Life Series - Serving  
June 19, 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:
- 6/21 Fathers Day
- 6/24 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
- 7/4 Independence Day
- 7/12-8/30 Cracking The Communication Code, marriage class
- 7/30-8/2 20th Anniversary Celebration
- 8/2 Combined Sunday Service at Santa Clara Convention Center

C. New comer: _____________. Confirm new comers’ name 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: Serving
Verses: Matthew 20:28
Memorizing Verses: ...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

1. The catalyst for spiritual growth
   There are many ways to grow spiritually, such as:
   1. Bible reading: Receiving spiritual food.
   2. Prayer: Spending time with God.
   3. Meeting: Enjoying the interactions with other people in the body of Christ
   4. Reading spiritual books: Increasing in spiritual knowledge.
   5. Serving: Practicing how to serve God and the body.
   6. Listening to sermons: Listening to the teachings of pastors and spiritual elders.

   Discussion 1: From the items above, which one has been the greatest help for your spiritual growth? Why?

   Discussion 2: What counts as serving God? What serving have you participated in? In your past serving, what have you gained?

2. Regarding serving, which one do you agree with:
   1. a. For Christians who are not yet spiritually mature, it is better to hold off on serving to avoid negative results.
   b. How can a person mature without serving? Every person needs to proactively participate in serving. Serving makes people mature.
   2. a. Singing praise and worship songs does not count as serving, this is a kind of enjoyment.
   b. God enjoys our singing of worship songs; therefore this is a type of serving.
   3. a. Giving Christians serving that are too heavy will crush them. It will instead harm them.
b. Let them be responsible for serving that is a little beyond their abilities. This is good training for spiritual growth.
4. a. If there’s no fruit in serving, this proves that the person’s spiritual gift is not in this area and they should change to another type of serving.
   b. Serving without fruits may be because God is developing our patience. We should continue to press on.
5. a. I am very glad to serve. When someone invites me to serve, I will as much as possible accept it and do my best.
   b. When someone invites me to serve, I will pray for a long time so I can understand God’s will and then answer.

3. The benefits of serving
   1. Concentrate on serving, then you will not be double-minded.
   2. Serving draws us closer to God.
   3. Serving gives us opportunity to discover and exercise our gifts.
   4. Participating in serving will sharpen and make you more experienced in spiritual warfare.
   5. Those who are devoted in serving will be less prone to sin. They will be more immune to the temptations of Satan.
   6. The serving person’s character will be more mature.
   7. The Lord will give great rewards in heaven to those who serve.
   8. They will feel fulfilled today and that life has meaning.
   9. Others

4. The unavoidable costs of serving
   1. Failure: Having the sense of failure and feeling that serving has no fruits.
   2. Hurts: Not only did they not get a lot of praises, but instead got a lot of criticisms.
   3. Friction: Not having the same opinion as coworkers and conflict arises.
   4. Pressure: With responsibility there will always be burdens.
   5. Exposure: Reveals one’s weaknesses
   6. Busyness: Time is not enough to use
   7. Others

Discussion 3: Have you ever been discouraged in serving? How did you go through this difficulty? Please share your testimony.
Discussion 4: What do you need prayer the most in your current serving? Please have the cell members pray for each other.

Prayer:
Dear Lord, we thank you and praise you because you personally became the model for our serving and you reveal the truth of serving to us. Let us understand that serving is to help us grow and it is an opportunity to practice loving each other. O Lord, we ask you to help us in every serving to focus our eyes on you, so that our serving is focused on you and will be pleasing to you. Lord, please help me and my coworkers to have harmonious relations and forgiving hearts toward each other and to work together in serving, so that your will can be revealed through us. Thank you Lord for listening to our prayer. We pray in the precious name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

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