Those Who God Uses

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: “Those Who God Uses”

We serve God, for we are called by Him to be service of His gospel. God not only grants us grace and rewards, He also gives us joy and capability. That way, we may accomplish what He entrusts us with. We would, notwithstanding, face various challenges in times of our ministry: such as, the trial and temptation from the circumstances; the exhaustion by time and of energy; the conflict and reconciliation in relationships; and the juggling with the prideful old self… Knowing that these are situations God allows, so we may strengthen our characters. Let’s hold on to these opportunities and press on to become useful vessels of God!

1. In time serving God (2 Corinthians 6:1-2):
   1. The motivation of serving: God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be the ransom for our sins. He also took upon the punishment on our behalf. Instead of receiving his grace in vain, we ought to respond his love by serving Him and making everyone reconcile with Him. Note that our response to serve him is by no means an exchange of conditions. If it were, it won’t be grace at all. It is a voluntary feedback that we no longer live for our own, but we submit and offer ourselves entirely to God. By doing this, we work in collaboration with Him, in which He also takes delight.

   2. The timing of serving: “In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you.” (Isa. 49:8) “Favor” refers to our privilege to reconcile with God; (2Co. 5:18-20) “Salvation” refers to our being justified and becoming righteousness in Christ. (2Co. 5:21) Therefore, while we have the grace to live in God’s favor and salvation, we should grab the chance and inspire people to make peace with God.

2. The characteristic traits of those who God uses (2Co. 6: 3-13)
   1. Resistance (2 Corinthians 6:3): As we serve God, we not only should do well, but commend ourselves in everyone’s conscience. Let us not be stumbling blocks or leave rooms to be bashed or blamed. A few TV evangelists were humble when they first started their ministry, but stumbled and yielded to temptations as they became well-known. Since their ministry was entrusted by God, when they were disparaged, God’s name was also put to shame.

   2. Endurance (2 Corinthians 6:4-5): What mishaps Paul experienced may not be easy for us to imagine since we live in a religious free country. Some disasters may be caused by cultural factors, while another, the era and the world surrounding him, the other, the aggravation and oppression from his opponents. What we see for Paul’s endurance, rather than working for his own comfort of life, he worked for helping people: his sleeplessness was for watching and praying; and his skipping meals, fasting and prayers. Just as what he said in Philippians, “I know what it is to be in need, and I know...“
what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” (Php 4:12).

3. **Totality** (2 Co. 6: 6-7): Serving God is a totally submissive act -- we submit our body, heart, might, and feeling. Integrity has to do with our conscience; knowledge, heart, endurance, might; kindness, feeling. By following Holy Spirit and His guidance, we serve God’s people with acts and in truth, instead of by words and by tongue. (1Jn. 3:18) It is not unusual for us to face spiritual warfare when we serve. Even if we don’t serve God, the spiritual warfare is still there. When the warfare occurs, make sure to apply God’s righteousness as our weapon instead of being self-righteous that leads us into thinking if it’s fair or unfair, reasonable or unreasonable. God’s righteousness is broader and deeper than ours. Our righteousness is derived from our viewpoint and inclined to our advantage, whereas God’s righteousness comes from His eternal will and glory, and is the absolute value far beyond our perception. While we insist in our own righteousness, conflicts and damages occur. As our righteousness subsides, that of God’s emerges. As a result, if we determine to set aside our righteousness but seek for God’s way, we will become an invincible weapon in spiritual warfare.

4. **Fame-Free** (2 Co. 6: 8-10): Some people may not care too much for monetary or material substances, yet make a big deal on how people think about them. For those who serve God, it is critical to learn how to lay aside their fame. Disregard if it’s the sense of honor from a good report, or sense of humiliation from criticism or judgment, a servant of God should never be bothered. If one cares too much what others think about him, he either becomes hesitant in doing anything, or he can’t stand any criticism or suggestions. God can hardly use a person with ears that won’t listen. Our hearts should desire for comments coming from God, instead of from men. Being the servants of God, we are obliged to act accountable and please our master with all our hearts. Therefore, no matter which position God places us at, high or low, rich or poor, we accept with delight. That is the key of Paul’s powerful serving.

5. **Open-heartedness** (2 Co. 6:11-13): The narrow-minded may indicate one’s spiritual immaturity, for he is unconsciously tickled by the apparition of competitiveness. Only when we understand and accept the honor and glory that we are created by our God Father, will we laid aside our unworthy mindset or the discomfort due to self-consciousness. A royal-born prince is for sure to inherit the throne. He shouldn’t need to broadcast his authority. Only a beggar who suddenly becomes a prince would be afraid of losing his title, so he is very likely to try every effort to assure himself with controls. We need to be crystal clear about our prince stand, and live like one. A beggar lives a beggar’s life, for he carries the beggar mindset all his life. As long as we stay true to our real identity, it’d be hard for us to get back to the old path of narrow-mindedness.

---

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **What is your definition of “serving God”? Where is the motivation of your serving coming from?**

2. **What you like the best when it comes to serving God? Why?**

3. **Do you know if your service is effective? Is it also called and delighted by God?**

4. **Although we all have individual service items such as: Caring for friends, taking care of our family, & etc., God also need us to do group service. Through working on His commands, He helps us to polish our characters. Are you serving faithfully in any group? Share your experience of spiritual advancement through these services.”**

5. **What characteristic traits can be used by God? Do you identify what you already have or yet not have? What can you do to better yourself?**

6. **Are you a real prince, beggar prince or still in beggar stage? What impact has your mind-set to do with your life? Are there any actions you’d like to take to make your life different from now on?**

**Prayer:**

Dear Lord, we thank you and we praise you, for you have called us, and given us the glorious kingship. We pray that Holy Spirit reminds us at all time. Make us understand how honorable we are. May your grace and glory stand out in our service and everyday life, that we are worthy of the calling we receive. In Jesus name we pray, Amen!

---

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

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