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:
• 3/13 & 3/20 Christ-Centered Scriptural Reading Class
• 3/16 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
• 3/25 Good Friday Service @ 7:30pm in Emmanuel Chapel
• 3/27 Easter Sunday Celebration & Family Luncheon

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: Live out God’s Good Will

Verses: 1 Thessalonians 5:11-28
Memorizing Verses: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Preface:
After Paul taught the Thessalonians to wait for the return of the Lord with a lively hope, he exhorted them to live out a life that testified God in their current environment. They needed to live out the good will that God had for them and connect with Him so they could live in peace with each other, act out the goodness of God and rely on him so that they can endure till the end. God would surely sanctify them fully in the end.

1. Paul’s exhortation (1 Thessalonians 5:12-15)
   A. Acknowledge the workers among them (12-13): Paul specifically urged the Thessalonians to acknowledge the workers who shepherded them and cared for them in the Lord. This is very important to us because God entrusted his workers to shepherd, lead, and administer the believers. They watched over the believers’ spiritual life and cared for them because of the work God had entrusted to them. Therefore, not only should we remember them but also those who worked behind the scenes in silence. We should acknowledge and love them.

   B. Live in peace with each other (14): When the believers have the testimony of living in peace and unity with each other, then people in the world will be convinced that Jesus Christ is the true God. However, being in unity does not mean allowing people to become undisciplined or covering up each other’s wrong. To those who are disruptive, we need to admonish them so they will not repeat their behaviors again. To the disheartened, we need to encourage them so they will regain their hope and stay in the Lord. To the weak, we do not condemn or judge them but instead, we help them to stand up again. More importantly, we need to be patient towards others and give them the time and space to grow, just like how the Lord patiently waits for us, gives us opportunities, and leads us in working with Him. Let us learn in the Lord to tolerate, support, and exhort each other, and grow together in the Lord.
C. Do what is good for each other (15): When we are mistreated, do not fall into thoughts of unfairness, anger, or retaliation. This is because of our God, Jesus forgive the people of the world, who all have sinned against him and have fallen short of his glory. He even laid down his life for us, so that we can have the grace of God’s redemption, and through him become the children of God. We should learn from Lord Jesus on how to treat those who mistreats us and follow the Lord wholeheartedly so that God’s goodness is manifested in everything we do.

2. Live out the life that is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-22):
   A. Obey God’s will (16-18):
      (1) Rejoice always (16): Joyfulness should be the signature of God’s people because the plans God has for us are “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11). How can we not be joyful with such a promise? We need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and come before God every day. Such that we will have the spring of joy inside of us and live out a vibrant and joyful testimony.
      (2) Pray continually (17): God had chosen us to work with him. He requires us to pray according to his heart, then he will work and fulfill his will. We need to pray continually. When God places a burden inside of us, we will need to rise up and work with God through prayer and actions.
      (3) Give thanks in all circumstances (18): A grateful heart makes us humble and allows us to see his will in everything. It also enables us to learn to appreciate other people’s merits so that we are no longer self-centered. When we can see God’s work in us and as well as in other people, our hearts will be filled with gratitude and joy.
   B. Be sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit (19-22):
      (1) Do not quench the Spirit (19): The Holy Spirit often touches our heart. Not only he touched the heart of the prophets, he also touches the heart of fellow brothers and sisters. He often speaks to us and reminds us. If we do not obey the Holy Spirit’s guidance or act according to what he tells us, then God’s work can’t be accomplished through us.
      (2) Do not treat prophecies with contempt (20-22): A Prophet’s job is to convey God’s message and his will. However, their words need to be tested. First of all, the prophet’s word can’t contradict the teaching of the Word of God. It must be words of comfort, edification, and exhortation. Secondly, the prophet’s words are temporal and it doesn’t necessarily have to happen right away. It is possible that it will happen in the future. For example, God had promised Abraham a son when he was 75 years old. It was not until 100 years of age before Abraham got his promised son Isaac. Thirdly, the prophet’s words are conditional. We must obey God’s word to receive his promise. Lastly, even if the prophets were right for 99 times, it doesn’t ensure that they will be right for the 100th time. Therefore, Paul says we need to hold on to and follow what is good and reject what is evil so that we will know how to discern the words from the prophets.

3. We need to hold on to the promise of God (1 Thessalonians 5:23-28):
   A. God gives us peace (23): During our life we may wonder if God would give the best to us? This leads to us relying on our own strength to plan out our life. However, if we understand the will that God has for us is always a will of peace, then we will have the courage to entrust our lives to his hand and let him lead us. We will also be able to allow him to work without being worried.
   B. God will sanctify us (24): The blood of Jesus on the cross not only cleanses our sins but also our iniquities. It also erases our shamefulness and the injuries that other people inflict on us. The blood of Jesus will sanctify us completely.
   C. God is faithful (25): God is faithful. He will keep us in him. We need to firmly rely on him for he will surely give us peace and sanctify us. God will lead us according to his promise. So let him do his work and fulfill it on us.
Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs of the members):

1. Please share one thing that made you felt the most joyful.

2. Paul asked us to acknowledge what kind of people? How do we show our acknowledgment to those people? In what aspect did Paul encourage them?

3. What are God’s will for us in Jesus Christ? What kind of reminder does this give us? How should we apply it in our daily lives?

4. How should we keep God’s will for us so we become blameless? Have you ever obeyed the guidance of the Holy Spirit? What was the result? (Please share one thing briefly)

5. Please give thanks to each other in the cell group about what he or she did for the group.

Prayer:

Dear Abba Father, we thank you and praise you. Thank you for teaching us to pay respect to the preachers and live with brothers and sisters peacefully. Oh Lord, please give us the wisdom and love, so we could tolerate and encourage our brothers and sisters. We also thank you that your will for us is peaceful so that we will have hope in the End Times. Oh Lord, we pray that you fill us with your Holy Spirit every day so we will have peace and joy in you, pray continually, and give thanks always. Let us humbly obey the words that you are speaking to us through prophets, as well as we can discern whether they come from you. Guide us in living your will. Our prayer and thanksgiving are in the precious and holy name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

D. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other’s needs.