

Sunday's Theme – Mark 3 – “The Unforgivable Sin (and other fun things)”

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: Absolute favorite main course dinner food?

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 42

Song ideas to use:

1. As the Deer (#91)
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.

To the Leader: Mark chapter 3 is not a long chapter. Have different people in your group take turns reading through the chapter and then ask the questions below. Note that you don't need to stick to these questions. Use them to help get conversation started about the text, but be sensitive to how the Holy Spirit may guide your discussion and feel free to discard the rest of the questions if you are finding conversation about one particular part of the text to be bearing good fruit.

Read Mark 3

1. Why did the Pharisees decide to try to destroy Jesus? (v.6)

2. Why did Jesus tell the demons not to reveal that he was the Son of God? (v.12)
3. What do you think Jesus used as his criteria for picking the 12 disciples? (vv. 13-19)
4. Why did the family of Jesus think he was crazy? (v. 21)
5. Why is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit so serious that doing so eliminates your capacity to be forgiven? (vv. 22-30)
6. How can you be sure if you've committed this sin against the Holy Spirit or not?
7. What is the significance of vv. 31-35 as it relates to your relationship with Jesus and your relationship to those in your cell group?
8. What is one discovery that you can take from chapter 3 and apply to your life? [allow for time for folks to think about this one – you may even invite the group to reflect on the question for a few minutes before opening it up for discussion]

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)