

Sunday's Theme – Philippians 1:27-30 - "Live Out Your Citizenship!"

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 your house was burning down, what three objects would you try and save?

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:

- John 10:1-18

Song ideas to use:

1. I Will Follow (#82)
2. Lord I Need You (#59)

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 1:27-30

1. The word 'conduct' in the Greek is unique and it conveys the idea of "living out ones citizenship". Paul is saying that our behavior should flow out of our identity as "citizens of heaven" here on earth. Why is it important to start with the idea of our identity rather than with the idea of our behavior?
2. What conduct is worthy of the gospel (v. 27)?
3. How would you apply the call to unity in verse 27 to our church or to your cell group? What would have to change in you to make such unity possible?

4. Try to rephrase verse 28 in your own words. What is Paul saying here?
5. The language of verse 29 conveys the idea that suffering for Christ is given to the Christian as a gracious gift. Why and how is suffering a benefit granted by God?
6. What is the “Big Idea” of this passage? What is the central lesson?
7. How can you personally apply this passage to your life in some way this next week?

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 in the group, also spend time praying this week for Christians in other parts of the world who are undergoing very real persecution at this hour.

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)