I. WELCOME, 15 mins.
Prepare a couple of simple, fun and delightful icebreakers to help your group warm up. Help your cell group members to lay aside their busyness and tiredness and 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:
- 8/10-9/28 Legacy Class by Dave Ramsey.
- 8/24 Family Fun Day

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. Through sharing and discussing God’s word, the group applies it to their daily life.

A. Sharing the 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’s 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: Pray, Build, and Guard Against

Verses: Nehemiah 4:1-12
Memorizing Verses: But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat. (Nehemiah 4:9)

Preface:
There is no doubt that we live in a very real ongoing spiritual battle. We should never underestimate the enemy’s persistent tenacity to fight, and potential to attack. We should never lightly overlook the crafty, cunning, unscrupulous, and ruthless nature of the enemy. As Nehemiah passionately worked for God, it drew intense attacks from the enemy. In reality, Nehemiah’s work did not sin against them in any way, yet why did they respond with such great anger and fury? It is because what Nehemiah was doing, was the great work of God. This is why the enemy wants to come to cause great damage. But since this is the great work of God, God Himself will come to do the battle. We need to courageously build with one heart, through many prayers and stand firm in faith. So that in the end we will have the victory!

1. The enemy uses various schemes to attack (4:1-3, 7-8)
   a. Anger and fury (4:1a)
      When the enemy heard that Nehemiah had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites, he was very much disturbed (2:10). When the enemy heard that the Jews were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed (4:1). When the enemy heard that the repairs to Jerusalem’s walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, he was very angry (4:7). We see that when people persistently do God’s work, the enemy’s anger and fury will get stronger and the attacks will increase in intensity!
   b. Mocking and despising (4:1b-3:1)
      The enemy mocked and despised them saying, “Look at you! “What are you bunch of weak and feeble Jews doing? Will you start to rebuild the altar of sacrifice? Will you finish in a day? Can you bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?” “What you are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!” This is the deadly weapon of the enemy - for people to feel discouraged, want to shrink back, and to give up on the work they are doing.
   c. Combined fierce attacks (4:7-8)
      When the people saw the great forces and alliance of the enemy, it caused fear to come into their hearts. As a result, the people
could not continue the building work with a secure and peacefully heart.

2. The courageous builders of the wall become discouraged (4:6a-8,10,12)
   a. The middle of the building work (Nehemiah 4:6a-8)
      In the middle of the building work, the enemy lets out a great attack. This is because at the beginning of the work, we are very excited and work very hard. Towards the end of the work, we think that the work is almost finished, so we will push ourselves to finish it. But the middle of the work is the most strenuous and tiring time. During this time, with the ferocious attacks of the enemy, the people can become easily discouraged and demoralized.
   b. Too much dirt, too little strength (Nehemiah 4:10)
      Rebuilding the wall requires clearing the garbage and debris from the foundation. Otherwise, the wall that is built will not be very stable. Sooner or later it will fall down again. It is hard to see the fruits of clearing the garbage, and it requires so much effort and time. This can make people feel tired and drained of energy. Therefore, the people get discouraged!
   c. Fear coming into the heart (Nehemiah 4:11-12)
      The enemy spreads the news that they will attack. This especially caused the people on the borders to feel very afraid. They repeatedly asked that the builders come quickly to help protect them. This also caused the strength of the workers to suffer setbacks.

3. Nehemiah leads the people to respond to the enemy’s attacks
   a. Spending time in prayer (Nehemiah 4:4-5,9)
      Prayer allows our hearts to come over to God’s side. Prayer lets us receive strength directly from God. God is greater than the enemy’s ridicule and his crafty schemes. Our God is an awesome God. He is greater than all the strategies of the enemy. We can depend on God to continue the building work.
   b. Focusing on the building work (Nehemiah 4:6)
      The ultimate goal of the enemy is to stop you from doing the work of God. Therefore, the best way to respond to the enemy is to ignore his attacks and concentrate on doing the work.
   c. Diligently guard against (Nehemiah 4:9)
      Nehemiah is a man of prayer and is also a very practical person. He does God’s work with a real quality. He not only prays earnestly, but also sends guards to watch over the wall at night, in order to guard against the attacks of the enemy.

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs):
1. When you work on something and meet obstacles, what do you usually do? How do you deal with it and complete the work?
2. How did the enemy attack Nehemiah’s work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem? Which attack do you feel is the most deadly? Why? How can we overcome this attack?
3. What are your thoughts after reading through the passage? How did Nehemiah lead the people of Israel to respond to the attacks of the enemy?
4. Looking at the ways that Nehemiah responded to the enemy’s attacks, which one helped you the most?
5. Discuss your cell group’s dream this year. Have you met similar kinds of obstacles? How can you breakthrough them?

Prayer:
Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you and praise you because you had the victory over the enemy. You took from the enemy and had given us all kind of spirituals gifts. We are already standing in a position of victory. Even though the enemy is fighting as a captured beast, the enemy is still trying to use every opportunity to attack us. Please help us Lord, strengthen our faith, and let us be more faithful in depending on you, so that through you we can proclaim victory over the enemy and be more than conquerors in our everyday life. Thank you Lord for your blessings, may you listen to our prayers. We pray in the precious name of Jesus. Amen!

IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.
Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other’s needs.