

# CELL GROUP PLATFORM

## What is a Cell Group?

A cell group is an informal, non-threatening gathering of 4-12 people, led by trained lay-leaders. Cells meet in one another's homes for up to 90 minutes each week on a day and time agreed by all cell attendees. The ultimate purpose is to reach our world for Christ. This is done by building relationships within the group, caring for and encouraging one another in our spiritual growth, learning together what the Bible is saying to us and by reaching out to those outside the cell group.

## Cell Distinctives

Cell groups are not Bible studies or fellowship groups. The following are particular differences that distinguish them from other small groups:

- Cells meet for up to 90 minutes maximum each time they meet.
- They encompass a self-learning form of 'Biblical study'. Everyone learns from what scripture is saying together. There is no teacher, only a 'facilitator' who keeps discussion flowing and Biblically based.
- The size of a cell is between 4 and 12 members. Once it passes that number it reorganises into 2 groups.
- The purpose is multiplication, so groups know ahead of time that they're not meant to stay together forever (so as not to allow cliques). Groups will change in some way about every 2 years.
- Open sharing is important. The environment must be supportive, comfortable and confidential for all to share about their good and not so good times.
- Cells consist of prayer & worship, study of the Bible, sharing and fellowship.
- Growth and outreach are major focuses. New members are always allowed and encouraged to attend cells. Cells are never closed to new members.

Certain small groups may come about that will only be open to certain individuals; these will not be regular cells, but instead small groups with a particular focus.

## **Cell Guidelines**

- Be Confidential
- Make it a point not to pass on information shared in the group with another individual outside the group
- Do not share information about a person not present without their consent
- Be sensitive
- Be aware of limited time when you're speaking: don't talk too much
- Be careful not to interrupt when others are sharing
- Keep your words kind
- Don't problem-solve

### **THE FIVE W'S OF CELL GROUPS**

#### **1. WELCOME TIME: (15min)**

##### **FOCUS: ONE ANOTHER**

**AIM:** Building relationships within the group

The WELCOME TIME is an ice-breaker that gets the group sharing with each other. It needs to be able to be answered by anyone without requiring a lot of trust or intimacy. It should be a simple question that can be answered in one minute or so. The purpose is to build community in the group.

#### **2. WORSHIP TIME: (10min)**

##### **FOCUS: US TO GOD**

**AIM:** To focus our attention as individuals and as a group on the presence of the Lord Jesus.

The WORSHIP TIME is meant to focus the hearts of the group away from themselves and unto God. This is often, but not exclusively done through singing worship songs. Worship is a chance for us to reflect on who God is and to speak truth about Him to each other. WORSHIP TIME can be spent in a wide variety of ways, but keep 2 things in mind:

1. each person must be able to participate
2. the focus must be on the Lord Jesus

#### **3. WORD TIME: (40min)**

##### **FOCUS: GOD TO US**

**AIM:** Allow God to minister to us as we read His word

The WORD TIME is based on a Biblical passage of scripture. The goal is not Bible study or philosophical discussion, but instead a time where group members learn together what the Bible is teaching, as well as open up and share about their personal spiritual journeys.

#### **4. WITNESS TIME: (15min)**

**FOCUS: GOD TO OTHERS THROUGH US**

**AIM:** Allow God to reach and minister to others outside this group through us

The WITNESS TIME is a time focusing on reaching others with the gospel of Christ. This includes a time of prayer with an expectation that God is going to use us to reach our community for Him. Along with a time of prayer, the group can spend time together creating strategies to reach those who do not know Christ. Taking responsibility for one another's friends and family members by creating special social or outreach events – 'Miracle Catches'. This time is essential to the dynamics of the group, making growth and multiplication the normal expectation.

#### **5. WORK TIME: (10min)**

**FOCUS: WEEKLY ACTION**

**AIM:** Mobilising the group to regular weekly actions and accountability

The WORK TIME is about assigning actions to be carried out throughout the week until the next meeting. Planning without action and accountability can lead to procrastination. Therefore having an action plan and keeping each other accountable to ensuring things get done will enable results to be experienced. Remember the Cell group is for the spiritual, mental and physical harmony.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF FACILITATORS**

- Must have a loving, consistent relationship with God
- Will be acquainted with the questions being studied and the general direction of the weekly meeting
- Must commit to pray for the cell and its members
- Will *NOT* dominate or teach the cell. Instead, their job is to guide and gently lead the discussion of the cell in a Biblical and flowing way

- As well, they will help deal with any problems that may arise within the cell
- Will undertake any administrative duties on behalf of the cell and feedback to the quarterly cell leaders meeting
- Will attend quarterly cell leaders meetings

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOSTS**

- Provide a home or adequate space for a weekly 90 minute meeting
- Will be available for quarterly meeting with cell groups coordinator
- May provide hospitality and or delegate for the cell members to contribute to catering.

The facilitator, host and one other cell member (someone being equipped to be a facilitator) will form the Triad leadership for that cell and when the cell is ready to multiply will ensure the new cell has a triad leadership group to launch their cell.