

Sunday's Theme – Mark 2 – “The Life Is in the Wine”

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 you were the Miss America, what would your message for aspiring models be?

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:

- Psalm 139:1-9, 23-24

Song ideas to use:

1. Lord I Need You (#59)
2. Good To Me (#28)

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.

To the Leader: As we go through this series in the book of Mark, there are a couple of routes you can go with the questions. You may opt to focus all discussion around the text that was preached on the previous Sunday, or you may want to allow for more focus on the parts of the chapter that were not touched upon in the message. Or you can try to do a little of both. I'll have questions below related to this week's sermon text, but also some general questions to allow for discussing the chapter in general. Your call which you use.

Read Mark 2:18-22

1. Why did John's disciples and the Pharisees fast? Jesus' disciples did not fast – what does that imply?

2. How do the three mini-parables (vv. 19-22) answer the question?
3. What is the new wine?
4. What are the old wineskins?
5. How has the “wine” of Jesus burst some of your “old wineskins”?
6. Where is the wine bursting out right now?

Mark 2 – General Discussion

1. Chapter 2 can be broken into four scenes. Which scene in chapter 2 had the biggest impact for you or left the biggest impression?
2. What questions did you have after reading this chapter?
3. What all did Jesus claim about himself in this chapter?
4. What did Jesus say to you through this chapter this week?

Mark 2 Summary

- Paralytic lowered through the roof, Jesus forgives his sins, then heals him
- Calling of Matthew, dinner with sinners and tax collectors
- Fasting and Jesus at the Bridegroom
- New wine in fresh skins
- Sabbath controversy, Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath

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 shared in the group, also pray for the new wine of Christ's presence, purpose and power to be at work in our church, in your cell group and in our lives.

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 or Sunday morning worship. Or you may want to spend this time planning your next outreach or servant evangelism project.

CLOSING & ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 minutes)