1 John Series 3
Doing the will of God
October 30, 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
- 10/31 Hallelujah Party
- 11/11 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
- 11/22 Thanksgiving/Appreciation Luncheon
- 11/25 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting

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: Doing the will of God

| Verses: 1 John 2:15-2:27 |
| Memorizing Verses: The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:17) |

Preface:
In the second half of Chapter 2, John especially points out the seduction and corruption of the world, and teaches us to not love the world, but to love God. John teaches us to obey the truth and do the will of God. In this way we will not be deceived by the antichrist. We can depend on the Holy Spirit who lives in us to teach and lead us to help remain in the Lord and do what is pleasing to God.

1. The one who loves God will do God’s will (2:15-17)
   a. Do not love the world (2:15): The world that God created is good. But after man sinned, this world came under the control of Satan. All the wickedness, corruption and sins originated from the evil one. The greatest trick of Satan is to deceive us. His main goals are to make us stand against God, despise God and purposely choose not to know God (Romans 1:21-32). Satan uses media, arts and entertainment, religion, family, education, government, etc. to lead people astray, to bring a worldly value system and influence the world’s culture. If a person loves the world, then the love of God will not be in him.
   b. The things of the world (2:16): 1) the lust of the flesh: this includes impure desires and the pursuit of fleshly fulfillment. (1 Corinthians 6:15-18) 2) the lust of the eyes: this refers to the things people see that would make them greedy or pollute their hearts, such as: pornography, violence, irreverent and corrupting books, magazines, movies, TV shows and internet sites. 3) the pride of life: this refers to being arrogant, not being God-centered, not obeying God’s word, boasting of oneself and living a self-centered life. The devil uses these 3 things in the world to tempt us to sin and to cause us to be controlled by sin.
   c. We are to love the eternal everlasting God (2:17): This world and the things in it will pass away. On the Day of judgement, only those who do the will of God will live forever. Therefore, John especially teaches the believers not to conform to the world or anything in the world. To love the world and to love God is contradictory. If we do not love the world or anything in
the world, then we can love God with all our heart and soul, be a friend of God, walk in the light and do God’s will.

2. Truly know the truth and you will not be deceived by the antichrist (2:18-23)
   a. The antichrist (2:18-19): The antichrist will come in the last days to deceive the world (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Revelations 13). They will lead the people in the world to betray and stand against Christ and the Christian faith. There are many antichrists who have already come into the church. They call themselves Christians, yet they love the world and the things in the world. They resist the truth, which is to resist the teachings of Christ. Their words and deeds contradict God’s word. They don’t belong to the believers of Jesus Christ. They don’t follow Jesus. They are not saved. They also have no relationship with Jesus Christ.
   b. Hold firmly to the truth, know Jesus is the Christ (2:20-23): The antichrists don’t acknowledge Jesus is the Christ and that Jesus is the Son of God. When they make this claim, they are rejecting the Father and have no relationship to the Father. They are not in the truth. The true believer believes that Jesus is the Son of God who came into the world, was crucified on the cross and died for our sins, rose from the dead on the third day and sent the Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit (anointing) lets us experience God’s presence and by knowing the truth we can discern and resist the lies of the antichrist.

3. Receive the Holy Spirit, remain in the Lord (2:24-28)
   a. Keep the word of life in your heart (2:24-25): Believers need to hold firmly to the truth of salvation through Jesus, which the apostles spoke of from the beginning. They need to depend on the Holy Spirit, which they received through the Lord Jesus, to store the truth securely in their hearts. After we do this, we will surely remain in the Lord. Just as what John 15 says, “The Lord is the vine, we are the branches. If we remain in the Lord, the Lord will remain in us”. When false teachers spread the harmful teachings of the lies and heresies of the antichrist to us, we will then be able to discern what is true, what is lie and not be deceived by their lies and abandon Christ.
   b. Receive the teaching of the anointing (2:26-27): When we remain in Christ, and study God’s word, then the Holy Spirit can help us understand the truth of salvation. The Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of us who believe in the Lord. He helps us understand the will of God, and guides us to walk in God’s path. When our thoughts and actions go against God’s will, the Holy Spirit will rebuke us and pray for us. So, that we will rebuke ourselves in regards to our own sin, God’s righteousness, the coming judgement, and the wrongs we did.
   c. Remain in the Lord to do what pleases the Lord (2:28-29): When we remain in the Lord by the Holy Spirit and have intimate communication with the Lord, we will seek the Lord’s will and act according to the teachings of the Bible. The Lord asks us to act justly, love with mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8b). If we do this, when Jesus comes back the second time to reveal Himself to us, we can come before God with confidence and not be ashamed. Because God is righteous, He wants His children to be righteous like Him. Whoever does what is righteous belongs to God and is born of God.

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

1. Please share whether you have ever been deceived. Why were you deceived?
2. Why did John teach the believers not to love the world or anything in the world? How should Christians not love the world?
3. How can we discern what is antichrist? What should we do so we be duped by the lies of the antichrist?
4. Please simply share experiences of how you received the teaching from the Holy Spirit, how did the Holy Spirit lead you in your life, and how the Holy Spirit help you to remain in the Lord?
5. Let the cell leader lead the members to discuss how to equip themselves in the truth, so they won’t be duped by the antichist, and suggest a concrete implementation plan.

Prayer:
Dear Abba Father in heaven, we thank You for Your great love, to
give us your only beloved Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to save us, so that we can come before you with confidence. We ask the Holy Spirit who lives in us to help us, give us strength. Help us to remain in the Lord. We ask the Lord to help us have victory over every temptation. Help us to act justly, not pollute our flesh with sensual things. Let our eyes not look at things we should not look at. Let our hearts only seek Your goodness and Your glory, not to boast of ourselves, and not to seek our own benefits. Help us to walk with you every day in Your light and Your love. Help us not be duped by the lies of the antichrist. We thank You for Your grace. We pray in the name of Lord Jesus, Amen!

4. **WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.**

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