What do we fix eyes on?

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.
Plan one to two icebreakers for the purpose of mixing around and getting group participation or getting acquainted.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.
Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead people into God’s presence. During this time, cell leaders will encourage cell members to listen to the Holy Spirit and release the words of strengthening, encouragement, and comfort they have received for the cell group, the church and nations. Upon each word shared, the cell leader will lead members by thanking and praising God for His promise and/or praying aloud together for the needs, etc. During this time, the cell leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for: (1) the mission organization or daughter church that the cell group adopts (2) the church ministry needs (3) blessings for new comers, the sick.

MISSION ORGANIZATION: ____________________, their needs: ________________
(Please contact the church if you don’t know the needs of the mission organization.)

CHURCH MINISTRY:

III. WORD, 45 mins.
A. Sharing from last Sunday’s message.
1. What is the main message from last Sunday sermon? What did God say to you from the message?  2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Discussion Topic: “What do we fix eyes on”

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18
Memory Verse: So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Cor. 4:18 NIV)

Paul has just covered, in the earlier part of Chapter 4 that those being ministers of the New Covenant need to keep themselves holy, to be faithful servants in preaching the words, and to have the conviction of treasures in jars of clay. He continues to explain the hope he has for this life and the one to come. For the sake of this glorious hope, Paul urges us to focus on what remains unseen. Though it is unseen, it will last forever. As to what can be seen, we don’t need to be too concerned about, since it is only temporary.

1. To fix our eyes on the saving faith that brings eternity (2 Cor. 4:13)
“With that same spirit of faith” in the verse 4:13 can be better interpreted as “Since we all share the same faith in the spirit”. Meanwhile, the verse “I believe; therefore, I have spoken” comes from Psalm 116:10. Psalm 115-118 is the lyrics of a Hallelujah worship hymn that the Jews are singing at the Passover dinner even at the present time. The Lord Jesus also had sung the hymn after the Passover meal before He went out to the Mount of Olives (see Matthews 26:30). The author of Psalm has fully expressed his thanksgiving in Psalm 116 for the Salvation of God. In light of what Jesus had said earlier: “I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life.” (John 6:47) Paul urges us to acquire the same kind of faith. Those who have been saved through faith will surely become zealous in spreading the gospel. Therefore, Paul said “we also believe and therefore speak.”

2. To fix our eyes on the hope of resurrection (2 Cor. 4:14)
Jesus said, “For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:40). Jesus further said, “I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in me will live, even though he dies” (John 11:25). Paul also said at Romans 8:11 that “if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who believes in me will live through his Spirit who lives in you”.

In the following chapter (Cor. 5), Paul continued to focus on the message of resurrection, “For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life”. How glorious is the hope that we will
not only resurrect, but will also receive a new body, so that without fear we may stand before the Lord along with all the Saints to sing Hallelujah to Him.

3. **To fix our eyes on the increasing grace (2 Cor. 4:15)**
   The contemporary commentary for this verse goes: “Whatever we have suffered, we suffered for your sake, in order that more will be benefitted.” In the countless testimonies we have heard, we see that many of our unbelieving families, relatives, friends and co-workers eventually come to the faith simply because they see all the grace we receive in Christ. Through us they are saved even though it seems nearly impossible in human’s eyes at the beginning. When we see so many amazing graces of God’s work, we can never thank God enough and can just give Him praise and glory. Last time we’ve mentioned that the better translation for the phrase “do not lose your heart” means “No evil would come out of your heart”. Definitely nothing evil would come out of him whose mind is filled with gratitude and whose lips praises to the Lord.

4. **To fix our eyes on the hope of renewing our hearts day by day (2 Cor. 4:16)**
   It is easy for anyone who is over the age of 50 to relate to the meaning of “Though outwardly we are wasting away”. It is a common phenomenon to everyone. However, Paul told us that there was an ongoing wonder that the world cannot see in us from the outside. We are actually being renewed day by day, for we have the indwelling Holy Spirit who does the work. As a matter of fact, God had foretold His people through the prophet Ezekiel: “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God” (Ezekiel 11:19-20).

5. **To fix our eyes on the eternal glory that far outweighs our troubles (2 Cor. 4:16)**
   Apostle Peter set forth in 1 Peter 5:4 “When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” Some of us might be receiving a bigger crown than others. But more likely the Lord Himself will be our eternal glory, for “The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast” (1 Peter 5:10) After we have journeyed the light and momentary troubles in this world, we set our hope on “One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.” (Psalm 27:4-6)

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Has your faith steadfast rooted in the promise of eternity?
2. Share your hope in resurrection.
3. Can you share how your hardship of life have become beneficial to others?
4. Have you experienced the renewing process that the Holy Spirit has been conducting in you? How?
5. What is your knowledge of “God’s glory”?
6. Share your spiritual life with others. Proclaim God’s words, (2 Cor. 4:18) led by the cell group leader.

Check to see whether your group members have started fixing eyes on what is unseen. Be reminded of coming to the cell group meeting routinely.

**Prayers:**

Dear Father, thank you for setting so much hope of future in front of us. The promise of eternity, resurrection, renewing power and more grace has been made ready for us. Please open our spiritual eyes and make them fixed on the unseen that lasts forever. May our conviction of the hopeful future grow deeper and deeper in You. We say this in the name of Jesus, Amen!

**IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.**

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