

Welcome to the Fusion Starter Pack!

As you prepare for your cell session, here are a few reminders and thoughts for the cell group facilitator...

Keep cell goals and values at the forefront of your cell's focus.

Cell Goals: Loving God, Loving one another, Loving those who don't know Him

Cell Values: Jesus at the center, Every member in ministry, Every member to maturity, Cells that multiply, Cells are communities, Cells are safe places

Cell Structure:

The **four W's** are a helpful way of keeping the cell session on track. Welcome, Worship, Word and Witness describe the four parts and are interchangeable in sequence and time.

The **'what now?'** section at the end of each cell lesson provides a hands-on application/challenge to leave your cell members with at the end of a cell session.

The **Fusion cell notes** provide more than enough information to cover in one cell session. You are under no compulsion to use all of it or cover every scripture/question. In prepping for your session, use these notes as your foundation, but make adjustments according to your cell time frames, your cell members' individual growth and maturity in the Lord, and according to where the cell is in its cell cycle.

You may find it helpful to create and **hand out a 'modified Cell Notes' page to each cell member** at the beginning of a session. By creating a 'Cell Notes' page, you allow everyone an opportunity follow along and take notes during the meeting and you can pass on information that may be tough to communicate verbally. (Refer to the samples provided in your starter pack.)

Since the cell will contain people from **diverse Christian backgrounds** and people at **different levels of maturity** in their walk with the Lord, it is important when conducting the cell session, that everyone be allowed to be him or herself (especially in the area of prayer). Though the goal is for everyone to contribute and be involved, be sensitive to **a cell member who may be new in the Lord** or has yet to make a full commitment to the Lord. Make adjustments as are necessary without compromising the overall cell goals and values.

As you go through this material, please remember to have **wisdom over female/male relationships**. We want to encourage loving, trusting and open friendships, but there need to be appropriate guidelines in the group. Smaller group sharing is probably better done in single sexes (i.e. women in one group and men in another) and praying should always be men for men and women for women, or mixed, but not a man for a woman or vice versa!)

In keeping the cell values central to cell life, as new individuals join your group later in the semester, have them work through the **Starter Pack one-on-one modules** with a cell member outside the weekly cell session.

Cell Community:

Cell life does not revolve around cell sessions alone. It is extremely important that you are developing a cell that lives on friendship and evangelism. Incorporate family events and friendship events into your cell calendar and occasionally do something more "outward looking" in lieu of or at the end of the weekly cell session.

Prayer is evangelism and is key for living out the value of multiplication. Do not allow it to become an "if we have time at the end" part of the weekly cell meeting.

Pray daily for your cell members.

jesus

introduction

FACILITATOR: Welcome to the Fusion material for your cells. As you can see, we are kicking straight off with Jesus. As our cell starts to meet it is so important right from the start that we understand the basics of being a Christian - who Jesus is, what he has done for us and how that affects our lives. These first four cell meetings, therefore, - our first 'four pack'!- are key for laying foundations in the lives of our cell members.

This first meeting's material looks at the incarnational Jesus as he lived on the earth. The aim of the material is to gain some understanding of what it means for Jesus to be human; to learn more about how he lived his life and to be inspired by him for ourselves as we aim to be Jesus in the student world.

1: who is Jesus? – his humanity

welcome

FACILITATOR: Spend some time introducing people to one another while everyone enjoy some refreshments. Make people feel comfortable and relaxed. Then get the group to pair up with someone they do not know well. Ask them to find out three things about their partner (as serious or as funny as they like) and then ask them to introduce each other back into the wider group.

worship

FACILITATOR: Go around the group asking everyone to describe in two words, who Jesus is to him today. After everyone responds, take time for everyone to pray based on what each person said, praising and worshipping God for who he is and for his ability to minister to each one of us individually. (example...Jesus is forgiveness, joy, salvation, compassion, friend, strength...)

witness

FACILITATOR: This is your first witness section together as cell. Later on it will be usual for you to spend this time praying for your non-Christian friends. But for this week, spend time as a group looking at some scriptures that show God's heart for the lost (i.e. Luke 15:18-24, Luke 19:10). It is vital that each cell member owns the value of 'cells that multiply'. After looking up the scriptures, ask the following questions to the group.

