1 Timothy
Lesson 2 - Fighting the Good Fight for the Lord
Oct. 4-5, 2012

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 and 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. Equipping Class: Beginning in Christ - room E4, @ 1:45pm every Sunday
2. Leadership Training: 10/10-12 @ Redding, Open Heaven Conference
3. Mission Conference: 10/19-21 @ 7:30pm, Cindy Jacob
4. Cell Group Sunday booth: 11/4, please pray that there will be great interest from people to join the cell group
5. Ministry Coworker Recruiting Day: 11/11, please pray that people will join to serve and grow through serving
6. Presidential Election: 11/6, please pray for America and the election. Pray that God will transform the church with the renewed minds and the church will become a true prophetic voice for the nation.
7. Christmas Party: 12/15 (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: We may fight the good fight for the Lord

Scriptures: 1 Timothy 1:12 – 20 (Please read Bible verses in turns)

Memorizing Verse: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners…Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight. (1 Timothy 15, 18 NIV)

Foreword: The apostle Paul was a typical spiritual leader who fought for good fights here and there. He was truly a hero in church history. Unfortunately, his spiritual son Timothy on the contrary, seems to be weak, timid and shy. While facing those who taught false doctrines (1 Ti. 1:3) and all sorts of shepherding challenges in church, Paul inspired Timothy to fight the good fight for the Lord. We should all consider Paul’s encouragement not only for Timothy alone, but also for you and me so that we all may fight the good fight for our Lord. Please read 1Timothy 1:12-20.

1. How can we fight the good fight for the Lord (1Timothy12-14):

   1. God gave us strength (1Ti.1:12): The strength we rely on to fight a war is not by might nor by power, but by God’s spirit. (Zec. 4:6)
   2. God appointed us to serve Him (1Ti. 1:12): Paul never failed to address the importance of being faithful. God entrusts us to ministries, not because we are capable, but because we are faithful. Only when we become trustworthy, will God use us as his vessels to fight.
   3. God gave us grace and mercy (1Ti.1:13-14): Paul went on and testified that the only reason he fought for God was because of God’s grace and mercy. As we learned Paul’s testimony, it is hard for us not to make a decision and reside in Christ Jesus. Only by that, will our faith and love increase step by step and will we be eventually prepared for the good fights for our Lord.

2. Why should we fight the good fight (1Tim.1:15-17)

   1. Good example of Jesus Christ (1Ti.1:15):

      a. The Word was made flesh: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – He himself fought the good fight for you and me so that we may rejoice in the joy of salvation.
b. He took care of man’s sin once and for all: The deliverance of cross allows anyone who believes to become God’s children and receive glory and life in full. (John 10:10)

c. He destroyed devil’s work: Through death and resurrection, Jesus destroys devil’s dark power of death. (Hew.2:14) Moreover, He sent the Holy Spirit to reside in us who believe, and become our counselor and comforter so that we may walk on the path of sanctification.

d. He led us into the eternal glory: We are saved by the Lord, so we shall proclaim victory in Him. Let us exemplify Jesus, keep fighting the good fight for Him, so that we may gain the eternal glory.

2. The testimony of Paul (1Ti. 1:15-17): Paul was once a persecutor of Christianity. Through God’s great power, Paul realized himself to be the worst sinner by seeing his own weakness and unworthiness. Such transformation allowed Paul to know the grace and mercy of God and enabled him to be used by God for the good fight.

3. Prepare ourselves to fight for the good fight for Lord (1Ti.1:18-20):

1. The instruction from Paul (1Ti.1:18): Paul reminded Timonthy about the prophecies and gift Timothy received. He also encouraged him to follow the truth and fight the good fight for the Lord. Did you also receive the message?

2. Holding on to faith (1Ti.1:19a): Only when we hold on to faith will we be able to face all the difficulties in service or the attacks from Satan. The faith always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ over the enemy.

3. Holding on to good conscience (1Ti.1:19b-20): If our hearts do not condemn us, we are confident before God and can follow His truth. This is the principle as how Paul dealt with Hymenaeus (2Ti.2:17) and Alexander (2Ti.4:14-15). Hymenaeus was one of the chief authors and spreaders of error and heresy who claimed that there was no more resurrection. Alexander excommunicated Paul and accused Paul before the Roman judges. To deal with malicious people like these, Paul could only use the authority of church and give them to Satan, meaning treat them as pagans. By treating them as pagans, Paul did not just mean to punish them, but actually provided an opportunity for them to repent. He was in hope that they would stop the slander, blasphemy and doing what does not please God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the exceptional fullness of grace from God as you see on Paul? Would you like to share the grace you’ve received from God?

2. Why would Jesus leave alone his divine glory to come to the world? What does his descending to this world have to do with you?

3. Why would Paul consider himself the worst of sinners? Exactly what sin did he commit? What about us?

4. What is “fight the good fight for the Lord”? How do you apply this to your personal life, family and service in church?

5. How should we prepare for ourselves to be able to fight the good fight for the Lord?

6. For those who are weak or don’t please God in every way, especially those who you know, how would you deal with them? What would Jesus do?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, enlighten us with your spirit, so that deep down inside, we do not have any thoughts or traits of mind that do not please you. We humbly pray that you with strengthen us and enable us to walk away from evildoing. Once again, we pray that we could stand firm with your abundant grace and mercy. Lord, help us to hold on to the faith and good consciousness and fight the good fight for you. May all the glory and praises all be unto you. We thank you and we pray in Jesus’ glorious name. Amen!!

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

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