

***Sunday's Theme – "Acts 5: What Are You Afraid Of?"***

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:** Do you have any phobias? (i.e. afraid heights, spiders, country music, etc)

**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 12:5b-6
- Lead in idea: Read the Scripture and then reemphasize the line, "Those whom the Lord loves He disciplines." Invite Him to refine you and mold you to be more like Him as you worship and center on the transformative power of His love for you.

**Song ideas to use:**

1. I Could Sing of Your Love (#14)
2. Refiners Fire (#23)

**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 5:1-11

1. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?

2. What does this week's Scripture teach us about integrity and honesty in our relationship with God and one another?
3. Sometimes we stretch the truth to make things in our life look better than they really are. Do you ever do this? Give any examples you're comfortable sharing with the group.
4. The story of Ananias and Sapphira is an example of God disciplining and refining the church that He loves. In what ways do you think God disciplines you personally?
5. Part of the problem for Ananias and Sapphira was that they feared what people thought of them more than God.
  - a. Discuss the phrase: "Whatever you fear controls you." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
  - b. What fears do you struggle with?
  - c. How can a healthy fear of God help to cancel out your other fears?

**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.**

As always, if anyone has any pressing needs, encourage folks to share those so that you can pray for them. But also encourage your group this week to ask God to reveal anything he wants to reveal. Come to God in prayer with a degree of awe and fear this week as you pray. Start your prayer time by inviting the group to speak prayers of praise that focus on the attributes of God - his holiness and power and authority. Seek to lead the group to land on both the tenderness of God as our loving Father, and also on the majesty and glory and awesomeness of God (i.e. the Friendship and the Fear!) and hold these two great truths in a healthy tension.

**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.**

Close by encouraging your group to reach out in the power of the Holy Spirit to minister to those around you with the love of Jesus. Challenge them to be looking for opportunities to serve the people they come into contact with throughout the week and for potential open doors in inviting someone to visit your cell group or Sunday morning worship.

**CLOSING & ANNOUNCEMENTS** (5 minutes)