

## ***Sunday's Theme – "Acts 4: What Happened to Peter?!"***

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 give up one of your senses (hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling, tasting) which would it be and 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 ideas to use:**

- Galatians 6:7-10
- Lead in idea: Read the Scripture and then share how one of the ways that we "sow to the Spirit" is through worship...

#### **Song ideas to use:**

1. Here I Am To Worship (#25)
2. All Who Are Thirsty (#33)

### **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 4:1-13

1. Note how different Peter is in this account compared to the time he denied three times even knowing Jesus. What happened to Peter to effect this change?

2. Peter is very bold and aggressive in his proclamation of the gospel message. When is it appropriate to be aggressive like Peter is here? When should we be more gentle and tactful? Read Peter's instructions he gives in 1 Peter 3:15 and contrast with Peter's defense of the gospel before these religious leaders.
3. Read Acts 4:12. Do you find this verse a difficult one? Why or why not? [Note to leader: If the question comes up of 'what happens to those who have never heard the gospel?' you can say something to the effect of: "We are not the ultimate judge, only God is, and so we cannot say with certainty who is going to heaven and who is going to hell – we leave that in God's hands. However, what we do know, is that anyone who is saved on the last day, it will be only because Jesus died for their sins and that He has become their personal Savior and Lord."]
4. Our text says that Peter "filled with the Holy Spirit said...". Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit empowering you to say something or to do something?
5. Paul says in Ephesians 5 that we are to be "continually filled with the Holy Spirit." And in Galatians 6 he says we are to "sow to the Spirit". How do we do that? How do you do that?
6. What is one thing you will try to do this week to help cultivate the life of the Spirit in you?

### **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.**

First, invite any to share who have any pressing personal prayer needs. Then communicate that in addition to praying for these personal needs, we also want to pray for boldness and empowerment of the Spirit for sharing the gospel message to those around us. Have someone read Acts 4:23-31 which includes the prayer the early church prayed in our text for this week. Then invite your group to pray along these same lines as they did.

### **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)