

Sunday's Theme – Mark 9 – “Transfiguration Mountain”

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: Have you ever had what is called a “mountain top experience”? It could have been a time as a kid at a Christian camp or perhaps some other time in your life when God became real to you in a way you had never experienced before. (NOTE: This is a bit deeper than most of our ice breaker questions and could really lead to some meaningful sharing. If so, go with it and don't worry about getting to all the rest of the “meeting agenda”)

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:

- Note that the following Psalm is prophetic for the Messiah dying but ultimately rising again. Let it lead you into praising God and trusting His goodness even in the midst of distress and difficulties.
- Psalm 16:1-11

Song ideas to use:

1. Bless Be Your Name (#57)
2. Draw Me Close (#58)

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 Mark 9:1-10

1. That is the connection between 9:1 and this event?
2. What do you imagine this scene was like? What is the significance of Moses' and Elijah's presence? Of the voice (see 1:11)? Why would this be important for Jesus at this stage of his ministry? Why would it be important for the disciples?
3. Why did Jesus take the three if he didn't want them to tell anyone what happened (see also 8:32)?
4. What spot for you is most like the Mount of Transfiguration – where you grasped a bit of Jesus' glory in a special way?
5. In the sermon on Sunday, Peter listed three possible application points. Which of the following application points from this text do you most resonate with at the moment:
 - a. Like Moses and Elijah, you may have felt (or feel) like you've been "put on the shelf" in some way and you need to hear that "no, you have not been shelved – God has a plan and purpose for you both in this life and in the life to come."
 - b. You are going through a difficult time and, like Jesus, you need to hear the Father speak to you, "You are my child, my son or daughter, and I love you."
 - c. You need to know that, like God used a very ordinary fisherman like Peter in extraordinary ways, that God wants to use you in significant ways and to reveal things to you.

(NOTE: Questions 1-4 are taken directly from the Serendipity Bible)

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 one another that you would each grow in confidence that God can use you, grow in security that you are a loved child of God and grow in hope that the best is yet to come.

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. Encourage your group members to be on the lookout for visitors at church and to take steps to get to know them in order to eventually invite them to your cell group.

CLOSING & ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 minutes)