Whoever Has the Son Has Life

December 11, 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
- 12/12 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
- 12/31 New Year’s Eve 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: Whoever has the Son has life

Verses: 1 John 5:1-21
Memorizing Verses: Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:12)

Preface:
After speaking about loving one another, the apostle John reminds believers not to be deceived by the lies of heresies and encourages them to continue to walk on the road of faith in Jesus. John tells them that by depending on Jesus, they can overcome all the schemes of the enemy and be able to live out the testimony of the life of God’s Son.

1. Whoever believes Jesus is God’s Son will be able to overcome the world (1-5)
   a. To love God is to carry out God’s commands (1-3): We have believed in Jesus and received Jesus as our Savior. Therefore, we have become God’s children. It is reasonable that we will love God and also love those who like us, believed in Jesus and have become God’s children. Just like in the teachings of the Lord Jesus - if we love Him we will obey His commands. We will naturally and joyfully love His children – who are our brother and sister in the Lord. The love we show to brothers and sisters in Christ are not based on their background or how well we know them, but it is because they are God’s children, and God’s grace and image is on them. Our love for them is selfless and holy, and this shows that we truly love God.

   b. Those who trust in God’s Son Jesus will overcome the world (4-5): We are God’s children and don’t belong to the world. Yet, we will often face the world’s temptations, challenges, and deceptions. By faith in our Lord Jesus, we will not be moved by the world’s lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life. Rather, we will stand even more firm in our hearts to follow Jesus to overcome all these things (4). In addition, we have Jesus in us and He has already overcome the world. Therefore, we can trust in Jesus to have victory over the world and the enemy.

2. God personally testifies for His Son Jesus (6-12)
   a. The testimony of the Holy Spirit, water, and blood (6-8): In
reference to the erroneous and heretical teachings of Gnosticism at the time, the apostle John again corrects and proves that Jesus is God and is God’s Son. 1. The Holy Spirit testifies for Jesus: When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove (John 1:32). Also, in John 15:26, Jesus clearly said to His disciples, “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.” 2. The testimony of the water and blood: Here, the “water” can be interpreted in two ways. The first interpretation is from Ephesians 5:26, which says the water is the word of God “to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word”. The second is the interpretation of the baptism of Jesus. Jesus is completely sinless, yet because of obedience to the will of the Father and for the sake of righteousness, He received baptism (Matthew 3:15). Therefore, when we compare these verses, the proof from the “baptism” verse is more than the “word of God” verse. The blood represents life. Jesus died for us on the cross and bled his precious blood for us so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. This testifies that Jesus is the Savior from God and is the Christ. 3. The Holy Spirit, water, and blood testify Jesus is from God and is completely man and completely God.

b. The Father personally testifies for His Son Jesus (9-12): In addition to believing in the above testimonies, the Father’s testimony for Jesus makes us believe even more. 1. The Father personally declares Jesus is His Son (9): When Jesus was baptized and came out the water, not only did the Holy Spirit descended on Him, but at the same time, a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17); On the Mount of Transfiguration, the Father said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” (Matthew 17:5b). 2. The testimony of the Father is eternal life (10-11): When we believe that Jesus is God’s Son, receive Jesus as our Savior, God will give us the life of God, which is eternal life. 3. Those who don’t believe in the testimony of God and thinks God is lying, they will not have eternal life.

3. The testimony of those who have the life of God’s Son (13-21)

a. Prayers will be answered (13-15): We have God’s Son in our lives and we are God’s children. By keeping the faith, we can confidently come without fear before the Father to pray. Also, because we are God’s children, we will naturally pray for God’s kingdom, which is pleasing to God and God will surely fulfill it.

b. Pray for the needs of brothers and sisters (16-17): When brothers and sisters, because of their weakness, commit sin that does not lead to death, we should pray for them. God will surely work in their lives so that they will not perish because of the sin, but be led to repentance and continue to live in God’s grace. The passage mentions the sin that leads to death, such as in the early church - blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31), lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:5), and testing the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:9)

c. Keep oneself from sins, not worship idols (18-21): 1. Guarding the new life God gave to us (18-19): In this warped and crooked generation, we need to make every effort to keep ourselves from sin, so that we can protect ourselves from the world’s seductions, temptations, hindrances and the lies from heretical teachings. Then, we won’t stray from God because of these things and lose our new life from God. 2. Jesus Christ is the true God and eternal life: even though the world is under the control of the enemy, but because God’s Son Jesus Christ has already come, God gave us wisdom to know Jesus, believe in Jesus, and we are no longer under the control of the enemy but belong to God. Jesus Christ is the true God and is the God of eternal life. 3. Keep ourselves from worshipping idols: God is forever in the first place of our life, above all other things. We need to protect our hearts and not let things, whether seen or unseen, become our idols in the place of God.

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

1. Have you ever testified for something or someone? (Please give an example)

2. Why did the apostle John want us to overcome the world? (For the definition of “the world” please refer to 1 John 2:16)? Why will those who believe in Jesus surely overcome the world?

3. What kinds of testimony testify Jesus is the Son of God? Which
one do you see is the strongest and most powerful? Why?

4. What are the testimonies of having the life of God’s Son? How can we live out the testimony of God’s Son? What do you think is the most challenging?

5. From studying 1 John, what is the greatest thing you have received? In what areas have it helped you know Jesus better? In what areas have it helped you improve the way in which you and brother and sister love one another?

Prayer:

Dear Abba Father in heaven, we thank You and praise You because You have given us wisdom so that we can know Jesus is the true God, is eternal life, and is Your beloved one and only Son. We believed in Him and received Him to be our Savior! And because of this, You gave us all the eternal life to become Your children. Through the life of Jesus in us, You revealed Your great power so we can overcome the world. O Lord, we ask You to protect us so that we can follow in Your footsteps, pray for the sake of Your kingdom, and be willing to offer up ourselves to be used by You, so Your will for the church may be fulfilled. 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.