

## ***Sunday's Theme – "Acts 16, Part Two: Meet the Philippians"***

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:** If you had to describe your week by using weather terminology, how would you describe it? (i.e. cloudy, stormy, partly sunny, etc). Why?

### **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 idea to use:**

- Eph 1:18-20

**Song ideas to use:**

1. Draw Me Close (#58)
2. How He Loves (#69)

### **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.

**Intro: (Read to Group)** As this weeks passage is read, note the three different people who are touched by the Lord in Philippi – Lydia, a slave girl and the Philippian jailer. Lydia was a successful businesswoman, the slave girl had been abused and exploited by evil men and oppressed by a demon, and the Philippian jailer almost committed suicide to maintain his honor. Each was rescued by the Lord in different ways.

## Read Acts 16:11-34

1. Which of the three people noted in the passage (i.e. Lydia, the slave girl and the jailer), do you find the most interesting and why?
2. Which of the three do you relate to the most and why?
3. God opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message. How has God opened your heart? What people did he use? What circumstances?
4. When Paul and Silas were locked away in a dungeon they were in tremendous pain and discomfort and didn't know if they would live or die.
  - a. How were they able to sing worship songs and pray?
  - b. Have you ever been in a difficult or painful experience or circumstance and yet found somehow the strength to pray and worship?
5. Anything else in this passage jump out for you? Any questions?

### **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.**

Pray for the needs of people in your group and also for the needs of others in the church.

### **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 the gathering by focusing outward. You may want to encourage the group to be praying for people you can invite to cell group, Sunday morning worship or Alpha. Or you may want to spend this time planning your next outreach or servant evangelism project.

### **CLOSING & ANNOUNCEMENTS** (5 minutes)