

Sunday's Theme – Philippians 1:3-11 - "Grateful and Confident"

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: Who has been a significant encourager for you in your life?

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 3:14-19

Song ideas to use:

1. How He Loves (#69)
2. Forever Reign (#85)

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 1:3-11

1. What are Paul's feelings for this church?
2. What can you learn about Paul's leadership style from these verses?
3. In verse 3, Paul essentially is saying, "Every time I think of you I feel grateful." Paul has some concerns that he will share later in the letter, but the first thing he thinks of when he thinks of the Philippians is

not what is wrong with them, but what is right with them. And in verse 6 Paul really acts as a cheerleader and as an encourager, communicating confidence that God will complete the work he began in each of the Philippian believers. Take some time now to go around the group and focus on one person at a time and have the rest of the group extend words of encouragement. You could do one of two things or both:

- a. Tell the person one thing you are thankful for or appreciate about that person.
- b. Tell the person one thing that you see as a spiritual gift or character quality in that person

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.

Read Paul's prayer in verses 9-11. Encourage the group to spend time in prayer, praying for one another by taking this prayer and praying it using their own words. In addition to praying for love for one another to increase, I would encourage you also to pray that you each would grow in your own experience of God's love for you (i.e. let God's love for you be the source that you draw upon as you reach out in love to one another).

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)