1 John Series 5
We are to love one another
November 13, 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
- 11/17 English Leaders Meeting
- 11/22 Thanksgiving/Appreciation Luncheon
- 11/25 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
- 12/12 Christmas Party @ 6:30pm

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: We are to love one another

| Verses: 1 John 3:11-24 |
| Memorizing Verses: Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:18) |

Preface:
There is a Chinese saying: “Where there are people, there are problems.” If sinners are together and there is not a bit of tension, or friction, or collision, then it is not normal. Therefore, when other people don’t treat you well, it is a normal behavior. If other people truly treat you well from their hearts, then it’s a miracle and really the grace of God.

The apostle John once again reminds brothers and sisters through today’s passage that we are to love one another. This is the command from the Lord. As believers, we should obey and do what the Lord commands without any conditions.

1. If we love our brothers and sisters, then we know that we have passed from death to life (3:11-15)
   a. To not love your brothers and sisters is to belong to the evil one (3:11-12)
      To love one another is the command from the Lord. He is our head so whatever the head does, the body should by nature follow. Therefore, people who obey the Lord are the people who love their brothers and sisters, this shows that they belong to the Lord. Cain did not love his brother Abel because of envy and even murdered him, showing that he is a person who doesn’t belong to the Lord. Cain belongs to the evil one, therefore, what he does is evil.
   b. To not love brothers and sisters is to remain in death (3:13-14)
      When you can live out the model of loving your brothers and sisters, the people of the world will feel that you are strange, because you are totally unlike them. In addition, they may hate you because of this, because your good deeds can expose their shameful ways. When you can truly love your brothers and sisters, this shows you have been born again from spiritual death to cross over into a new life. There is now a new-born life in you.
c. To hate brothers and sisters means this person has no eternal life (3:15)

   Even though externally a person didn’t actually kill anyone, however if the person has grudges, loathing, resentment, or hatred towards their brothers and sisters, it is equal to murder in the Lord’s eyes (reference Matthew 5:21-22). These kinds of Christians are like Gentiles who do not know the Lord. They are separated from the life God gave to them (reference Ephesians 4:17-18).

2. We should love our brothers and sisters with real actions (3:16-20)
   a. Love brothers and sisters with the self-sacrificing love of Christ (3:16)

      We have experienced the self-sacrificing love of Christ. Therefore, we should also love our brothers and sisters with the self-sacrificing love of Christ -being willing to lay down ourselves for the good of our brothers and sisters. We should be satisfied in loving our brothers and sisters without asking for anything in return. This is the love that is not self-seeking (1 Corinthians 13:5).

   b. Love brothers and sisters with a heart of pity (3:17)

      In the sentence, “If anyone has material possessions”, the “has” is not referring to being rich in material things. But it is saying that when we “have” and we see brothers and sisters in need, we are willing to imitate the love of God and gladly give and not ask for anything in return. If I have something, but is unwilling to give to brothers and sisters in need, then this is blocking the heart of pity. This kind of person cannot have the love of God inside. This kind of person is also not someone who has been born of God.

   c. We need to have real actions of love (3:18-20)

      Loving one another should not stop at just giving encouraging words to each other. Of course, our words of encouragement in love, is very important. However to just have words but no real action is a kind of love that is very empty and isn’t real. If we truly obey the command of the Lord, to live out that love in action, then we are walking in the truth of the Lord and our conscience can be clear before God. God examines all things that are deep in our hearts.

3. The blessings of loving one another (3:21-24)
   a. We can have confidence before God (3:21)

      When we truly love our brothers and sisters, then our hearts will be at peace. There will be no fear, any time we come before God’s presence to be close to Him.

   b. We can receive what we ask (3:22)

      To love one another is the command from our Lord Jesus. When we are willing to act according to the Lord’s commands, we will naturally please God. Therefore, God will listen to what we ask and give us the grace that is beyond what we can hope for or imagine.

   c. God will live in us (3:23-24)

      God commands to us in 2 parts. First, it is to believe in the name of Jesus Christ, to receive the Lord Jesus and enter into God’s kingdom of light. Next, is to obey and do what the Lord Jesus commands us. When we follow His commands, God will bless us and live in us and we will also live in Him. This is like the relationship of the vine and branches (John 15:5). The reason why we can know for sure that God lives in us is because of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. He teaches us about all things (1 John 2:27).

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

1. Please share from real life experience how brothers and sisters have shown you love.
2. Why did the apostle John emphasize loving one another? What will happen if we don’t love one another?
3. What does it mean to love one another in action and in truth? How can we do this in real life?
4. What blessings can come from loving one another? What influence do these blessings have on your spiritual life?
5. Love needs action. Please share about the results from the “Love
Your Neighbor” activity. How can you continue or expand this love in action?

**Prayer:**
Dear Abba Father in heaven, we thank You and praise You because through John You continue to remind us to love one another. Help us not to just focus on our own needs, but also care about the needs of brothers and sisters. We ask Your Holy Spirit in us to continue to help us have a heart of pity, be willing to obey the commands of the Lord, and live out a testimony of loving one another, so that everyone can become Your beloved sons and daughters. We thank You for Your love and grace. May You listen to our prayers. We pray in the name of the 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.