John Series XX
Jesus is truly resurrected
June 5, 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 lay aside their busyness and tiredness and 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 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:
• 3/29-6/7 Love & Logic Parenting Class
• 5/31 & 6/14 Baptism Class
• 6/7 English Leaders Meeting @ 1pm
• 6/14 English Family Luncheon
• 6/21 Baptism Service @ 3:30pm

C. Newcomer: __________________ Confirm newcomers’ names before the meeting.
For sick members, friends or relatives: ________________ Please discuss how you may show your care to them.

III. 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 truly resurrected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verses: John 20:19-29</th>
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<tr>
<td>Memorizing Verses: Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)</td>
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Preface:
Jesus is resurrected on the third day, the first day of the week, according to His own prophetic words. Mary Magdalene and the two disciples, whom Jesus loved, all went to the tomb. The stone of the tomb entrance had been removed. They only saw in the empty tomb the strips of linen lying there and the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. Yet they did not see Jesus. They saw the empty tomb and believed that Jesus was not there, but they still did not understand the truth, according to Scripture that Jesus must be resurrected from the dead. Mary was weeping with grief. Even though she saw Jesus, she did not know it was Jesus, until Jesus called out her name. Then, she recognized Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Go instead to My brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’” Mary then went to tell the disciples and said, “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that the Lord had said these things to her. The resurrection of Jesus was something that caused the disciples grief, fear and confusion. Jesus also understood the bewilderment in their hearts. That’s why Jesus wanted to let the disciples “see” and truly believe their “Lord” was resurrected.

1. Jesus is truly risen from the dead  (John 20:19-23)
a. Jesus shows Himself to the disciples in His physical body (vs. 19-20): On the first day of the week, the third day after Jesus died, Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples; in His glorious, resurrected, physical body. This brought peace to the frightened disciples. Jesus wanted to let the disciples know that He was not just an illusion or something they were seeing in a dream, but this was truly Jesus who is showing Himself in their midst. That’s why Jesus especially wanted the disciples to see His hands that were pierced by the nails and let them see His side that was pierced by the soldier’s spear. This is what Jesus had already told them before going on the cross, that He will be resurrected on the third day (John 2:19-22). After the disciples saw Jesus’ body and the scars, all the doubts in their hearts were completely removed. From then on, they were filled with
faith and hope, believing in the words of the Bible and in the words Jesus spoke to them. They knew that the Jesus they follow is the Son of God, the Messiah who is to come, and the Savior of the world.

b. Jesus sends the disciples and gives them authority (vs. 21-23):

Jesus breathing on the disciples reminds us of how in the creation of man, God also breathed into man’s nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being (Genesis 2:7). God’s breath also symbolizes God’s word and is the revelation of God (2 Timothy 3:16). Jesus breathed on the disciples after sending them, so that they will have authority from receiving the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit had not descended. It is at Pentecost that the disciples received the Holy Spirit descending on them and received the power and were sent by God to accomplish great things of God. Jesus, Himself is also sent by the Father, and now He is also sending out His disciples (John 17:15-18). After the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they had great authority and power. Peter performed miracles in “the name of Jesus of Nazareth”. Only Jesus, himself has the authority and power to forgive sins. We also, by the name of Jesus Christ, spread the gospel to others. So that through the precious blood of Jesus on the cross, people who trust in the name of Jesus can receive salvation. All who receive and believe will have their sins forgiven. However, for all who reject this salvation, their sins remain and they are not forgiven.

2. Those who have not seen and yet have believed are blessed (John 20:24-29)

a. The unbelief of Thomas (vs. 24-25): Thomas wasn’t present when Jesus showed Himself to the disciples. That’s why He said, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” Thomas insisted on personally experiencing God before he would believe. From this, we can see how weak man’s faith is. John chapter 20 mentions the word, “see” many times. The disciples saw the stone at the grave had been removed from the entrance. They also saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head, but they did not see Jesus. Mary saw Jesus. The disciples also saw Jesus’ nail marks and the scar from His wound. They are our witnesses. Therefore, let us not be like Thomas who needs to see in order to believe!

b. The proclamation of Thomas (vs. 26-28): Jesus always empathizes with our weaknesses, knowing our faith is lacking. Even though we don’t believe, yet Jesus is willing to reveal Himself to us so that we will believe in Him. On the following Sunday, which is 8 days after, when the disciples were together, Jesus greeted them in the same way, “Peace be with you!” And Jesus directly said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.” The reaction from Thomas was very strong. He proclaimed, “My Lord and my God!” This is also what we who believe in Jesus need to proclaim to the world. The Jesus we believed is the Lord of our life and is the only Savior and the true God.

c. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (vs. 29): Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Today, all of us have not actually seen Jesus’ glorious body, yet we need to learn the lesson from Thomas’ unbelief and receive the promise of Jesus that those who have not seen and yet have believed are blessed. The author of Hebrews says, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” 2 Corinthians 15 also teaches the disciples, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs):

1. Please share: What are some things that you can’t see but you believe? Why?

2. What are the first words Jesus said to the disciples when He revealed Himself? What did these words mean to them?

3. How does Jesus send the disciples? What meaning does this have for the disciples?

4. From Thomas’ unbelief to belief and his proclamation of what he believes, what lesson can we learn from his transformation? How can you believe that Jesus is the risen Lord?

5. During this time, how can we specifically introduce Jesus to our friends and family? Please also pray for them by name.
Prayer:

Dear Abba Father in heaven, we thank you for sending Jesus Christ who has already accomplished the plan of salvation. He submitted himself to the will of God and was victorious on the cross over the power of death. Even though he died and was buried, but according to what he said he was resurrected on the third day and revealed himself to the disciples. Thank you Lord because they saw and believed and trusted God even more. The apostles believed because they saw Jesus was resurrected from the dead. We hold on to the promise that for us who haven’t seen and believed we are even more blessed. May you watch over us as we carry out what you have entrusted to us, by depending on the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel for the Lord. We thank you and pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

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

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