I. 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.

II. 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:
- 3/28 Men’s Breakfast
- 3/29-6/7 Love & Logic Parenting Class
- 4/3 Good Friday Service
- 4/5 Easter Sunday Celebration
- 4/15 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
- 5/15-17 Spring Retreat

C. Newcomer: _______________ Identify newcomers before cell meeting.
Sick members, friends or relatives: _______________ Please also discuss how you may show your cares to them.

III. WORD, 45 mins. By sharing God’s word, the group may discuss how you may apply it in everyday life.

A. Sharing message from last Sunday’s sermon: (Try and listen to the sermon online once again.)
   1. What is the key message from last Sunday sermon? What 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: Jesus is the Glorious King

| Scriptures: John 12: 1-19 |
| Memorizing Verse: “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.” (12:15) |

Six days before the Passover, the High Priest of the Jews and the Pharisees secretly conspired to kill Jesus. Although Jesus knew all along what the religious leaders intended to do, he had no fear of the upcoming afflictions and death. Jesus obeyed Father God so that he might accomplish his redemption plan for all mankind. Here he came, riding on a donkey’s colt, heading toward Jerusalem.

Throughout the whole scene of entering into Jerusalem, we see Mary’s unreserved serving, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Jesus, whose serving with a covetous purpose, yet another great crowd’s hailing, “Hosanna” to welcome Jesus. What’s important is, the Lord Jesus was sitting on a colt while riding into Jerusalem. He declares to the world that he is the Messiah, the redeemer, and the Prince of Peace. (Psalm 118:25,26).

1. Mary loves the Lord; she honors Lord Jesus (1: 8):
   A) She serves the Lord with all her heart (1:3): 1. Mary loved Jesus. She considered him most precious. She was willing to serve Jesus at all cost. She poured a pint of pure nard on Jesus as a token to anoint him. 2. Mary was close to Jesus’ heart: All of Jesus’ disciples left behind their work and family to follow Jesus. But they gave nothing, even though they knew Jesus was about to face his death and that he was prepared to die when he came to Jerusalem. While Mary learned that Jesus was about to die, she didn’t hesitate but purchased the most expensive perfume to pour on Jesus. 3. Mary honored Jesus: Hair is the glory of women. After Mary poured out the perfume on Jesus’ feet, she humbly wiped his feet with her hair to honor him. She knew very well that Jesus was worthy of the glory.
   B) The disciples and Judas care about the worldly things (4:6):
   Even though the disciples learned that Jesus will be afflicted and that they would die, they couldn’t comprehend or even come close to Jesus’ heart. To name the worst, Judas Iscariot,
he had been following Jesus and was managing money for him. His focus had been on the monetary rewards rather than serving Jesus with his heart. When he saw that Mary had used such expensive perfume which could have been sufficient to help 30 people, he was very annoyed. Judas didn’t really care about helping the poor; all he cared about was money. He is the kind of person who serves the Lord and steals the Lord’s money at the same time.

C) The Lord Jesus recognizes Mary’s service (7-8): 1) The way Mary served the Lord was as though preparing him for a decent burial. Jesus was pleased with her, for she understood his need. Mary served Jesus according to his will. 2) Mary treasured the presence of the Lord. She desired to get close to the Lord, stayed next to his feet, and even wiped Jesus’ feet with her hair. She served the Lord and anointed him with exquisite perfume. While the others were next to the Lord, they didn’t value the presence of the Lord. They even used against Mary the excuse of having to help the poor.

2. The Religious Leaders Resist Jesus (9:11):

Before the Passover, the Israelites were preparing themselves in remembrance of God’s deliverance. God took the Israelites out of Egypt, saved their first-born children, and graciously blessed the Jewish people with the beautiful land in Canaan. There were people who were coming to see Lazarus after he was resurrected from death by Jesus. These people believed in Jesus for what they had seen. Unfortunately, the religious leaders couldn’t recognize Jesus’ miraculous deed of bringing the dead back to life. Instead, they were jealous because Jesus attracted many people to believe in him. That caused the people to want, even more, to kill Jesus.

3. Jesus the Glorious King Comes to Jerusalem (12-20):

A) People welcome Jesus, exult over Jesus as King (12:3): As soon as the people knew Jesus was about to come to Jerusalem, they welcomed and honored Jesus with the way they would worship and praise Jehovah. They held the palm branches to receive Jesus and loudly shouted out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” At the moment, they firmly believed Jesus was their savior, their king, and that he would deliver them from the reign of the Roman Empire.

B) Jesus the Prince of Peace entering to Jerusalem (14-16): Jesus rode a donkey’s colt entering into Jerusalem which shows us that 1) He proclaims he is Messiah as “the king comes to you riding on a donkey, on a colt…” (Zec.9:9) 2) He is the Prince of Peace: During the wartime, when a king would ride on a horse, meaning, he is prepared to get out to the battlefield any time. Whereas during the peaceful time, the king would only ride on a donkey. Jesus was riding on a colt that had never been ridden before and it may not be tame. As the colt obediently submitted to Jesus and did not struggle, it shows that even the colt surrendered to Jesus’ authority. This also revealed Jesus was the King and the Prince of Peace. No one understood at the time, nor did Jesus’ disciples.

C) The whole town cordially greets Jesus (17-18): In addition to those who welcomed Jesus as Messiah, there were also people who had witnessed the revival of Lazarus and were in Jerusalem for the celebration of Passover. Some of the people were not necessarily believers, but everyone was just following the crowd to greet Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

D) The people who resisted become disappointed and distressed. (19): Subsequently, those religious leaders, the Pharisees who had resisted believing in Jesus were jealous and desolate because all the people had followed Jesus. As Jesus so gloriously entered into Jerusalem and was received with such an exuberant welcome, the religious leaders wanted even more to kill Jesus. Jesus was a success and the Pharisees were a failure.

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

1. Please share with everyone about your passion or what you like. Why?
2. How did Mary serve Jesus wholeheartedly? Why does Jesus like
how Mary serves him? How does this help you to serve?

3. What is the significance of Jesus sitting on a donkey colt?

4. Who are mentioned in this chapter? What is the meaning behind their dialogue with Jesus?

5. What can we do to glorify Jesus in a cell group?

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you. Thank you for teaching us to fix our eyes solely on you, to understand your will and to serve you according to your will. I pray that I may welcome you to become the Lord of my life in every moment. I enjoy your presence. Because of your glory and grace, you made us your daughters and sons. Lord, I want to witness you with my whole life and I will glorify your name. In Jesus’ name, AMEN!

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

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