CELL: From what we've read, what would God like us to do in this group?
Why is it important to reach out to friends who don't know Jesus?
How should we look at the lost around us?

word

FACILITATOR: Try to use the following passage and question as an initial discussion starter, for about five minutes or so, to look at what it actually means that Jesus became a human and what the implications are of this. (You might like to tell everyone that the word translated "made his dwelling" is literally "tabernacled": he "pitched his tent" among us.)

CELL: Read John 1: 1-18 and Hebrews 4: 14-16.

John 1: 14 says, "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." What does this mean?

FACILITATOR: Have a large piece of paper ready. Divide it down the middle into two columns and title the first column, "Jesus' humanity" and the second, "Jesus' Lordship". As a group, make a list of things that describe Jesus when he lived on the earth - brainstorm as many descriptions as you can think of! Examples can be things such as loving, homeless, great teacher, tempted, etc. Keep the paper for next week when you can fill in the other column.

Break the group into pairs and imagine if you were trying to explain to someone who had never heard of Jesus about how he was human. Have the smaller groups spend 10–15 minutes writing down analogies or references from the Bible that you could use in your explanation.

Come back together as a group and work through the following:

CELL: Hebrews 4: 15 says that Jesus “has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin.”

- What does Jesus’ humanity mean to us personally?
- What are the implications for us?

Jesus has experienced everything that we are going through. Therefore we are able to have an intimate relationship with him.

FACILITATOR: *Ask the cell how they feel their relationship with Jesus is at the moment using the following illustration... (as the facilitator be sure to take note of each person’s response so you will better know how to pray and encourage your cell members.)*

If your relationship with Jesus was paralleled to a child playing on a playground, which one of the following would describe where your relationship with Jesus is at this moment and why?

- a. The scared child sliding down the slide for the first time.
- b. The child struggling to cross the monkey bars.
- c. The excited child playing tag with others.
- d. The sad child slouched by a tree not playing at all.
- e. The child triumphantly sitting at the top of the monkey bars.
- f. The happy child swinging as high as possible.
- g. Other

Based on the individual responses, take the opportunity to pray for each other. Jesus is the model for our lives, this comes through a relationship with him. Ask forgiveness for when we have not lived with this in mind.

Finish this section by thanking Jesus for everything we have learned about him and asking for strength to help us live like him.

what now?

CELL: From this initial cell meeting, it will most likely be very evident that Jesus is ministering to each person in a variety of ways. Take time this week to send a note or make a phone call to a fellow cell member simply to encourage the individual in his walk with the Lord or to pray with him.

Memorize Luke 19:10.

2: who is Jesus? – his lordship

introduction

FACILITATOR: *In this second cell on Jesus we look at the flip-side to last week – Jesus' lordship. The aim again is to come to an understanding as to what this means and then, from there, to look at the implications that this has for our own lives. In this meeting we will do the worship section after the word.*

welcome

FACILITATOR: *Pass out a piece of paper and a pen to each person. Have each person print their name vertically from top to bottom on the page. After each letter, have each person write a descriptive phrase about themselves that begins with that letter of their name. Share it with the cell.*

(example:) B – Braves baseball fan
 I - Indecisive at times
 L – Loves ice cream
 L – Lives in Georgia

word

CELL: Read Matthew 16: 13-20.

Last week we looked at Jesus' humanity. In this episode, Peter recognizes that there is more to Jesus than just this. What does Peter's answer mean?

(FACILITATOR: *This lifts Jesus out of the realm of being only human and starts to indicate his divinity. The word 'Christ' is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word 'Messiah' (meaning anointed) and points to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament hope. Again, use this question as an initial discussion starter.)*

CELL: Read Colossians 1: 15-20.

FACILITATOR: *Have your piece of paper with the two columns on it from last week ready. Take about fifteen minutes to go through this passage, verse by verse, discussing what it means. Really probe people deeply - do not let them get away with pat answers and jargon. What is this passage really saying about Jesus? As you discuss, write down under the heading "Jesus' lordship" all the key words that describe Jesus (ex. Image of God, Creator etc.).*

Have the piece of paper so that everyone can see it. Give everyone a minute to look at it. Ask the cell the following questions and then read Colossians 3:17 and discuss.

