

## ***Sunday's Theme – "Acts 13: First Missionary Journey, Part One"***

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:** Did you ever have a nickname growing up? What was it? Have one now?

### **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 1:15-21

**Song ideas to use:**

1. Good To Me (#28)
2. Jesus, All for Jesus (#29)

### **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 13:1-5

1. What was the scene when the Spirit spoke to the leaders at Antioch?
  - a. How do you think he may have spoken?
  - b. How could the Spirit speak in your worship times?
2. Cyprus is a 150 mile sail from Seleucia and was Barnabas' home (4:36). What might these two men be thinking and feeling and discussing as they go?

3. Since Gentiles were already welcome in the church (11:18), why would Barnabas and Saul go to the synagogue?

Read Acts 13:6-12

4. Put yourself in Elymas' place. Why and how would you oppose these missionaries?
5. If you were Sergius Paulus, what would be your response to the missionaries after the events of verses 9-12?
6. The supernatural event of Elymas being blinded resulted in a breakthrough for the expansion of the Kingdom. Missionaries call this kind of an event a "power encounter" which God uses to help the church acquire a new footing in a new area. Do you think we need "power encounters" as we reach out to the people Gig Harbor? Why or why not? Is it okay to pray for "power encounters" as we seek to reach those around us? (see Acts 4:29-31)

Read Acts 13:13

7. In this verse we read that Mark (referred to here as John) abandoned the mission and went home. Last in Acts 15 Barnabas wants to give Mark a second chance but Paul doesn't. Mark eventually redeems himself and Paul comes around eventually to embracing Mark as a "fellow worker". All of this happened because Barnabas embraced Mark, encouraged him and believed that God could yet make something of his life.
  - a. When have you needed a "Barnabas" in your life to encourage you and help you get up again when you've fallen down?
  - b. When have you had the opportunity to be a "Barnabas" for someone else?

**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 pray that God would demonstrate his power as you reach out to those around you and so validate the gospel and strengthen your witness as individuals and as a cell group.

**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.**

As always, close by reminding the group that we are to intentionally maintain that outward focus as a cell group both as we look for ways to serve our community together and to reach out to the forgotten ones who are hungry for the kind of community available in your cell group.

**CLOSING & ANNOUNCEMENTS** (5 minutes)