who has died for us and resurrected from death. We have an assurance of rebirth in Christ who gives us a revival.
   B) We have an inheritance that can never perish (4): In heaven, God has in store for us an inheritance which 1) will never perish: it won’t erode nor decay. 2) will never spoil: it’s perfect without flaws nor will it be daubed by sin. 3) will never fade: it’s forever new, nor will it be wrecked.
   C) We will be kept by God and receive total salvation (5): we are sojourners on the earth. God will keep us and take us into a magnificent and everlasting home where we enjoy the goodness and joy with him. In addition to that, we also receive the inheritance in store for us in heaven.

3. The living hope gives us great rejoice (6-9)
   A) Face all adversaries with great joy (6): All the afflictions in the world is temporary, as we remember the eternal promises of God, we disregard the distresses in the world. We’ll have the greatest joy from God to overcome all adversaries and difficulties.
   B) Faith that has been tested is of greater worth (7): Gold must be tried by fire to get rid of all impurity; faith must be tested so a life can be refined. As we face the difficulties in life, stand still in Christ. We will receive the crown of praise, glory and honor from God.
   C) Full of inexpressible and glorious joy by loving and relying on God (8): The apostles, who had seen, touched Jesus, all anticipated Jesus to return. Albeit we have not seen Jesus, we love him and rely on him. As he reveals himself to us, we’ll praise and rejoice.
   D) Remain steadfast in Christ and receive salvation for your souls (9): As we believe in Christ, more blessings will be given to us. Remain steadfast in Him and when He returns, He will fulfill our being with deeper needs and aspirations. That is total salvation.
   E)

Discussion: (Please pick the questions that are suitable for your cell group’s needs.)

1. Do you know any of Peter’s fearless statements? What impression do you have of Peter? Please share with everybody.
2. From the Scripture, how were we redeemed? What is the purpose of redemption?
3. What are the difference between Christian and non-believers when facing trials in their lives? How would a living hope help us to go through our trials?
4. Why would Peter tell the believers to have great joy while they are on trials? How does it inspire you to face your current circumstance or calamity?
5. What can we do to live a life that can gain us praise, glory and honor when Jesus comes again?

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you. Thank you for choosing us to become your people and give us the living hope. Thank you for also in store an inheritance for us in heaven. Lord, please keep us and protect us. Elevate our faith when we are on trail just as the impure substance being removed from gold and silver through fire. We want to trust you and rely on you with the greatest joy to overcome all the difficulties in lives. As we walk through the entire calamity, we remain steadfast in loving you. For it is our aspiration to have the fullness of your glory and joy in our lives. Lord, please come into our hearts and let us encounter with you in all possible scenario. We pray in Jesus 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.