CELL: Now that we have a fuller picture of who Jesus is...

- What does he mean to us personally?
- What response do we want to make to him?

Read Colossians 3:17.

Are there any areas of our lives that we need to make him Lord over?

FACILITATOR: *There may be some people who have never fully recognized Jesus' lordship and want to do that now. As the group talks, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. There may be people who want to be led through a prayer acknowledging Jesus' lordship over their lives and who want to commit themselves to him. Don't be afraid to do this! Also, encourage people not to internalize their thoughts, but to speak them out loud to the group, however vulnerable this might make them feel. As people are open, community will be built so that we can support and help each other grow in God while in the student environment. Take time to pray for each other.*

worship

FACILITATOR: *After looking at the lordship of Jesus, what else can we do except spend some time worshipping him?! Use the different things that people have said and written down to spend these twenty minutes praising Jesus for who he is.*

witness

FACILITATOR: *Last week we identified key verses that show God's heart for the lost. Spend time this week to brainstorm and come up with a purpose statement, slogan or phrase that sums up the cell's desire to do evangelism out of this group. (Keep the statement or slogan simple and something that can be used constantly to remind the group of this desire to see our friends and communities won to Christ.)*

what now?

CELL: Take time this week to commit Colossians 3:17 to memory. As you hide God's word in your heart, pray and ask the Lord to reveal any specific areas you have not made him Lord over. As he reveals areas to you, take time to repent and ask for his forgiveness and then commit the areas to him as Lord.

3: what has Jesus done for us?

introduction

FACILITATOR: Here we get to the center of Christianity. This cell meeting focuses on the gospel message - the problem with humanity and God's solution through Jesus. Our first objective is to ensure that everyone knows and understands the basics of the gospel. Our second is to move beyond understanding to application and response in our lives.

welcome

FACILITATOR: Last week everyone was encouraged to memorize Colossians 3:17. Ask for volunteers to recite it from memory. (Maybe consider having a small "reward" (candy, etc.) for those who know the verse!)

worship

FACILITATOR: Take time as a group to pray and worship God using Colossians 3:16-17 as a "launching pad". Having an attitude of thankfulness toward God, encourage everyone to be specific in giving thanks.

word

FACILITATOR: As a group, discuss the following:

CELL: An explanation of what Jesus has done for us would contain these elements:

- the problem with humanity, our selfishness, living for ourselves (Romans 1: 21-23)
- why Jesus came into the world and died for us, what happened on the cross (2 Corinthians 5: 21; 1 Timothy 1:15; Romans 5: 18-19)
- what his resurrection achieved (Colossians 2:15; 1Corinthians 15: 12-19)
- the implications for us, how we should respond to him and live as we are waiting for him to return (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; most of Romans 6-8!)

Imagine as a group you have been asked to explain all of this to someone who has never heard it before. Go through each point (spend a five or so minutes on each) discussing what you would say, using different Bible verses.

FACILITATOR: Remember there may well be people in your group who do not have a clear understanding of what Jesus has done for them so keep checking that everyone is understanding what is being said. In addition there is a danger here that those who have been Christians a long time will dominate the discussion or speak so much "Christianese" that people won't understand, so make sure that everyone is taking part and that the terminology is understandable. A few Bible verses have been given at the end of each point in case you need help, but there are lots more as well to find! As people speak, make notes on what is said and then feed back at the end, giving a summary of the gospel message. It would be good at this point to move away from the theoretical and make it more personal.

FACILITATOR: Ask a couple of people if they would briefly share how they became Christians - maybe start off with yourself to set the tone.

CELL: Read Luke 14: 15-24.

Using this parable, discuss the following:

- What are some of the things that can stop us living for Jesus?
- How does this apply to the student world?
- The question God is asking us is 'who are we living for?'
- Is there anything in our lives that is in the way of our living for God?

