

Sunday's Theme – Philippians 3:1-11 – “What I Really Want!”

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: Thinking back to high school, were you ever voted a “class prophesy” (i.e. “most likely to succeed?”). If so, what was it? If not, what would you have voted for yourself? Most like to ___?

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:

- Galatians 2:20-21

Song ideas to use:

1. Consuming Fire (#62)
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 Phil. 3:1-6 (Paul's heritage and credentials)

1. What would your List look like, what would you include? (For example, Baptized in the Lutheran Church when I was 2 months old, etc.)

Read Phil. 3:7-9

2. What is the significance of Paul calling all that good stuff, Garbage?

Read Phil. 3:10-11

Read the Following as a Transition Into the Prayer Component

Phillips' translation, Letters to Young Churches, translates v. 10 like this:

“How changed are my ambitions. Now I long to know Christ and the power shown by His Resurrection; now I long to share His sufferings, even to die as he died, so that I may perhaps attain, as He did, the resurrection from the dead.”

Lloyd John Ogilvie (pastor, teacher, author), writes, in his book, Let God Love You, about his reaction to the above translation: (page 106).

“So many of the impelling ambitions of our lives, like mine as I began my ministry, are laudable and worthy of praise. In our culture, getting ahead, advancing professionally, gaining recognition, acquiring the comfort stuff of life, rising to heights of popularity, are all fine goals which fire our ambition. For many of us Christ is added as a side loyalty. Our time, energy and money are spent on our true ambitions. We want Christ to help us get to our determined goals. He becomes a very necessary ingredient in success. We need him for strength, guidance and daily peace.”

“I had to honestly ask, ‘What is my primary ambition?’ I was deeply unsettled to realize that all my ambitions, however laudable, were self-generated and self-oriented. I made a covenant with the Lord that day to go through the prolonged and painful surgery of soul that would be necessary to experience as well as say that my only ambition was Christ himself.”

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.

Invite the group to break into groups of 2 or 3 for prayer. Ask them first to share with each other how they responded to the question given at the end of Pat's sermon on Sunday: “What do you need to dump so that knowing Christ can become your primary/only ambition?” After each of you share, take time to pray for each other.

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)