

Sunday's Theme – Mark 8 – "Following Jesus"

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: What was your nickname at school growing up?

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:

- Luke 9:23-26

Song ideas to use:

1. I Will Follow (#82)
2. Surrender (#44)

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 Mark 8:27-38

(Questions this week are taken directly from the Serendipity Bible)

1. Thus far, what answers have been given to Jesus' poll (v. 27; see 3:21,22; 4:41; 5:17; 6:3, 14-15)?
2. How and why does the tone of the gospel shift after Peter's declaration?

3. What title does Jesus take on, and why (see Daniel 7:13-14)? What four things does he prophesy about the Son of Man? According to Jesus, what kind of Messiah is he? Why does Jesus react so strongly to Peter?
4. How is Peter like the blind beggar (8:22-26)? Why then does Jesus bid them to keep silent (v.30)?
5. How would you paraphrase what Jesus says in verse 34? How do Herod and John (6:14-29) display the “life-saving” principle (vv. 35-36)? What does it really mean to believe in Jesus?
6. Recently, how has your relationship with Jesus affected your lifestyle? Relationships? Priorities? Politics?
7. Where does “Jesus’ way” still conflict with “your way”? What is the cost-benefit ratio of each course?

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.

In addition to praying for any needs shared in the group, also pray for one another that you would each grow in what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

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. Encourage your group members to be on the lookout for visitors at church and to take steps to get to know them in order to eventually invite them to your cell group.

CLOSING & ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 minutes)