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:
  - 1/10 English Leaders Meeting
  - 1/20 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting @ 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall
  - 1/23 Men’s Breakfast @ 9am in E5
  - 1/24 & 1/31 Healing Team Training
  - 2/8 Chinese New Year Celebration @ 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall

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 was 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: Rise Up and Build Shekinah Glory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verses: Haggai 1:1-15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorizing Verses: Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the Lord. (Haggai 1:8)</td>
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Preface:
Northern Israel was conquered by Assyrians in 722 BC; and Southern Judah was conquered by Babylonians in 586 BC. The Temple was destroyed and King Nebuchadnezzar took all the treasures from the Temple of the Lord. Later, Persia destroyed Babylon, and in the first year of Cyrus, the king of Persia let Judah return to Jerusalem to rebuild God’s Temple. He returned all articles belonging to the temple of the Lord, and restored sacrifices and offerings to the Lord (See Ezra chapter 1). Back then, the enemies of Judah and Benjamin wanted to stop the rebuilding work of the Temple. They told them that they wanted to help build. But the people of Judah said to them: "You have no part with us in building a temple to our God." (Ezra 4: 3). Their enemies then made false accusations to King Xerxes, saying that the Jews wanted to start an uprising; therefore the construction of the Temple was put off for sixteen years.

Then Haggai and Zechariah (prophets who were preaching the Word of God), encouraged people to continue the work of rebuilding the Temple. The Temple finally started being built during the 2nd year of King Darius’s ruling, and by 516 BC the construction was complete. It took a total of four and a half years.

Why was the rebuilding of the Temple so important? It was because the Temple was the place where the Jews worshiped God. Without the Temple, the Jews didn’t know where to go to make sacrifices and offerings, and to seek God.

Today, by the grace of God and of Jesus Christ, we can worship God in a church or any place! However, our church is the house of the living God. We must not let the house of God lay in ruins. Let us build the Temple of God, the Shekinah Glory together now!
1. God rebuked His people, who did not build the Temple (Haggai 1:1-4)
   
a. The mentality of the people of God (1:1-2):
   
   People often choose to avoid responsibilities when they face troubles, or choose to do the bare minimum. It was the same, when the Israelites faced the rebuilding work on the house of the Lord. When they encountered interference from their enemies, they were discouraged. They used excuses such as "The time has not come" and stopped God’s plan and work. God's work is not based upon people’s convenience, but rather God's timing and His word. As the Apostle Paul said, "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction." (2 Timothy 4:2). When God tells us to preach, we preach, regardless if we have the time or not. When God tells us to build the Temple of the Lord, we have to build the Temple.

b. God's people only cared about what benefited them, while allowing the house of God to lie in ruins. (1:3-4):
   
   The men of Judah, who were still in Babylonian captivity, were eager to return to their homeland and rebuild the house of God, for worship. However, when they returned, they quickly forgot their desire to rebuild the Temple. They spent their strengths and time on building their own careers and families. There was nothing wrong in building high ceiling houses, and fulfilling their own needs. Yet, God’s people need to seek His will as their first priority, and He will reward us naturally and meet our needs. Jesus said, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

2. God reminded his people to examine themselves (Haggai 1:5-11):

   a. Examine your current situations (1:5-6):
   
      When your priorities are not right, you will find three things:
      (i) Planted much, harvested little: Your reward is not equal to the amount of effort put in. You thought your hard work would bring you riches to retire with, but ended up with little.
      (ii) Aren’t satisfied: You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm.
      (iii) Tried to save a lot but ended up with not much money in the bank: No matter how frugal you are, your money seems to be gone faster than you can make it.

   b. Examine the building of the Temple (1:7-11):
   
      (i) Now is the time to build the temple (1:7-8): God reminded the people that they encountered those difficulties because they didn’t put God’s will as their first priority. Therefore, God’s people needed to repent and take action. God said now is the time to build the temple, we need to act immediately and go up into the mountains and bring the timber to build the glorious house of the Lord. To go up the mountain is to pay the price. Building up the temple is the responsibility of the whole congregation. If the entire congregation goes up the mountain, carries the timber, and builds the temple together, God will be pleased and glorified.

      (ii) If God’s people delay the work, then they will taste the bitterness of their consequences (1:9-11): If God’s people understood His will, but were still unwilling to act on it, then God stopped the blessings so that His people would experience all sorts of difficulties until the time they repented and turned back to God.

3. God wants His people to be united in building the Temple (Haggai 1:12-15):

   a. The leaders need to obey God’s words (1:12a):
   
      When a leader is willing to listen to the words of the prophet, willing to humble and be obedient to the word of God, then he is able to lead the whole congregation.

   b. God’s people need to obey God’s voice in one accord (1:12b):
   
      Even though the leaders are willing to lead the congregation, it is necessary to have the whole congregation to come together as one, and obey God. Therefore, the building of the temple will go smoothly if everyone participates.

   c. Satisfy His heart and bring down His blessings (1:13-15):
   
      When everyone is willing to obey God's word, God will speak through the prophet’s mouth saying, "I will be with you.” God’s
presence is very precious. The most important thing in doing
God’s work is to have His presence! When you have God, you
have everything!

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

1. If you had any extra income, how do you intend to use it?
2. What kind of rebuke and reminder did God give to the people of
   the Lord through Haggai the prophet?
3. What consequences were brought upon the Jews when they
   ignored God’s heart? How does it apply to you?
4. God’s people said “The time has not yet come to rebuild
   the Lord’s house.” Have you had a similar experience with God’s
   work?
5. Our church is building a new worship center through Shekinah
   Glory project. What does today’s message remind you of? How
   do you plan to participate in this glorious work?

Prayer:
Dear Abba Father in heaven, we thank You and praise You because
You have spoken to us through Haggai the prophet, and let us
understand that Your intention is to bless us. Yet we often see our
own needs and ignore Your heart and fall out of Your grace. Lord,
please help us to put Your will in our hearts as our first priority. Help
us to seek Your will and focus on God’s kingdom so Your kingdom
can be manifested through us. Thank You for hearing our Prayer! We
pray all this in the precious and holy name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.
Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other’s needs.