John Series XV
Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life
April 24, 2015

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 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 encourages 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:
   ▪ 3/29-6/7 Love & Logic Parenting Class
   ▪ 4/29 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
   ▪ 5/2 Women’s Brunch
   ▪ 5/10 Mother’s Day
   ▪ 5/15-17 Spring Retreat

C. Newcomer: ____________ Confirm newcomers’ names before the meeting.
   For sick members, friends or relatives: ____________ Please discuss how you may show your care for 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: Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life

   Memorizing Verses: I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. (John 15: 5)

   When God spoke to Israel through the prophets in the Old Testament, He often used the vine to represent Israel and to admonish them to bear fruit in life. Before Jesus paid for the atonement, He exemplified himself as the vine and the disciples as the branches. He taught them to remain in Him and connect with Him to have a fruitful life. He also commanded the disciples to love each other and be His friend, so they could understand both His heart and the great commission.

   1. Our life connects to the true vine, Jesus (John 15: 1-4)
      A. Jesus is the true vine and God the Father is the cultivator (1-2):
         a) Jesus is the true vine, the origin of our life (1 John 3-4). He is our provider who gives us grace and truth (1 John 17).
         b) Our Father is the cultivator, the gardener. He looks after the vine for abundant fruit. As the tree transmits water and nutrition to the branch, the vine should bear fruit accordingly. But some branches don’t bear fruit. God will prune branches that don’t produce fruit and transfer the water and nutrition to those that do. He will also prune the branches that bear fruit in order to make them more prolific.
      B. Only those who remain in the Lord will produce much fruit (John 15:3-4):
         a) We are purified branches. Jesus is the vine and we are His branches that are purified by His words (Ephesians 5:26)
         b) Fruitful branches: a branch that remains in the vine will bear fruit; likewise, we need to remain in Jesus so that His life is within us to produce fruit.
c) Branches that don’t produce fruit; a branch that separates from the vine, even if given a lot of water and nutrition, cannot bear fruit. If we don’t remain in Jesus, we cannot produce fruit.

2. Remain in the Lord is bound to bear much fruits (John 15: 5-8).
   A. Apart from the Lord we can do nothing (John 15:5-6):
      a) We can do nothing without Jesus. When we are apart or separated from Jesus, our life is unfruitful. Things we do no longer have meaning or impact. We cannot bless others.
      b) Life becomes dry if we do not remain in the Lord. If the vine and branches are not connected together, water and nutrition will not be transmitted and so they become dry and are only good to be burned. If we don’t remain in Jesus, our life loses effect and influence.
   B. Remaining in the Lord bears fruit (John 15:7-8):
      When Jesus’ life manifests in our life, we are bound to bear fruit and be more fruitful. Life that bears fruit will:
      a) Prayer being heard. John 15:7 and 16b: When Jesus’ life is within us, His words can control our minds and direct our will, especially as we pray according to the Father’s will. God is pleased with such prayer and will accomplish the things.
      b) The Father will be glorified: Those whose life is fruitful have God’s life magnifying in their life. They show the virtues of God and are willing to share the gospel to bring people to the Lord. They also praise the Lord. All these are glorifying God.
      c) Jesus’ friends work on His order: God has chosen us and given us a new life that bears fruit. Now he sends us to accomplish His command and the great commission to preach the gospel to the end of the world.

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs):
1. What kind of tree is planted in your ‘back yard’? How can you make the tree bear fruit or more fruit?
2. How did Jesus use vine and branch as a metaphor to illustrate our relationship with him? What kind of correlation does it have as bearing fruit?
3. What does it mean to bear fruit? Those who remain in Jesus, the true vine, will bear what type of fruit?
4. What does it mean to remain in God’s love? How do we show it in our daily life?
5. How can we remind and encourage everyone in the cell group to remain in the Lord, bear fruit and love one another?
Prayer:
Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You and praise You. Thank You for sending Your beloved son, Jesus, to the world to accomplish the redemptive grace for us. He is the vine and we are the branches. Thank You for looking after us and providing everything we need so we can grow and bear fruit to please and glorify You. Jesus, I thank You that not only did You die for me, You made me your friend. Lord, please help me to preach and witness Your name by the mighty power of the gospel so I can bear more fruit to satisfy Your heart to bless the world. We pray in Jesus’ precious 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.