

This Weeks Theme – “Forgiveness” – Matthew 18:21-35

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 (15 minutes):

The purpose of this time is to “check in” and share life with one another. Typically you can simply go around the group and have everyone share a high and a low of the week. Sometimes, if a deep struggle is shared by someone, you may want to go directly from this time into prayer for the person. Also, if you have guests, you may opt to just do a fun icebreaker for this portion of the meeting instead.

Gathering Question: Share a high point and a low point of your summer

WORSHIP (10 minutes):

The purpose of this time is to invite the presence of Jesus into your gathering. You may want to begin this time by lighting a candle as a symbol that you are inviting the real presence of Jesus, the Light of the World, into the midst of your group and then to play or sing a worship song or two. If you just play a song, invite everyone to close their eyes and reflect on the words and/or focus on Jesus. Afterward, have someone pray a prayer acknowledging the presence of Jesus in your midst and asking Him to guide the rest of your meeting time. An example prayer is listed below, but feel free to use your own words.

Prayer: “Lord Jesus, we welcome you here. We love you Lord and we ask you to speak to us during our time together. Speak to us through your Word and by your Spirit. We trust you and we submit our lives to you. Thank you for your passionate love for us. Help us to grow to know you better. Amen.”

WORD (15 minutes):

The purpose of this time is not for Bible *study* but Bible *application*. Also we want to be learning to discern the voice of the Spirit coming to us in “real time” through the written Word. Each week a Scripture passage will be listed below. The following are two ideas for how to facilitate the Word time.

- **Option One:** Simply read the passage and then ask three questions. What questions do you have about this passage? What jumped out at you from the passage or left an impression? How does Jesus want us to apply this passage to our lives this week?
- **Option Two:** Use the lectio divina method – see example here: www.ohcgh.com/lectio.

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

PRAYER (15 minutes):

The purpose of this time is to minister to one another through the power of prayer. Break up into groups of 3 or 4 and take turns sharing personal prayer needs and praying for one another. If a person does not have any prayer needs to share, you can still gather around them and pray simple prayers of blessing or ask God to direct you in how to pray for them. Especially if you have guests, make sure everyone knows that they do not have to pray if they are not comfortable doing so. Sometimes we will facilitate special directed prayer during this time. If so, instructions will be listed below.

Prayer Focus: No special prayer instructions this week

VISION (5 minutes):

The purpose of this time is to remind the group of our core values and vision as a church and as a cell group and to also help keep an outward focus for the group. Each week a different vision component will be listed below. Sometimes this will come in the form of something you can read at the end of your gathering. Other times a link to a web video may be supplied which you can watch together as you close out your meeting time.

Vision Focus: Cell Group Multiplication

An extremely important part of the vision for cell groups is that the cell group should grow, not only in maturity, but numerically by bringing others to faith in Jesus or by inviting new attenders at One Hope into our small group community. Typically, once a cell group reaches 12-16 or so adults (plus kids) it's time to plant a new cell group. There is no time pressure on how quickly this should happen, but we do see the general principle in play here that "healthy things grow". The purpose of a cell is not to perpetuate itself, but to reproduce itself. Consider it in this way: If you have had any benefit from your group, don't you wish that others could also benefit? Part of the reason that we receive so much in our groups is that they are small and intimate and no one gets left out. In order to stay small, and yet fulfill our purpose as a church to bring more people to Jesus, we need to multiply once our groups get to that 12-16 person size.