

Lesson 6 - Church, the home of the living God

Nov. 15-16, 2012

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.

Plan one to two icebreakers for the purpose of mixing around and getting group participation and 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.)

Prayer Requests for CHURCH MINISTRY:

1. **Evangelism Class: 12/1 @ Room G10 from 9am-12pm.**
2. **Ministry Coworker Recruiting Day: 11/11**, please pray that people will join to serve and grow through serving
3. **Christmas Party: 12/17 (Sat)**, please pray that new friends will come to the party and cell groups will have a successful outreach through celebrating the birth of Jesus.

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: Desire a noble task

Scriptures: 1Timothy 3:14-16 (Please read Bible verses in turns)

Memorizing Verse: *You will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:15b NIV)*

Foreword: Church is more than a building; it is the body of Christ, composed of a group of people summoned by God. In other words, you and I make the church. Church is also the place where the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling. Then how do we conduct ourselves in God's household, especially regarding to how to along with one another among believers? Paul has taught us the proper conducts in the first chapter of 1st Timothy. Here he continues to explain the church's responsibility to the world, and the divine relationship between God and His church. Let's start the lesson with an attending heart in order to establish a glorious church that honors God.

1. Responsibilities of Church (1Tim 3:14-15):

1. Church is the home of living God: Church is a big family belonging to God. We are all His children, working as different parts of the same body. We are learning the lesson of love toward one another, so that the world can recognize us as Christ's followers (John 13:35), and be aware of God's total sovereignty over His people.
2. Church is the pillar and the foundation of the truth: Church has to exalt the truth of Christ, such as the function of strong pillars to a building. It is also like a firm rock against strong currents. It has to bring forth the truth and makes it revealed to the world, so that everyone can see it.
3. Church is the foundation of the truth: Foundation is the base on which the pillars can be set. It must be firm and solid enough for the pillars to stay strong. Church itself has to understand that it is the foundation of the truth, making sure when facing rampant attacks of heresies, it doesn't recline nor shake (Luke 6:47-49). Here, we are reminded that Christ has laid himself as the solid foundation on which church is built, thus we can carry out the commission He has entrusted onto us.

2. **Church should understand the mysteries of godliness (1Tim 3:16):** Human race had been separated from God as a result of sins committed. Consequently, they could not come into God's presence to worship Him directly. But in His grace and mercy, God has provided a brand new, living way for all sinners. Through Christ's sacrifice, everyone has the opportunity to come to offer the wonderful worship, which God finds pleasing. There is a profound mystery

behind the offering of Christ's sacrifice at the cross. Church needs to teach the truth to make sure all believers are fully reconciled to God and can rejoice in Him.

1. The Word became flesh: The Son of God, who is equal to God, became flesh to save us from our sins. He died at the Cross to settle the problem of sin once for all. His mission was to restore the relationship between God and human beings. Jesus Christ has revealed the love of God, and church has to learn the same lesson of love taught by Him!
2. Being called righteous in spiritual realm: Christ's resurrection from death proves that He has overcome the evil power. Not only has He defeated the death, but he also made His followers share in the victory of overcoming the sinfulness and being clothed with His righteousness in front of God. This is the divine work of the Holy Spirit; Church has the responsibility in welcoming the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.
3. Being seen by angels: Jesus' life, from his birth till his resurrection, was guarded and witnessed by angels. In the same way, church needs to live out the testimony of godliness observed by angels. (1 Corinthians 4:9).
4. Being preached among the nations: The deliverance at the Cross has shown God's love to the world. It is His will that all can share His grace and deliverance. Church has the responsibility to spread the gospel to each and every corner of the world.
5. Being believed in through the world: Many have been blessed through the gospel preached to them. It is not only the Holy Spirit at work, it is also a responsibility entrusted to all the believers in Christ. Nothing appeals people to come to the Lord more than personal testimonies of God's work in their lives!
6. Being taken up in glory: Jesus finished the ministry God gave Him and returned to the Father, sitting at His right hand side. Yet He never stops interceding on behalf of His church. Therefore, church has the responsibility in obeying His Word, making every effort to fulfill the great commission the Lord entrusted, and bringing the glory due to God. Until that day, the Lord will take up the church into the eternal glory with Him!

Discussions:

1. *What does church mean to you? What appeals to you the most about church?*

2. *Why was Paul so anxious in teaching Timothy all the things concerning church? What do you think if without the correct theology, what could have happened to church?*
3. *What does "home" mean? What do you expect from it? If church is the home of living God, what do you expect of it?*
4. *Please share your opinions in building the home of Christ—a glorious church?*
5. *What is the secret of holiness? How does it affect your life?*
6. *Proclaim God's words (1st Timothy 3:15b) led by the leaders. Please check on one another to see how each is doing at the home of God. A reminder to all for regularly coming to the cell meeting.*

Prayer:

Dear Lord, We thank you and give you our praises. Because of you, we come to understand God's heart for the church. You have manifested the secret of godliness. We praise you for your precious bloodshed in redemption of us, and with your truth you built your church. May it bring you glory on earth. O, Lord, please help your church to increase the hunger of your words, the obedience in following your doctrines, to worship you alone, and to spread your name to all nations. We want to see your name be exalted over all the places. Thank you for listening to our prayer. We say this in the Holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

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

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