2 Peter Series 02  
*Trust in God’s Words*  
June 13, 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:  
- 6/15-7/25 Pray America  
- 6/25 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting  
- 6/28 Men’s Breakfast @ 8am  
- 7/12 Women’s Brunch  
- 7/31-8/3 Glocal Impact Conference

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: Trust in God’s Words  
Verses: 2 Peter 1:12-21  
Memorizing Verses: For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21 NIV)

After Peter encouraged believers to be fruitful, he reminded them to trust in God’s words and to stand firm, so that they wouldn’t be fooled by secular thoughts. This is what Jesus had assigned Peter to do, to strengthen his brothers (Luke 22:32b). When Peter was about to die for his cause, he was not worried. Instead, as a pastor that loved his fellow believers, he was thinking of the upcoming challenges that they would face. So Peter once again tried to tell them to strengthen themselves with God’s words to keep from becoming weak and falling.

1. With a pastor’s heart, Peter reminded you to hold firmly onto God’s words (2 Peter 1:12-15):  
   Our Lord Jesus once prophesized how Peter would die (John 21:18-19). When Peter realized that he was about to die for the Lord soon, even though the believers were already familiar with his teachings, Peter still once and again told the believers to do their best to hold firmly onto his teachings, and onto God’s words.

2. With his first-hand experience, Peter bore witness to Jesus and God’s words (2 Peter 1:16-18)  
   Secular thoughts twisted Jesus and God’s words. With his first-hand experience, Peter rebutted people’s lies and confirmed that Jesus is the one and only begotten son of our Heavenly Father, became flesh and came to this world, died for us on the cross, resurrected and ascended. He is sitting on the right side of our Heavenly Father. He will definitely return one day.

   A. Peter was once following Jesus, and personally witnessed His glory (1:16): None of Peters’ testimony to Jesus was fabricated, for he was with James and John on the sacred mountain, and he personally saw Jesus’ transfiguration and the Glory of our Heavenly Father. He testified clearly to the glory and power of Jesus, and his return (Matthew 17:1-3).
B. Peter heard with his own ears that our Heavenly Father proclaimed that Jesus is his beloved son (1: 17-18): When Jesus was transfigured on the sacred mountain, Peter and the other two apostles not only saw that with their own eyes, but also heard the proclamation of our Heavenly Father with their own ears that Jesus is His beloved son (Matthew 17:5). This truth is irrefutable by any common thought or philosophy.

3. Peter told us to hold firmly onto the prophecies in the Old Testament and God’s words (2 Peter 1:19-21)

Three-fourths (75%) of the prophecies in the Old Testament have already been realized in the past. Therefore, the prophecy on Jesus’ return will definitely be realized.

A. We must trust in the prophecies of the prophets (1:19):

Even though we are not quite clear about the prophetic messages, we will be once the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts. And we will definitely be clear when Jesus returns.

B. The prophecies in the Old Testament and God’s words carry absolute authority (1:20-21):

1. Prophecies and the Bible have to be interpreted correctly (1:20): The Old Testament and all of God’s words never had their origins in the human will. So when the prophecies are to be interpreted, they cannot be interpreted by our own interpretation of things, but by the Bible. The interpretation cannot conflict with the original Biblical meaning. It has to be consistent with God’s original will.

2. God’s words have the absolute and ultimate authority (1:21): All of the authors in the Bible spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit to teach us, so that we can be equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). However, each author had his own style of writing due to his education and background. For example, Paul, who used to be a Pharisee, liked to use big words, while as a fisherman, Peter liked to use common words.

Discussion (Choose some of the following questions based on cell members’ needs):

1. If you have to say goodbye to your family members and friends, what do you want to remind them of the most?
2. How did Peter establish his identity as an apostle and the authority of his teaching?
3. Why did Peter refer to the prophetic message as “something completely reliable” (1:19)?
4. How do we know whether God’s words have the absolute and ultimate authority? How would we read the Bible and make interpretation?
5. Ask each cell member to share about his/her purpose/plan/dream of Bible study for this year.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you, and we thank you. Thank you for using your servant Peter to teach us to trust in your words. May the Holy Spirit lead us and shine on us, so that we can understand your words by the correct interpretation of the Bible, which is always the guideline for our lives to help us walk in your way. Dear Lord, we are willing to be your vessel and with mission reach out to the needy, spread gospel to them, and bear witness to our Lord Jesus to the ends of the earth, until our Lord Jesus returns with glory and rules eternally. Hear our prayer. Thank you Jesus, 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.