1 John Series 7
God Is Love
December 4, 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
- 12/9 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
- 12/12 Christmas Party @ 6:30pm in Youth Center
- 12/23 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 12/27 Combined Service @ 9:45am in Emmanuel Chapel

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: God is love
   Verses: 1 John 4:7-21
   Memorizing Verses: No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (1 John 4:12)
   Preface:
   Many people often find themselves disturbed by fears they can’t understand. They don’t know where these fears come from. Actually, the main reason of these fears comes from a lack of love which causes them to feel insecure. Then, what should people do so they won’t have these fears and phobias? The answer is not far from us. The answer is God, because God is love.

   We were originally created in God’s image and likeness. Yet, because humans sinned and became corrupt, they fell short of God’s glory and were separated from God. People lost the presence of God in their life which leads them to have fears and phobias they can’t understand. Now through the cross of God’s Son Jesus Christ, we can receive the grace of salvation and once again be restored in God’s presence and love. God’s perfect love can take away all our fears and phobias. Hallelujah! How blessed are those who have God!

1. God is the source of love (4:7-12)
   a. Love comes from God (4:7-8): God is the source of love. When a person believes in the Lord, God will live in him and he will naturally have the life of God’s love. You have the life of God’s love in you and I have the life of God’s love in me too. The apostle John reminds us to love one another. For those who don’t believe in God, they are not able to live out the life of loving one another because they don’t have the life of God’s love inside them.

   b. God loves the world and sent His one and only Son to accomplish the work of salvation (4:9-10): People in the world are in bondage to sin, which results in eternal death. People can’t use various religions, good works and storing up virtuous deeds to solve the problem of sin. Yet God loves the people in the world, therefore God took the initiative to send His Son Jesus Christ to seek the lost. God lets His Son be the substitute for our sins and be the atoning sacrifice on the cross to
completely solve our sin problem and forgive us our sins. This is the great love of God.

c. Those who belong to God will live out the testimony of loving one another (4:11-12): When we receive the great love of God, we will have the life of God’s love in us and we should live out the life of loving one another. If we can truly live out the life of loving one another, it will prove that God is really living in us and that we are filled with God’s love.

2. God’s love is perfect (4:13-18)

a. For those who acknowledge Jesus is the Son of God, God’s love will live in them (4:13-16): When we receive Jesus as God’s Son, the Holy Spirit will dwell within us and therefore we can know that God is living in us. The apostle John also testifies that this is what that they have personally seen with their own eyes and what they have personally received. For those who acknowledge Jesus is the Son of God, God will live in them and they will live in God. Because Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

b. God’s perfect love makes us not be afraid (4:17-18): The day of judgment refers to the time when Christ will come back (2 Thessalonians 1:10). He will judge the people justly (1 Peter 2:23) and judgment will begin with God’s household (reference 1 Peter 4:17). For those who really live in God, God will surely live in them. God’s life will naturally be in them to continue to cause them to grow more spiritually strong and healthy. They will realize more and more how much God loves them and they will desire more and more to be under the control and leading of the Holy Spirit. They will have more and more of the life of God in the world. In this way, when the time of judgment comes, they will naturally have confidence without any fear!

c. Those who love God will obey God’s command (4:21): God’s command needs to be obeyed. It is not something you can choose whether to love your brother and sister or not to love your brother and sister. Those who love God must obey God’s command to love their brother and sister!

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

1. Have you ever experienced love that asks for nothing in return? Please share how you feel from the experience?

2. How does God display His love? Then, why should we love one another?

3. How can we receive God’s perfect love? Then, how is God’s love perfected in us?

4. Why does the apostle John say, “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear”? Do you have real examples to explain this?

5. How can you feel that Jesus loves you very much? How can you live out a life of loving your brother and sister? Can you think of practical ways to do this in your cell group?

Prayer:

Dear Abba Father in heaven, we thank You because while we were still sinners You sent Your one and only beloved Son Jesus Christ to die for us, so that today we can stand in this position of grace, enjoying the favor of being in Your love. Please help us be willing to welcome the Holy Spirit to work in us, lead us, teach us, so that we can know You more and more and let your love be made more complete in us. May we truly live out the life of loving our brother and sister so others can know that you truly live in us and give all the
glory to You. Thank You for your loving kindness and grace. May You listen to our prayers. We pray in the precious and holy 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.