2 Peter Series 3
Be aware of false teachers and prophets
June 20, 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
- 7/19 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: Be Aware of False Teachers and Prophets

Verses: 2Peter 2: 1-12
Memorizing Verses: if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. (2Peter 2: 9)

In Jewish history, many famous prophets voiced God’s will and led Israelites to turn to God, but there were also false prophets who led people away from God, just like Jesus taught the disciples to be aware of false prophets (Matthew 24). There were false teachers and prophets in the 1st century, alluring God’s people to believe their destructive, impious, and lustful lifestyle. Peter taught us how to identify false prophets and teachers, their characteristics and the trials that wait for them. They will perish rapidly, while those who obey God’s words will be rescued.

1. Recognizing false teachers and prophets’ teaching (2Peter 2: 1-3)
   A. Characteristics of false teachers and prophets:
      They introduce destructive heresies to deny the sovereign Lord.
      a. They deny Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God, the savior of the world.
      b. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.
      c. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories.

B. Teaching of false teachers and prophets:
   a. Teaching secretly because they are like thieves, who steal people away from God and to confuse believers.
   b. They fabricate stories and words to seduce believers, and distort the truth based on the greed and weaknesses of human nature.

God is a righteous God. He will not tolerate false teachers
and prophets and will bring swift destruction.

The Bible’s teaching is:

a. Jesus is the son of God.
b. Jesus was prosecuted for our sins and crucified. He was resurrected from death after three days.
c. The Father, Son and Spirit are three in one. (Please refer to ROLCC belief proclamation http://www.rolcc.net/engministry/church/our-belief)

2. God will trial the false teachers and prophets in truth and justice (2Peter 2: 4-12)

   God did not spare those who sinned, nor will He tolerate false teachers and prophets. They will be brought to judgment but the righteousness will be rescued. (Psalm 1:5-6)

   A. God did not even spare sinned angles (2:4 and 2:11)

   Angles have the power and authority from God, but God did not spare them when they sinned and fell. They are chained in darkness for final judgment.

   B. Learn from the examples in Old Testament:

   a. God did not spare evil doers in Noah’s time. A great number of people were thinking about evil things and God used the flood to destroy them. (2:5a)

   b. God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes because they led an ungodly life. (2:6-9)

Heresies, false teachers and prophets follow their corrupt desire of the flesh to heap abuse and blaspheme. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish. (2:10-12)

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs):

1. Have you ever heard of any heresies?
2. How to identify false teachers and prophets? Why is it difficult to detect? Why?
3. Why did Peter talk in details to rebuke those who were teaching heresies?
4. How do we treat those who were teaching heresies? (Refer to 2John 9-10).
5. What is the best way to be on the alert for heresies? How to carry it out? (Please refer to last week’s Bible study)

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you. Thank you for teaching us how to be aware of false teachers and prophets. Oh Lord, your word is a lamp for our feet, a light on our path that leads us to the righteousness. Your words give us wisdom, knowledge, power, and the spirit of the fear of the Lord so we can identify enemies’ plan and stay away from heresies. In the day of trials, your words strengthen us and make us fearful so we are determined to follow your teaching and live a holy life to glorify your name. 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.