

Sunday's Theme – "Acts 1: You Will Be My Witnesses"

All these components should be present at a normal cell meeting. Some nights you may not get to everything, but each of these should be present at least 75% of the time (e.g. once/month you might not get to the Vision time and so on). The components do not need to be in this order necessarily, except that generally you ought to begin with a welcoming time, and end with a vision time (close the meeting with an *outward focus*).

Please note the time constraints for each part of the meeting!

WELCOME (10 minutes):

The purpose of this time is to "bring people in." You may use an icebreaker, but if you do make sure that it is one that can be completed by everyone in 10 minutes (i.e. each person takes only about a minute to answer). Occasionally, during this time, someone will share a deep need/hurt. If so, feel free to minister to them in prayer etc.

Ice Breaker Question: When the movie of your life is made, what actor/actress do you want to play you? What will the movie be called?

WORSHIP (15 minutes):

Normally choose 2-3 songs. It's also good to start by reading a short Scripture passage. You may also want to allow time for simple prayers of praise from the group. Optionally, you may also want to incorporate Communion as part of your worship time.

Scripture ideas to use:

- Hebrews 4:14-16

Song ideas to use:

1. Lord, I Need You (#59)
2. Jesus Messiah (#15)

WORD (20 minutes):

The purpose of this time is not for Bible *study* but instead, Bible *application*. Focus on personal application of scriptural truths. Ask people what concrete actions they should take in response to the scripture.

Read Acts 1:1-9

1. Why does Jesus tell the disciples to not leave Jerusalem until they receive "the gift my father promised"?
2. What does it mean that the disciples were to be "witnesses"? What does a witness do?

3. What does it mean for you personally that you are to be a witness?
4. What is your “Jerusalem”? Who do you sense the Lord is calling you to be a witness to?
5. How does the Holy Spirit help us to be witnesses for Jesus? How has he helped you?
6. If time permits, read John 16:5-16 and discuss how this text relates to this passage here in Acts.

PRAYER (15 minutes):

Prayer ministry may be incorporated at any time during the meeting. If a lot of prayer ministry took place during the worship time, or as a result of things shared during the word time, don't feel as though you have to have another separate time for prayer. However, if there hasn't been time for prayer elsewhere, please do not short-change this part of the meeting.

During our Acts Series in church on Sunday mornings we will be inviting the Holy Spirit to come and empower us at the conclusion of each message. As you begin your prayer time each week of this series, I encourage you to begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to come and direct your time of prayer together. Pray for each others needs, but also spend time “listening”. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will bring a Scripture to mind or a word or a picture. Take a risk and share this with the group if this happens. You can say something like, “I'm not sure if this is the Lord, but ‘this’ just came into my mind.” Let the group help to discern if what you share is from the Lord or not. The cell group is a safe place to practice hearing God speak in real time. None of us hears God perfectly. But this is an area that we can each grow in. As with most things, growth happens as we practice.

VISION (5 minutes):

This can be incorporated into a closing prayer time, and should be focused on the vision of the cell: to reach people who don't know Jesus. It may include sharing about those you are praying for, and encouragement in praying for and speaking to those who are not Christians.

During our Scripture time we talked about being “witnesses”. Encourage your cell group that it can also be a “witness” as a group. This happens as we reach out to the community together in service projects. And it also happens as we invite someone into our group to experience the fellowship and community of the Holy Spirit among us. Encourage the group to be in prayer this week for those the Lord may be calling them to be a witness to. Remind them that being a witness is simply telling your story – testifying to how good God is and what He has done for you through Christ.

CLOSING & ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 minutes)