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:
• 1/24 Intern Cell Leader Training
• 1/25-2/22 Equipping Class
• 1/31 All Church Men’s 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: You have to be born again

Verses: John 3: 1-15
Memorizing Verses: “Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” (John 3: 3)

Jesus performed the first miracle of turning water into wine at Canaan, and many other signs and wonders afterwards. People saw it and believed him (John 2:23). The whole thing shocked Israel. Officials in politics and religion noticed Jesus’ teaching and miracles, and wondered if they could know God through Jesus. As a result, Nicodemus represented the ruling council to ask Jesus. How will Jesus guide him to understand that he has to be born again in order to enter God’s kingdom and experience the joy of God’s presence?

1. If one is not born again, he cannot see God’s kingdom (John 3: 1-4)
   A. Nicodemus desires to know God 1-2a.
      a. Nicodemus is a highly respected Jewish; a member of the ruling council who is in charge of politics and religion. He is also a Pharisee who reveres God and has mastered the Bible and its teachings.
      b. Nicodemus calls Jesus teacher (Rabbi). According to him and the ruling council’s observation of Jesus’ miracles and teachings, they conclude that Jesus is a master from God, who carries God’s presence with him. These are things that Nicodemus doesn’t have but eagerly desire and maybe Jesus can guide him to obtain it.
   B. Nicodemus visits Jesus late in the night. Jesus was busy during the day, Nicodemus visited him late in the night for a long conversation to
      a. Avoid distractions so he can have enough time to seek for answers.
      b. Avoid being identified, because he is highly respected but doesn’t understand the kingdom of God.
   C. Jesus answers Nicodemus’ questions. Jesus answers Nicodemus question right to the point - one has to be born again to experience God and kingdom marvels.

2. If one is not born of water and the Spirit, he/she cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
   A. To be born again is to go through water and the Spirit
Water is logos and Rhema. Generally there are three types of explanation of water 1) Human is born from amniotic fluid. 2) John the Baptist performed repentant baptism. 3) God’s logos. According to Ephesians 5:26, we are cleansed and sanctified by God’s word. The third point is more pertinent.

Holy Spirit is one of the Trinity God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

To be born again is to be cleansed with God’s word and led by the Spirit (please note it’s not filled by the Spirit) so one can enter into God’s kingdom and call Jesus my Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3), and become sons and daughters of God to call Him Abba.

B. You have to be born again. Even though Pharisees pursue God and abide by His words and teachings, they are not born again so cannot understand the kingdom of God. As a result, Jesus commanded Nicodemus to born again. This is not a choice because only after one is born again can his/her spirit live to communicate with God and understand His kingdoms.

Jesus uses wind to illustrate born again and Holy Spirit. Being born again is like the wind blowing as it pleases. Likewise, Holy Spirit moves according to His will to lead people who are born again. We cannot see wind but we can see the effects after the wind blows; likewise, we cannot visually see reborn happening, but we can witness it through one’s life change.

3. Only believing in Jesus can one be born again, get saved and eternal life (John 3:9-15)

A. Jesus is the Son of God from heaven. Nicodemus cannot experience and believe the born again that Jesus talks about. Jesus further explained

a. 1) Israelites didn’t believe Jesus is their savior. God used prophets in the Old Testament to point out Jesus is the savior, and John the Baptist testified it because he saw the Spirit came down upon Jesus and that’s a sign God revealed to him.

b. If one refused to believe what happened on earth, they cannot believe the born again that Jesus talks about because it is heavenly things.

c. Jesus testifies that He is son of God. No one descends from heaven and comes down to earth and lives in the form of man expect Jesus.

B. Believe that Jesus is the savior.

a. God redeemed the Israelites who sinned. Israelites sinned against God in the wilderness and were bitten by snakes. They knew they deserve it but God had mercy upon them and prepared redemptive grace for them. He told Moses to make a replica of bronze snake and attach it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake can look at the bronze snake and be healed.

b. Now God prepares His son Jesus to redeem us. Son of man Jesus bore our sin and was lifted up like the bronze snake. When people turn their eyes upon Jesus, they are being redeemed and not perish.

c. When one believes in Jesus and that He is son of God and their savior, one is born again and has a new life in God’s kingdom to enjoy the fullness of God’s kingdom and God’s presence from now and forever.

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs):
1. What will you do when you earnestly desire to pursue the truth?
2. What drives Nicodemus to look for Jesus during the night?
3. How did Jesus direct Nicodemus to born again?
4. How can you certain that you are born again? How does others know that you are saved and born again?
5. How can we help seekers to be saved and born again?

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you. You love us when we still sin, and even give us your only son Jesus to bear our sin and give us a new life. So we can be your sons and daughters to enjoy the fullness of your kingdom and your presence. Oh Lord, your love is so amazing and your grace is so profound. May I dedicate myself to you, love you with all my heart and soul and follow you to the very end to spread your love, testify for Jesus so people can know and turn to you. 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.