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:
   - 5/11 Mother’s Day
   - 5/17 Happy Family Fun Trip
   - 5/30-31 Men’s Retreat at Mission Springs
   - 6/1 English Family Luncheon

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: Standing Firm in Faith

Verses: 1Peter 5: 8-14
Memorizing Verses: Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (1Peter 5: 9)

Liu Hsia, an influential Taiwanese writer in Christ, said we have too many regrets in life. We always think time waits and allows us to start over. Little did we know that “your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”. Disasters always happen at a time when we are the least prepared. There is no way to avoid it, to be scared, or become vulnerable in the situation. The only thing we can do now is to vigilantly cherish the treasures at hand while there is enough time.

What is the treasure in your hand? Christians’ treasure is Jesus inside of us. Brothers and sisters, let us depend on the Lord more and be a confident person in God. Please read 1Peter 5:8-14.

1. Stand firm in faith to resist the devil (1Peter 5: 8-9)
   A. Be alert and of sober mind:
      It means don’t relax. Being vigilant means to not fall sleep and have heighten alertness. The best way to stay alert and sober is to pray constantly to avoid the confusion from enemies. (Matthew 26:41)
   B. Know your enemy the devil:
      The number one thing the devil works on is to damage the relationship between you and God, and deprive you of the peace and joy in the face of temptation and suffering. Do not fall into the trap of staying away from God and letting the Holy Spirit worry. You need to know the devil in order to fight against him:
      a. The devil is like a roaring lion.
         Peter described the devil as a roaring lion to remind us it is ferocious and cruel and we should not neglect that.
      b. The devil looks for someone to devour.
The devil looks to devour those who have brokenness in life, such as imprudent, unaware, and prideful people. That’s why Peter reminds us to pay extra attention to these.

c. Defeat the devil with firm faith.
   We are not combating the devil in the flesh, but by faith to depend upon God in order to overcome. Know that we are not alone because there are so many brothers and sisters around us who have the same experience. Let us have solid faith in God to defeat the devil.

2. God will complete and solidify you in sufferings (1Peter 5: 10-11)
   A. God gives you all kinds of grace:
      There are many types of suffering and attacks from the devil, but God will give enough grace commensurately to overcome them.
   B. God gives you the everlasting glory in Christ:
      God has given you the glory when you accepted Jesus Christ. When you are in suffering and facing temptation, God will help you to enjoy the joy of the Lord.
   C. God will help in the midst of suffering:
      God will lead you according to His glorious purpose for you. The suffering is temporary, but the glory is everlasting. God will complete and solidify you in suffering and temptations. He will strengthen you so you can give the glory and authority to God.

3. Stand firm in God’s grace:
   In his blessings at the end, Peter encouraged brothers and sisters in the church to stand firm in God’s grace. Our salvation is based upon grace, overcoming sufferings and temptations is grace, and receiving everlasting glory in Christ is also grace. Therefore, you need to stand firm in God’s grace.

   Note: When Peter wrote this letter in Rome, it was the time when Roman Emperor Nero started to prosecute Christians on a large scale. The Babylon mentions here are implying the Roman Empire.

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs):
1. What do you think about when you hear the word “devil”?
2. Why did Peter describe devil as a roaring lion?
3. How to resist devil with faith? Please refer to Matthew chapter 4 about how Jesus overcame the temptation from the devil.
4. What kind of grace have you received when you were in sufferings or temptations? How does it help you grow in faith?
5. From Peter’s encouraging verses, how can you realize your dreams this year in a practical way?

Prayer:
Dear Jesus, we thank you and praise you because you love us when we are still sinners. You send your son Jesus Christ to save us so we can enjoy all graces from you. Although there are sufferings in the world, attacks and temptations from the devil, you are our help in all time. May you strengthen our faith so we can depend upon you with our all heart, and consist remain in you in the midst of sufferings for your glory. Thank you for hearing our prayers. 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.
   Thanksgiving gathering
   Next week: 2Peter 1:1-11