Welcome, 15 mins.

Prepare a couple of easy, fun and dynamic icebreaker games to get your group warmed up. Help your cell members to put aside their busy & stressful life. Prepare their minds to come before God.

I. Worship, 20 mins.

Prepare a few songs that help to bring your members to come to the throne of God. As you worship, help your members to encounter with God and experience God’s presence. During this time, the cell leader should 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:

- 1/25-2/22 Equipping Class
- 3/1 English Family Luncheon
- 3/4 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
- 3/28 Men’s Breakfast

C. Newcomer: ______________ Identify newcomers before cell meeting.

Sick members, friends or relatives: ______________ Please also discuss how you may show you care about them.

II. Word, 45 mins. By sharing God’s word, the group may discuss how they may apply it in everyday life.

A. Sharing the message from last Sunday’s sermon: (Try and listen to the sermon on-line once again.)

1. What is the key message from last Sunday’s sermon? How did God talk to you through the message?
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Discussion Topic: You Can Receive Rivers of Living Water from the Holy Spirit

| Scriptures: John 7:37 - 44 |
| Memorizing Verse: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” (John 7:37b – 38) |

Note: Cell leaders, pray for your cell members to get prepared and be ready to be filled by the Holy Spirit.

The Book of John is the only gospel among all four synoptic gospels that mentions Jesus’ observation of the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast of Tabernacles is also known as the Feast of Booths. It is one of the three feasts that Jews were to observe, promulgated by Moses. All Jewish men were required to go to Jerusalem to observe the festival each year. It was a thanksgiving festival to remember God’s guidance while the Israelites were in the wilderness. During the festival, the Israelites were supposed to build temporary shelters on top of their houses or on the roadside with branches from palm trees, and then to remain inside. (Refer to Lev. 23:16, 23:33-44, Deut. 8:11-18)

1. Jesus knows the thirst in men’s hearts (v. 37):

A) It was the climax of the Feast of Tabernacles (v.37a):

During the 8 days of the feast, traditionally, the priest would bring water with a decanter from the Pool of Siloam back to the temple. The high priest would fill the altar and the vessels next to the altar with water. This symbolized the presence of the Lord’s spirit; it is also called Water Libation. The last day is the most solemn day. It is the greatest day. The priest would no longer pour water on the altar. On the climax day, Jesus used the water-carrying ceremony to declare “the message of the living water.”

B) Jesus extended his invitation to everyone (v.37b):

Jesus’ invitation is very simple, “let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Rivers of living water will flow from within them.” We can see that there are 3 procedures (actions) mentioned here. “Thirst” refers to a need. We all need the Holy Spirit. “Come” is an action, meaning come before Jesus and believe in Jesus. “Drink” is to receive. As long as we truly accept Jesus, we will receive. The living water is like the water
the high priest pleaded to God every year during the Festival of Tabernacles. He pleaded that the Spirit of the Lord may come. We all need to experience the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, our heart will be thirsty and dry. So we need to come before Jesus, ask Jesus, and drink the living water given by Jesus to receive the Holy Spirit.

2. Whoever believes will be receiving the river of the living water (v. 38-39):
   A) Whoever believes (v.38a):
      The prerequisite of getting living water (Holy Spirit) is to believe in Jesus Christ. Believe that He is the true God, son of God, and the imminently coming Messiah. He is not just a good person, an authoritative rabbi, or a prophet. He is Christ.

   B) Will flow the river of living water (v.38b-39):
      1) The living water needs to come from within us like ever-flowing spring water. The Holy Spirit is the resource of our inner living water which keeps flowing. This is the drive for Jesus to minister all people, likewise; if we serve with our carnal strength, we will get weary over time. We need to use the same drive as Jesus did, just as the Lord said in Zechariah 4:6, “not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit.”

      2) Jesus was referring that those who believe in him should receive the Holy Spirit, although the Holy Spirit had not come yet. The coming of the Holy Spirit is a promise Jesus had for his disciples. (Acts 1:5). The Holy Spirit came upon all his disciples after Jesus’ Ascension on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-21) This had also been prophesied by Joel (2:28) “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”

      3) Jesus had not yet been glorified. That Jesus becomes glorified means Jesus died, resurrected and ascended to the glorious Father. The crucifixion of Jesus accomplished the redemption of the Lord. We can reconcile with God because of Jesus’ blood on the cross. He is now sitting on the throne to intercede for us. (ref. Jh12:23, 17:1). Being a Christian, as we experienced the Holy Spirit, saw God’s glory, we now can come forward to God daily to experience the pouring of the Holy Spirit, and get filled with the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 5:18)

2. How everyone looks to Jesus (v.40-44):
   The first thing that came to people’s mind was Jesus was like Moses, a prophet, because Moses once commanded the rock to flow water. Other people may guess that Jesus is Christ, the Messiah. There were even people opposing him by saying, “Christ should have come from Bethlehem, rather than a Nazareth from Galilee.” As they started to argue and caused quarrel, they missed Jesus’ invitation. Eventually, they did not catch Jesus. Jesus knew all along, He is from God. He embodies God’s Word and is sent by God. He is the imminent coming Messiah! Unfortunately, no Jews recognized him. (Jh &:28-29)

Discussion: (Please choose the questions that are suitable for your cell group’s needs.)

   1. Have you been filled by the Holy Spirit? Please share with everyone.

   2. Why would Jesus extend his invitation to everyone on the last day of the feast? In his invitation, which key verbs did he use?

   3. Why did Jesus say “whoever believes in me?” What are the criteria to receive the rivers of living water? Why?

   4. Why would Jesus want us to receive the Holy Spirit of the living water? What would the living water do to transform your life?

   5. Cell leaders, please prepare worship songs that will help your cell members to welcome the Holy Spirit. Sing together after the sharing.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, We thank you for giving us your Holy Spirit. We desire to be filled by the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit’s living water pouring upon every one of us, flow among us, so that rivers of living water will flow from within us. As we are strengthened, we are able to witness you, serve you, and love you more. Thank you, we pray in Jesus’ name. AMEN!

III. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other’s needs.