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
• 11/22 Thanksgiving/Appreciation Luncheon
• 11/25 NO Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting, Happy Thanksgiving!
• 12/12 Christmas Party @ 6:30pm
• 12/24 Christmas Eve Candle Light Service @ 6pm & 8pm

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: Be careful to discern the spirits
Verses: 1 John 4:1-6
Memorizing Verses: You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

Preface:
After Jesus returned back to heaven and the Holy Spirit descended, the disciples of Jesus started to preach the gospel everywhere. The people who believed in the Lord and were saved increased daily. Yet, there were also heresies that arose. When God’s work rises up, Satan will also work even harder to attack God’s work. Therefore, there were many heresies and false teachings which entered the early church. So, the apostle Paul, Peter, and John continuously reminded believers to guard against heresies, false prophets, false teachers and antichrists.

Most people are easily enticed by miracles. They think that if something is a miracle, it must be from God. But the Lord Jesus has already warned us that Satan will also use great signs and wonders to deceive people (reference Matthew 24:24). Therefore, the apostle John especially reminds us to carefully discern between the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood, so that the believers will not be deceived.

1. We need to test: Not blindly believe all the spirits (4:1)
Out of all the spirits, only the Holy Spirit is from God. All the other spirits are only pretending to be the Holy Spirit. This is like when Moses turned Aaron’s staff into a snake. The Egyptian magicians can also copy it by turning their staffs into snakes. Therefore, John reminds us that we can’t believe all the spirits. We need to test the spirits. Even though the other spirits can copy the work of the Holy Spirit, but if we are careful to discern, we will discover there are differences. We see the snake that Moses turned from the staff can swallow up all the other false imitation snakes. Therefore, what comes from the life of God will surely overcome the false imitations of the evil one.

Therefore, in regards to the words from the “prophet” or manifested miracles, we should not totally believe them all, but we should not lightly disregard them. We need to carefully test them (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21).
2. God’s Spirit will acknowledge Jesus is the Christ (4:2-3)
   a. God’s Spirit will acknowledge Jesus is the Christ who has come in the flesh (4:2)

   Christ means the Messiah, who is the anointed One of God. Jesus is the Christ who has come in the flesh. Therefore, Jesus is fully man and fully God. Only He is qualified to bear all of mankind’s sins and be the Savior of all human beings.

   The Gnostic heresy does not acknowledge the human nature of Christ. And the new liberal theology does not acknowledge Jesus’ divine nature. We can see that their spirit is not from God, but is from the evil one.

   b. The work of the Holy Spirit is to testify for Jesus, to glorify Jesus (4:2)

   When the Lord resurrected and went back to heaven, He asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes, He will testify about Jesus (John 15:26). The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus (John 16:14). Whoever is touched by the Holy Spirit will not say “Jesus be cursed”. If a person is not touched by the Holy Spirit, he will not be able to say “Jesus is Lord” (1 Corinthians 12:3). Therefore, the purpose of the work of the Holy Spirit in a person is to exalt the Lord Jesus, because the Father wants His Son to be head over all things (Ephesians 1:22). The work of the Holy Spirit is to call people to see the Lord and glorify the Lord.

   c. The spirit of the antichrist will not acknowledge Jesus is the Christ (4:3)

   The antichrist opposes Christ. Therefore, the work of the spirit of the antichrist is to harm the work of Jesus Christ. They will definitely not acknowledge Jesus is the Christ, nor acknowledge the position of Christ in the universe. The spirit of the antichrist existed during the times of the apostle John and today there are even more. They use various names to confuse the Christian faith: such as Eastern Lightning/Church of Almighty God/Church of the Gospel's Kingdom (they deny the nature and work of Jesus, therefore believing in the last days there will arise a female Christ who will be incarnated), Mormonism/Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (they do not acknowledge the Trinity, but believes in 3 separate gods in 3 separate beings), Jehovah Witness (they do not acknowledge Jesus is God), Unitarianism (they believe Jesus is not God and was created), etc…

3. Those who belong to God will listen to the teachings of the apostle (4:4-6)
   a. The Spirit who lives in us is real and is greater than all things (4:4)

   Those who believe in the Lord may sometimes fear the work of Satan, because Satan is the enemy of the Lord and still has some powers. But the apostle John reminds us that the Lord is greater than Satan and has greater power. Those who believe in the Lord belong to God and the Holy Spirit lives in them. The Lord has already won the victory over Satan. Therefore, do not fear them!

   b. The spirit of the false prophets and antichrist belong to the world (4:5)

   False prophets and the antichrist will most often use people’s sinful actions and weaknesses to seduce people’s hearts. Because their “language” is the same, therefore, when it comes to worldly things, whatever they say, the people of the world will listen and be deceived!

   c. Those who belong to God will listen to the truth (4:6)

   The apostle’s teachings call people to put their hope in Christ, to exalt Christ and follow Christ. It will never call people to stray away from Christ or to doubt Christ. Because the apostles’ teaching is from the revelation and teaching of the Holy Spirit, it will lead people to live out a life testimony of glorifying God. Whatever they say and do will be to please God and to fulfill the will of God. We can discern all the spirits by basing it on whether they listen to the apostles’ teaching.

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

1. Have you ever heard something that was against the truth of Christ? What are their characteristics?
2. How can we discern the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood? What is the main way of distinguishing them?
3. Why does the apostle John remind us “the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world”? What do these words mean to you?

4. What characteristics do the spirit of the antichrist and the spirit of falsehood have? Why do so many people listen to them?

5. When you hear others say something that is not according to the truth, how do you try to help them? How can you be more equipped in the truth?

Prayer:

Dear Abba Father in heaven, we thank You and praise You because You and Your Son sent the Holy Spirit into our midst to live forever in us, to lead us and teach us to know the truth more and to love You more. We ask You to help us have a humble and teachable heart to know well Your word and obey the leading of the Holy Spirit so that in these last days we will not be seduced by the antichrist and we can stand firm in the truth to live out the glorious and good life testimony that God’s children should have. 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.