

Sunday's Theme – "Acts 10 & 11: Finding Cornelius"

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 dream (or nightmare) has inspired (or haunted) you?

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:

- Ephesians 2:19-22

Song ideas to use:

1. The Church's One Foundation (#55)
2. Be the Center (#34)

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 11:1-18

1. The Lord told Peter, "Don't call unclean what I have made clean." When are you tempted to do this?
2. Circumcision was an unnecessary obstacle for Gentiles to become Christian and it had to be removed for them in order for them to be reached. Are there any unnecessary traditions in our church that you think might make it harder for someone from the "outside" to come in and become part of the church?

3. The Greek word for 'household' is 'oikos'. Not just Cornelius but his whole 'oikos' gets saved as they all gather to hear the message from Peter. A persons 'oikos' is not just their immediate family but all their close relationships and connections. Think of all the people in your *oikos* who don't know the Lord. Pick one to share with the group and invite the group to join with you in prayer for them.
4. Discuss ways you can as a group help each other reach one another's *oikos*.
5. Discuss as a group ideas of how you can break into new *oikos*'. In other words, how can you find Cornelius? How can you strategize together to do this as a cell group?

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 spend some time praying that your cell group would "find Cornelius".

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 the group to think of creative way to break into a new 'oikos'. Also, encourage the group to plan an outreach event or service project together in the coming weeks. Share ideas and set a date!

CLOSING & ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 minutes)