John Series VIII
Jesus is full of grace and wisdom
February 27, 2015

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.

I. 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:
 3/1 English Family Luncheon
 3/4 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
 3/18 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
 3/28 Men’s Breakfast

C. Newcomer: ___________________ Confirm newcomer’s name before the meeting.
For sick members, friends or relatives: ___________________ Please discuss how you may show your care to them.

II. 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: Jesus is full of grace and wisdom

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<tr>
<th>Verses:</th>
<th>John 8:1-12</th>
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Memorizing Verses: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

Preface:
The conflict between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders intensifies as the scribes and Pharisees continue to look for evidence to arrest Jesus. When Jesus was in the temple courts teaching the people, they brought a woman caught in adultery and made her stand before the group. They presented a difficult dilemma to Jesus to force Jesus into a deadly trap. Let us study how Jesus wisely solves this difficult challenge.

1. The religious leaders try their best to find a way to accuse Jesus (vs. 1-5)
   a. The religious leaders plant a treacherous trap

   Jesus chose instead to go to the Mount of Olives (vs. 1). Usually Jesus prayed and had fellowship with his Heavenly Father on the mountain early in the morning to prepare for a day of ministry. This was also the source of his power. When he went to teach the people in the temple early in the morning, the Jewish religious leaders brought a woman caught in adultery to the place where Jesus was teaching. They interrupted Jesus’ teaching and asked Jesus pointedly, “In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” In reality, the religious leaders can take care of this matter themselves, but they brought her in front of Jesus. This is clearly a trap they have set for Jesus.

   b. They want to trap Jesus to put him to death

According to the Law of Moses (please see Leviticus 20:10), the woman caught in adultery should be stoned to death. If Jesus answered they should not stone her, then it would be against the Law of Moses and Jesus would immediately be arrested by the religious leaders. If Jesus answered they should stone her, then it would be against Jesus’ own teachings, “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners “ (Mark 2:17). Also, Jesus has the authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:10). Jesus can forgive this sinner! Therefore, no matter how Jesus answers, it would not be good for him, because the religious leaders can find the evidence to accuse Jesus, arrest him, and put him to death.
2. Jesus wisely resolves this dangerous situation (vs. 6-8)
   a. Jesus did not immediately address their difficult question
      Jesus knew how to resolve their difficult question. Yet, instead, he bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. This not only led them to pay attention to Jesus but also made them quiet down.
   b. Jesus pays no attention to the trap they set for him
      Jesus knew their intentions. These Pharisees and scribes intended only to find a way to accuse Jesus. They appeared to want to obey the Law of Moses, but actually their hearts only had hatred and they did not have hearts with compassion and mercy.
   c. Jesus instead raises a difficult question to them
      Jesus straightened up, faced them and raised a challenge: “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” This is in accordance with Deuteronomy. The witnesses must pick up the stone, and they must not have any part in the sin (Deuteronomy 17:7). After Jesus said this, he continued to write on the ground. When they heard this, one by one, from the older ones first to the youngest, they put down their stones and went away. For the older ones, they were more able to quickly reflect on themselves and recognize whether they had sin or did not have sin. Thus, they were the first ones to leave.

3. Jesus is completely victorious and rescues the woman caught in adultery (vs. 9-11)
   a. Only Jesus is completely without sin
      After all the people have left, the only people remaining were Jesus and the woman. Only Jesus is completely without sin and is qualified to pick up the stone to stone the woman.
   b. Only Jesus can condemn the person’s sin
      Jesus did not ask the woman, “Did you sin?” Rather, he asked her whether anyone had condemned her. There was no one who was qualified to condemn the woman’s sin. Only Jesus has the authority and power to condemn the woman’s sin.
   c. Jesus is full of grace and truth
      Jesus had mercy on this woman and forgave her, the same way that he loved the people of the world that should have been crucified on the cross for our sins. In the same way, he forgave this woman’s sins and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?..Then neither do I condemn you.” Originally, this woman should have been condemned, but by the mercy of Jesus, he forgave her sins. This is such a great grace for the woman. Then he said to her, “Go now and leave your life of sin.” This woman received grace from Jesus and was rescued from the edge of death. She received the new life from Jesus. She no longer sins, she is no longer in the darkness, and now she walks in the light. This is the true meaning of salvation. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs):
1. Please share if you have ever been forced into a tough corner or if you have had a similar experience?
2. How did the Jewish religious leaders set up the trap in order to trap Jesus?
3. How did Jesus face and resolve this dangerous situation and what was the result?
4. From the way Jesus handled this incident with the woman caught in adultery, how could it influence the way you treat those around you who have sinned?
5. In response to today’s cell discussion, in the time of prayer, please reflect on whether we have been like the Pharisees who condemned people’s sins, and not realizing we have offended God. Ask for God’s mercy and forgiveness for our sins.

Prayer:
Dear Abba Father in heaven, we thank you. You are the Lord who forgives sins and you have the authority to forgive sins. We ask you to please forgive our hidden sins. Let us be able without fear to come into your presence and receive peace and rest. Please lead us to live a holy life and walk in your will our whole life. We thank you and we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

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