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:
• 4/16 Women’s Tea Party @ 2-4pm in Fellowship Hall
• 4/17 & 4/24 Christ Centered Scriptural Reading Class
• 4/23 Community Service (Pastor Doris’s Group)
• 5/8 Mother’s Day
• 5/15 & 5/29 Baptism Class

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: Imitate Paul’s Example as a Hard Worker

Verses: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18
Memorizing Verses: We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. (2 Thessalonians 3:9)

Preface:
Paul saw that the Thessalonians were misled by the teachings of the false teachers who said that the day of the Lord has already come (2 Thessalonians 2:2). As a result, some people thought that since the Lord has come already, why do we still need to work? At that time, the church shared everything. Everyone brought all that they labored for, into the church and shared it with one another. However, those who became idle and stopped working because they had believed the false teachings, relied on others in the church to support them. Not only were they not working, they were also meddling in other people’s affairs and became a problem to the church. Therefore, Paul gave harsh warnings and teachings so that the brothers and sisters would return to the correct truth, hold on to the truth in unity, work diligently, and wait for the Lord’s return.

1. Paul called the believers to pray for him and his co-workers (2 Thessalonians 3:1-5)

A. So that the Gospel may spread rapidly (1-2):
The Lord’s intention is for the Gospel to be spread rapidly (Matthew 28:19-20) but Satan’s intention is to stand against the Lord and destroy all the work of the Gospel (John 10:10). As such, Paul asked the believers to pray for them, so that the Gospel of the Lord can be spread rapidly and protect them from the hands of the wicked.

B. Paul encouraged the believers to stand firm in the Lord (3-4):
Persecutions and temptations from the enemies are inevitable when we are doing God’s work. However, we have to believe that the Lord is faithful and that He will strengthen us and protect us till the end. Therefore, we must follow the truth till the end and not allow our faith to be shaken.
C. Pray that the Lord directs their hearts (5):
The Lord will direct and protect the heart of those who are diligently doing His work so that we can receive His love continuously, learn to love Him firmly, and learn about Christ’s perseverance.

2. Paul’s warning to the believers who are idle (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15):
A. Paul is commanding the believers in the name of the Lord (6):
Some believers in the Thessalonica church mistakenly believed that since the day of the Lord had come already (2 Thessalonians 2:2), they shouldn’t be busy like the people in the world that were working for food. As a result, they caused a lot of problems in the church by being idle. The Lord Jesus commanded us that “as long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” (John 9:4) Similarly, Paul also commanded them with the Lord’s command to not be idle but to rise up and do the Lord’s work diligently.

B. Paul worked with his own hands to serve as an example (7-10):
Paul had the rights to accept support from the church because it is appropriate for the worker to receive wages (1 Corinthians 9:4-15). However, for the sake of the Gospel, Paul would rather give up this right and not make himself a burden to the church. Therefore, Paul worked hard with his hands to provide for himself and his coworkers so that he may become a model for the believers.

C. Method to deal with those who disobey the Lord’s command (11-15):
For those who does not listen to the Bible teachings: (I). Take note of him: mark him as a special person in the church, ask people to take special notice of him, and do not tolerate him any further. (II). Do not associate with him: that is to have everyone alienate themselves from him temporarily until he repents. (III). But still regard him as our brother: do not regard such a person as an enemy but rather to exhort him continuously with love so that he may turn around.

3. Paul’s prayer and blessing for the believers (2 Thessalonians 3:16-18):
At the end of the letter, Paul specifically mentioned a few things that were not mentioned in the other letters. (i). Lord gives peace at all times and in every way: this means that the Thessalonians were in a disturbed environment. The thing that the believers needed the most at this time was to have the peace of the Lord, and the Lord is willing to give peace to those who obeys his will. (ii). Paul’s own handwritings: it had happened before that someone was pretending to be Paul to give false teachings to the believers in Thessalonica (2 Thessalonians 2:2). Therefore, Paul gave them authentic handwritings so they wouldn’t be fooled again. In the end, Paul blessed them that may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with them because all grace comes from the Lord Jesus Christ. They needed to hold fast to the truth that they believed.

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

1. Who is the person in your life that is worthy of imitation? What have you learned from his life?
2. What items did Paul ask the brothers in Thessalonians to pray for? Why did Paul mention them specifically?
3. What are the examples that we can follow from Paul?
4. Why did Paul tell the believers so sternly that “the one who is unwilling to work shall not eat?” What are the teachings regarding these people?
5. Have the cell group leader lead the cell members in praying for our sister church or the Gospel Institute that was adopted by the cell group (Please refer to 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 for the prayer items).
Prayer:

Dear Abba Father, we thank you and praise you. Because you guide us according to your good, pure, and pleasing will. At the same time, you placed your servant Paul in front of us as a good example. We are willing to spread your Gospel rapidly according to your will. We are also sure that you will strengthen us and protect us till the very end. Please remind us to always pray for those who are preaching the Gospel around the world so that they could spread the Gospel that saves everywhere. Thank you for your grace and love! Our prayers are in the precious and holy name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

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

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