The Life of Holiness

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: “The life of holiness”

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 6:14-17
Memory Verse: Do not be yoked together with unbelievers...Therefore, out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” (2 Corinthians 6:14, 17 NIV)

1. The divine calling (2 Corinthians 6:14, 16-18):

   One of the most important purposes of God’s creation is to build up a big family that belongs to him. Since God is the source of love, He has unlimited love to give to his beloved one. So in the passion of love, God created human beings in His image and in His likeness, who then became his beloved ones. This plan was temporarily compromised by Satan, who seduced Adam and Eve to sin so as to corrupt the human beings. In order to restore His original plan, God prepared the salvation of Christ to cover anyone who believes and accepts this salvation with the robe of righteousness and sanctify him. Now that we have received this grace in the Lord to become children of our Heavenly Father and to fellowship freely with Him, sin can no longer separate us from Him. Since we have already received God’s grace to get our status restored as His children, we should appreciate this free grace, cherish the ministry entrusted to us, and live a sacred life.

   2. Definition of Holiness
   1. Being holy doesn’t mean you are sinless or perfect. Rather, it means you are set apart to God from common and worldly things.
   2. Holiness is also God’s nature, which is not only sinless and free of blemish, but also outstanding and non-secular.
   3. God sanctifies us by setting us apart to Him not only from the sins, but also from anything that is worldly, secular, not from Him or for Him, so that we can be compatible with His holiness.
   4. If someone wants to be holy, he has to believe in Christ and be a part of His redemption and sanctification by His precious blood. He also has to be connected with Him and become as holy as He is. So being sanctified has nothing to do with the pride that you are holier than the world. Rather, being sanctified means that you are set apart to God and you only belong to Him.
   5. The Bible says in Leviticus 10:10 that “distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean”. This means the opposite of “holiness” is not “sin”, but “being common”. Sanctification is to set apart from the common. The common is something secular and ordinary, not necessarily something wrong. But it is not holy, because it cannot be distinguished from the secular. A person may be law-abiding, moral, and blameless in others’ eyes, or even perfect, but he can still be common, not holy. Even though he may be law-abiding and moral, he can still be common and ordinary, because he is not set apart to God from the common and ordinary. Even though he may not take
part in any wrongdoing, he can still be worldly and secular. So even though he may be law-abiding and upright, he still needs to be sanctified, the reason being that sanctification sets people apart from not only the iniquities, but also the common.

3. The differences between the holy and the common

1. Different status: All who receive Jesus’ salvation are set apart to God from the common. Therefore, believers and unbelievers are no longer the same. This doesn’t mean that unbelievers are inferior in law-abiding, morality, and their conducts. This doesn’t mean they are superior, either. But it is very clear that believers have a new status, which is sanctified and set apart from the common. So believers and unbelievers are different in status.

2. Different mindset: This doesn’t mean believers cannot socialize with unbelievers. Jesus came to the world to save the sinners. So He made friends with the sinners first and specifically fellowshipped with tax-collectors and prostitutes. On the other hand, once we are sanctified, we will no longer be led by the worldly value systems or ideologies. Rather, we are willing to live by the rules of God’s kingdom. Thus it makes Christians different from the world in spending money and time on food, clothing, housing, traveling, education, entertainment and other aspects of their lives, which unbelievers sometimes even cannot understand or accept.

3. Different value systems: Different religions may often trigger conflicts of value systems in everyday life. For example, a believer would make an offering, which may seem meaningless to an unbeliever. A believer would go to church to worship God on Sundays, while an unbeliever would go somewhere else to play. This is where in everyday life conflicts may be. Therefore, we are told not to be yoked together with unbelievers.

4. How to be sanctified

1. Receive the salvation from our Lord Jesus: Sanctification cannot be done by one’s own might or moral credits, but by believing in Jesus Christ. As long as someone truly believes, he will naturally be set apart to God and become holy.

2. Live a holy life in our Lord Jesus: 1 Cor. 1:30 says that “It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.” It says here Christ Jesus is our holiness. When we believe in Christ, He just enters into us and becomes our life. This life is holy, so we can also share His holy character inside us. That is why we can be sanctified, and live a holy life.

3. Be connected with Christ always: As long as we keep connected to the Lord every day, getting our minds renewed, and gradually put on the new self, we can keep changing every day in our pursuit of holiness.

Discussion Questions:

1. If an unbeliever friend says: “It seems that Christians feel self-righteous and stay away from this world”, how would you explain to him the correct concept of holiness? How would you explain to those family members and friends that are noble the meaning of holiness?

2. What is your opinion on not being yoked with unbelievers? Have you ever had such experience?

3. We started our pursuit of holiness after receiving the salvation of Jesus Christ. Please share how your pursuit has been, what setback have you experienced, and what comforting change you have experienced.

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. The cell group leader please lead the cell group members to bring their worries to the Lord and pray using today’s verses by faith, and commit them into His hands.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you and we praise you, for you set us apart from this world to only you and helped us to stay in this sacred status by faith. We are so unworthy, but you still did everything for us. How can it be! Because you chose us, we can be deemed righteous. May the Lord help us keep being connected to you and carry an easy yoke in our pursuit of holiness. We thank you and we pray in the victorious name of our Lord 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.