John Series XVI
Holy Spirit, We Welcome You
May 1, 2015

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 the throne of God. As you worship, help your members to encounter God and to 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:
- 3/29-6/7 Love & Logic Parenting Class
- 4/29 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
- 5/2 Women’s Brunch
- 5/10 Mother’s Day
- 5/13 & 5/27 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 you care about 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 say 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: Holy Spirit, We Welcome You
Memorizing Verse: “And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in Me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.” (John 16:8 – 11 NLT)

Jesus is the Word that became flesh, God’s only son; He is the glorious King; He is the Lord of life. People were supposed to revere Him, yet the religious leaders of Judaism, the Pharisees and the scribes hated Jesus. They oppressed Him. They wouldn’t even believe Jesus’ miracles even when they had witnessed the miracles, themselves. From John, chapter 15 through 18, Jesus taught his disciples that after He went away, the oppression would come upon them. Those who tried to kill the disciples would even think that they were offering service to God. They were a people “whose hearts go astray, and they have not known God’s ways.” (Psalm 95:8-10) Their hearts were calloused, and their eyes were closed. They did not recognize Jesus as the son of God, (Isa. 6:10). They did not know Jesus as the Messiah, for whom they had been waiting. But, had they known, they would not have oppressed and killed Jesus.

As the disciples heard this, they were overwhelmed and distressed. Jesus, once again, mentioned that the Holy Spirit would come. He encouraged and comforted them that the Holy Spirit would help them to understand everything and turned their sorrow to peace and joy.

1. It is for the disciples’ good that Jesus goes away (5-7):
A) The disciples are filled with grief for Jesus’ departure (5-6)
1) The disciples were distressed: The majority of Jesus’ disciples left their home- towns to follow Jesus. Jesus was going to leave them and they could not follow along. The disciples were worried about where they should go. Moreover, Jesus told them that they would be oppressed and killed by those who considered themselves offering service to God. The disciples became totally dismal. 2) The disciples would lose the
presence of Jesus: Although Thomas asked Jesus where he was going so they might know the way, (14:5) the disciples were not satisfied with the answer Jesus gave them. All they cared about was being together with Jesus so that Jesus could shield them and protect them from the evil of their adversary.

B) **The Holy Spirit will not come unless Jesus goes away (7):** When He saw His disciples grieving, Jesus told them that the Lord’s promise of Holy Spirit will come to pass and come to comfort them after He leaves. 1) The Father and Jesus will send Holy Spirit (14:16). 2) Jesus will be with them: The Spirit will dwell in them and be with them. (14:17b). Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus can live in his believers and so the disciples obtain the forever presence of Jesus. 3) The Holy Spirit is the Counsellor: He guides the believer on their everyday walk. As the believer is sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, through the power of the Holy Spirit, he may overcome the darkness and conquer the enemies to live a life that may glorify God and benefit men.

2. **The Work of the Holy Spirit (8-13):**

   A) **He leads people to the grace of salvation (8-12):** The work of the Holy Spirit within us causes us to:
   1) Recognize our sin (9): “Whoever does not believe stands condemned because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only son. (Jn. 3:18) They do what’s detestable in God’s eyes. Instead of living in the light, they live in the darkness. (Jn. 3:19) 2) Know that only Jesus is righteous: God is holy and righteous. Without being holy, we shall not see the face of the Lord. The fact that Jesus died, was resurrected, ascended and is with the Father shows that He is holy and righteous. 3) Convict ourselves: When the Holy Spirit reveals that Jesus is the Son of God, people would be convicted for killing Jesus. Eventually, the king of the world, Satan, will be put under the judgment. 4) Receive the grace of salvation: If we know our sin yet don’t know how to get rid of it, we are out of hope. The Holy Spirit leads people to understand the truth that righteousness is through faith, and that Jesus is the Son of God so that we may receive the grace of Jesus’ redemption.

   As we connect with Jesus with our brand-new life, we are able to obtain the ever-renewing grace, day in, and day out from Christ Jesus.

   B) **He leads people to understand the truth and things of the future (John 16:12-13):** Although the disciples didn’t quite understand what Jesus was talking about, he prepared them (and us) that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, would be our teacher. He caused the disciples to recall that what He had said before was truth. (Jn. 14:26). They would come to understand Jesus’ death, resurrection and return to them, again. On top of that, the Holy Spirit also gave the disciples the power to witness for Jesus. (Acts 1:8, 10:38): When the disciples were weak, the Holy Spirit prayed for them (Ro.8:26 – 17), and poured out the love of God to encourage them (Ro. 3-5). These are just some of the benefits of the Holy Spirit to us.

3. **The purpose of the Holy Spirit’s Work (14-15):**

   A) **Glorify Jesus (14-15):** Jesus is the Lord, the Father’s only, begotten son. He represents Father. He shows us Father’s love, faithfulness and His divine plans. Jesus said, “The one who looks at Me is seeing the one who sent Me.” (12:4). We may not see Jesus after he ascended into heaven, but the Holy Spirit still remains working, within each of us on earth, to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

   B) **Enable us to live in Jesus’ abundance (15):** The Father has already given the abundance to Jesus, so when we enter into Jesus’ life, we also receive the same abundance.

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

1. What do you think of when you see or hear “Holy Spirit”?

2. Why did Jesus have to leave the disciples? Where did he go? What is the purpose of his leaving?

3. Why would Father and Jesus send Holy Spirit? What is the benefit of the Holy Spirit? What is the Holy Spirit’s work?
4. Since the work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus, what can we do to glorify Jesus?

5. Cell leaders, please lead your group to worship God and welcome the Holy Spirit to work among you. Receive the Word that Holy Spirit will give you and your cell group.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you. Thank you and Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to be with us. He leads us to believe that Christ Jesus is your one and only son, empowers us to receive the grace and the salvation you meant to give us and helps us to receive the eternal life you meant to give us. Through the teaching, guidance, intercession, comforting and help, we are strengthened. We pray that we will never turn away from you and we desire to walk in the path of your grace. Lord, I pray that we may live to glorify your Name, and to witness your forever lasting love. Thank you, 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.