1 Peter Series 06  
Blessed Is He Who Suffers For the Lord  
March 28, 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:  
- 3/29 Intern Cell Leader Training (9:30am-4:30pm) lunch & childcare provided.  
- 4/11 Spiritual Warfare Conference @ 7:30pm in Emmanuel Chapel  
- 4/12 Spiritual Warfare Class, Saturday all day class: $20 to audit.  
- 4/18 Good Friday Service  
- 4/20 Easter Celebration Sunday  
- 5/3 Women’s Brunch  
- 5/17 Happy Family Fun Trip  
- 5/30-31 Men’s Retreat at Mission Springs

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: Blessed is He Who Suffers for the Lord  
Scriptures: 1 Peter 3:13-22 (Please read Bible verses in turns)  
Memorizing Verse: But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. (1 Peter3:14; 17)

In the 2nd half of Chapter 3, Peter instructed believers to look up to Jesus for how he suffered for us. Do not fear their threats or be frightened, but revere the Lord. Be prepared in your hearts, rely on the consult of the Holy Spirit, and respond with gentleness and respect to those who challenge or question us with gospel and witnesses. As God meant for us to live out His magnificence, shine with His glory and be richly blessed.

1. Be willing to suffer for the Lord (3:13-14):  
   A) Do the good thing (3:13): A Christian’s behavior is often examined with scrutiny. Believers are often judged with a high standard. If a Christian made an effort to do good things, follow teachings of the Bible’s and walk blamelessly, before long, he will stands out among others. Eventually he will be honored and not be harmed.
   B) Know that suffer for the righteous is blessed (3:14): If one has suffered for God, he has a heart of God. The teaching of the Beatitudes is to show us when we are oppressed, we are working for God’s sake. Even if we are threatened or slandered because of God, we should not be afraid but trust that we are blessed through this experience. (ref. Matt. 5:10-12)

2. The right attitude when suffers (3:15-17):  
   A) Revere Christ as the Lord (3:15a): In our hearts; when we can revere Christ as the Lord and exalt Him as Holy, we can easily understand that everything is in His hand when we suffer. There is no fear when we truly rely on God.
   B) Answer with Gentleness and Respect (3:15b): Whenever we
are challenged about our belief, we should grab the opportunity and speak about the gospel. As we answer, our attitude should be gentle and respectful. The key is not to win the debate or make us look good, but to make the way of God prevailed.

C) **Do good with a clear conscience** (3:16): Everything we do, we do with a clear conscience, so that we may be a great witness to glorify God. Our good behavior and charitable deeds will eventually make ashamed those who reproach or slander us. If it is God’s will for us to suffer for doing good, it is better than for doing evil.

3. **Jesus is Our Example of Suffering** (3:17-22)

   A) **Jesus suffered for doing good** (3:17-18): When Jesus was in the world, he did miracles and wonders, healed, cast ghost to help many. He was forsaken by people and got hung on the cross. Although he did not sin, even blameless, in order to pay the ransom for our sins, Jesus suffered for us and was punished to the extreme.

   B) **Jesus suffered so that the sinner may be delivered** (3:19-21): As we come to Jesus with faith, receive forgiveness, and accept His salvation and grace, we are saved. Yet, if we refused the salvation we too would die through water – just as over 120 years while Noah was building the Ark, no one believed in him except for eight who eventually received God’s salvation and grace. Mankind may only be redeemed through Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. If we believe in Jesus, we get baptized. It is as if we died with Jesus, buried with Jesus and then reborn with Jesus. (Note: “make proclamation” on V.19 refers to Jesus’ spirit went to the underworld to proclaim to the imprisoned spirits of his victory.)

   C) **Jesus was resurrected and ascended for the everlasting glory** (3:22): Jesus was alive and ascended to the heaven and sit on the right of Father God’s throne. Lord Father gave him name above all names. All the angels all authorities and all the power submit to Him. (Ref. Ph. 2:9-11) Likewise, if we suffer for doing good, we will be like Jesus, awarded with bounty riches and glorious blessings in the eternal kingdom.

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

1. What does it mean by doing good? Please share with everyone at least one of the good thing you’ve done recently.
2. Why is it a blessing when you suffer for the Lord? What is the right attitude when suffers?
3. What is the meaning for Jesus to suffer for us? What is the impact to us?
4. Have you ever had the experience in suffering for the Lord yet were blessed?
5. When you were suffered for the Lord, how did you feel? What kind of help did you need the most? Please pray for anyone who needs a prayer.

**Prayer:**

**Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you. When we were still a sinner, you have decided to suffer for our sins and died on the cross. Give us faith and strength. Inspire us to do good and always keep a clear conscience on everything. Lead us to answer people in gentleness and respect for our reasons for the hope. Even when there may be ridicule or humiliation, show us how to follow Jesus’ example so that we may suffer for the righteous. We pray that the gospel may prevail through our outstanding behavior and witnesses. It is our prayer that we may glorify your holy name. Lord, we thank you for your grace. Listen to our prayer, 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.