

Sunday's Theme – 1 Peter 1:3-9 – "How Trials Refine Our Faith"

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: What's the worst storm or disaster you have ever been in?

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:

- 1 Peter 1:1-2 (but substitute "Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula and Tacoma" for all the place names)

Song ideas to use:

1. Refiners Fire (#23)
2. Faithful One (#60)

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.

Note: The context of this passage is people going through suffering and persecution

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

1. Does knowing that you have a secure inheritance in heaven waiting for you bring you comfort and strength when going through difficult times? Why or why not?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7

2. When have you felt your faith “tested” or “refined by fire”?

Read 1 Peter 1:8-9

3. Have you ever experienced grief over a circumstance and the joy of the Lord at the same time?

4. Are there any difficult circumstances you are currently going through that we as a group could gather around you and pray for you that God would bring you this “inexpressible joy” even in the midst of the trial? [If any responds, allow this question to lead into your prayer time]

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.

If anyone responded to question 4 above, take turns gathering around those requesting prayer and praying for them. If no one responded, still encourage prayer ministry during this time. Ask if there are those who would simply like to experience a deeper level of joy and then gather around and take turns praying for one another that the Holy Spirit would fill each of you and bring forth all the fruits of the Spirit (including joy).

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)