Colossians Series 6
You will live out a new life
September 18, 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:
- Baptism Service 9/20
- 9/13-12/13 Experiencing God: Equipping Class @ 11:30am
- 9/30 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting @ 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall
- 10/17 Mission Talent Benefit Show for missionaries and daughter churches.
- 10/23-24 Leader’s Annual Planning Retreat
- 10/31 Hallelujah Party

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: You will live out a new life

| Verses: | Colossians 3:12-17 |
| Memory Verse: | And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:17) |

Preface:
Paul teaches us to put to death whatever belongs to our sinful nature and the sinful ways of the old self, and put on the new self, which is to clothe ourselves with Christ (Romans 13:14) as we live our days on earth. When we put on the new self, we can live out a life with a new character.

1. The new self will have a new character (3:12)
   a. New clothes: We thank God that He loves us, chose us, sets us apart to be holy, so we no longer belong to the world, but we belong to God. We are God’s people, living in God’s holy kingdom.
   b. New character: When we put on the new self, Christ becomes the new symbol on us. As we live a new life that reflects the image of Christ, people can know that we belong to Christ and that we follow Christ and are Christians. Consequently, we should live out our new status and new character - compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, which display the glorious image of Christ.

2. The new self will have a good relationship with others (3:13-14)
   a. Bear with each other and forgive one another (13): Each of us is God’s masterpiece. Every person is different. When we relate to others and work together with others, we need to accept and bear with people who are different from us. Because everyone is different, there will be different ways of thinking and different ways of doing things, which can easily lead to friction and offense between people. Therefore, we need to bear with each other and forgive one another. For those who offend us, we need to forgive them because the Lord has also forgiven us. For the mistakes people make, we should not be in hot pursuit to point out and criticize them. Rather, we need to bear with each other, encourage them, and give them more chances.
b. When we have love we can live out the new life: Faith, hope, love. The greatest of these is love. When our hearts have love then we can live out the glorious and beautiful image of Christ. The love of Christ is so high and so wide. It is holy, selfless and self-denying. We need to make Christ’s love the foundation, as we in Christ with loving hearts closely connect with brothers and sisters. If there is no love in our hearts, we should ask God and let the Holy Spirit pour out God’s love into our hearts (Romans 5:5), so we can have the power to love people.

3. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts (3:15-17)
   a. The peace of Christ (15): Let the peace of Christ be sovereign over our hearts, and in everything we do we need to examine whether it is according to God’s will. If we do not have peace in ourselves or it causes others not to have peace, then it is against God’s will and we should not go ahead to do it.
   b. The message of Christ (16): We need to use the message of Christ to teach and admonish one another. Consequently, we need to study and meditate on God’s word and obey its teachings. When we have more and more of the message of Christ in our hearts, then we will naturally delight to use His words, and use psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit to praise God (Ephesians 5:19).
   c. Whatever you do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus (17): Whatever we do we need to first ask whether we can do it in the name of the Lord. If our hearts do not have peace and we can’t do it in the name of the Lord, then it is not according to God’s will, and we need to immediately stop. Also, in everything we need to realize and thank God for His grace and His amazing ways.

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs):
1. What are the kinds of character that most people think Christians should have?
2. Why does the new self have a new character? Why will the new self live out a new life? List a couple of examples.
3. After clothing ourselves with Christ, how can we restore and improve our human relationships? Share and give a simple testimony.
4. According to the teachings of Chapter 3:15-16, how can we examine and discern what is God’s will? (It should match the following 4 principles: have the peace of Christ in your heart and your brothers and sisters’ hearts, not contradict God’s word, have confirmation with the circumstance and have the confirmation from the spiritual elders.)
5. What does “in the name of the Lord” mean to you? In our daily lives, how can we carry it out?

Prayer:
Dear Abba Father in heaven, we thank You. Thank You for teaching us to clothe ourselves with Christ and live out a life pleasing to You. Consequently, we need to have love in our hearts and have mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience in dealing with others. And to accept people who are different and forgive the sins of others. In our daily lives, may the peace and message of Christ rule our hearts so that in our word and deed we can do it all according to Your heart and will and be able to testify to Your name and glory. We thank You and pray in the name of Jesus, Amen!

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