Colossians Series 7
Live a life pleasing to the Lord
September 25, 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:
- 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: Live a life pleasing to the Lord

Verses: Colossians 3:18-4:1
Memorizing Verses: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, (Colossians 3:23)

Preface:
After the apostle Paul teaches us to live a life with new character, he continues to teach us to have a reverent heart towards God in our daily lives and to live a life pleasing to God. We are to follow Jesus, proclaiming God’s salvation and have a Christ-like family life and attitude at work, in order to be a good witness for the name of Christ.

1. Live out a Christ-like family life (Colossians 3:18-21)
   a. The responsibility of the husband and wife (18-19): The wife and husband have equal status. Paul uses the relationship of Christ as the head and the church as the body to teach the husband and wife how they should relate to one other (Ephesians 5:23-24). This reveals that in the family, the wife and husband have different functions.
   1) The wife is to submit to the husband (18): In the Lord, the wife submits to the husband by faith, just as the church submits to Christ. The wife needs to respect the husband, often speak words of encouragement and edification, and not make comparisons of her husband with others.
   2) The husband is to love the wife (19): The husband should love his wife with sacrificial love, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. To love her means to think for her sake, to pay attention to her, not to hurt her, put her down, and not to refuse to communicate with her.
   b. The responsibility of parents and children (20-21)
   1) Children are to obey and honor the parents (20): The children, as it is not against God’s principles, should obey the parents in all things. This is pleasing to the Lord. The Lord will bless this kind of person with long life on the earth (refer to Ephesians 6:2).
   2) Parents are not to embitter the children (21): Parents should bring up the children by the teachings of the Lord, not to overuse their superior position to cause the children to
2. Live a working life pleasing to the Lord (Colossians 3:22-4:1)
   a. The attitude of the worker (22-23):
      1) Reverence for the Lord (22): The worker should follow the orders of the superior that do not go against God’s principle. The worker should listen and follow the instruction of their superiors that does not go against God’s word. Not only should they work hard in front of their superiors, but also work hard when their superiors are not looking. The worker should not be lazy with the things the boss wants the worker to do, he should not submit outwardly but resist inwardly. Also the worker should not use flattery to please the boss, but should be sincere in his actions.
      2) Working for the Lord (23): Thank the Lord for giving us jobs. On the surface, our boss is a person. In reality, the Lord is our true boss. Because of this, we are serving the Lord in the marketplace and living a life working for the Lord.
   b. The attitude of the superior (4:1): Even though there is a difference between the boss and the worker, but the Lord does not treat people differently. He treats us the same. Therefore, the boss should not use selfish preference to treat people, but should be fair, and be selfless towards the worker.
   c. We will all be held accountable before the Lord (24-25): The Lord searches the heart. He is looking at our conduct and will reward us by the fruits of our deeds (Jeremiah 17:10). No matter what our position is, we need to act according to our position. We are God’s children and we are Christians. We are to be witnesses for Christ. We are those who proclaim the gospel. Therefore, we need to obey, following the teachings of the Lord in how we act. God will remember us, watch over us, and let us receive His reward. In the same way, God is just, He will bring justice to those who are treated unfairly (Romans 13:4b).

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

1. What do people usually think a Christian life should be like? Give a real example.
2. In the daily life, how can the wife submit to the husband? How can the husband love the wife? Give real examples to encourage each other.
3. In the daily life, how can we honor our parents? How can parents not embitter their children? Give real examples to encourage each other.
4. In the daily work environment, how can we practically revere the Lord and work for the Lord? Give some real examples to encourage each other.
5. When you are the boss, how can you be fair to your workers? When you encounter an unfair boss, how do you handle it? What was the result?

Prayer:
Dear Abba Father in heaven, Please fill our hearts with Your love, so that by faith we can love You, follow Your will, live each day to be the witness for Your name. May the Lord let those who are wives submit to her husband, for the husbands to be able to love their wife, for the children to obey and honor the parents, for the parents to do well in bringing up and leading the children. May those with bosses obey their boss and work with sincerity of heart as if working for You. May bosses treat those under them fairly. In doing so, You will reward us with our inheritance. We thank You and pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

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

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