FACILITATOR: Give the group a few moments to reflect and then ask people to share. It is important when asking people such personal questions to remind one another that the cell exists to support and help each other and build community. Therefore, encourage the cell members to be open and not to worry about what others will think of them if they share a weakness. As always, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and be aware of

any needs or difficulties that are being expressed. Be prepared to get the group praying for the cell members who open up about such things.

witness

FACILITATOR: *Review the slogan or statement the group came up with last week. Continue to use this phrase as a reminder to the members of the cell's desire to do evangelism out of this group.*

Spend the next couple of weeks praying more broadly for your college. Encourage everyone to be intentional during this time of prayer.

CELL: *Identify five key issues on our college campus (i.e. pride, apathy, spiritual poverty, etc.) and pray for them.*

what now?

FACILITATOR: *Certain cell members may have shared how they became Christians earlier in the lesson. Encourage everyone in the group to take time this week to **write out** how they became a Christian. Recommend that this be something they could share verbally in 2 minutes or less explaining that many times when there is an opportunity to share with someone we may only have 2 - 5 minutes (ie. before or after class) and it is important that we prepare ourselves to be ready to share with intention and purpose, skipping unnecessary details.*

If they need help getting started, recommend that they ask themselves questions like...

-What was I like before I asked Jesus to be my Savior?

-Why did I ask Jesus to be my Lord and Savior?

-What did I learn that made me realize I needed the Lord's forgiveness and salvation?

-How has my life changed since making Jesus my Lord and Savior?

4: living for Jesus – our response

introduction

FACILITATOR: *This is the final material in our ‘four-pack’ on Jesus. By now we should have a good understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done for us. We want to finish by looking further at the implications that this has for our lives and what our response should be. The issues that we are looking at in the word section provide plenty of opportunity for praying for one another so do be aware of any needs or issues that are arising and be prepared to stop the discussion to pray for someone, or remember what is happening and pray for specific people at the end.*

welcome

FACILITATOR: *Last week everyone was challenged to write out their testimonies explaining how they became Christians. Ask for two volunteers to share their testimonies in two minutes or less.*

worship

FACILITATOR: *Use the latest worship music on cd/tape to worship God. Either spend time listening and reflecting on one song, or choose a few songs that can be linked together. Photocopy the lyrics so that everyone has access to them and discuss them prior to playing the song. Encourage the cell to relax and come into the presence of God. Ask them to focus on the words and their meaning. Play through the songs a couple of times. Then go around and ask what God has been speaking to them about in this time. Pray through these things.*

witness

FACILITATOR: *Pray again this week more broadly for your college. Encourage everyone to be intentional during this time of prayer.*

CELL: Last week you identified five key issues on the college campus (ie. pride, apathy, spiritual poverty etc). Pray again as a group for these specific areas.

word

FACILITATOR: *Take a few moments to review the progression of the past 3 cell meetings. Remind everyone that we have looked at Jesus’ humanity, his lordship, and what he has done for us. Introduce that we will now be focusing on our response to Jesus.*

Split the cell into four groups and assign one of the following areas to each group. Have them spend time discussing the passage of scripture and the questions posed to them as college students. After ample time, regroup and have each group in order share in brief a summary of their discussion. (If your cell is relatively small, you may opt to stay together as one big group and work through each of these sections together.)

Group 1: Luke 14: 25-35 – SACRIFICE

Before we look at anything else, we need to realize that the Christian life involves sacrifice. Discuss the passage using these questions:

- What does v.26 mean?
- Are we to take v.26 literally? If not, why not?
- How does this compare with v.33 and Matthew 19: 21? What do these verses mean?
- If we say that these are not to be taken literally, are we copping out of a radical lifestyle and bending what Jesus has said in order to suit ourselves?
- Have you considered the cost of being a disciple of Jesus?
- What sacrifices will you need to make as a student?
- Most importantly, God will call many of us to live sacrificial lives when we leave college. In what ways may this happen? What can we learn from this discussion that will help us when we leave college?

Group 2: Ephesians 1:3 – BLESSING

Along with the sacrifices come the privileges.

Discuss what it means to be 'blessed with every spiritual blessing'. What are the blessings that we receive as Christians? Make a list and try to come up with Bible verses for everything that is said. Of the things we have been talking about. Is there anything that you feel you lack or struggle with?

Group 3: Romans 6: 11-14 - LIFESTYLE

God is calling us to a radical lifestyle that will stand out in college as of a different quality to others.

- What does it mean to live a radical lifestyle in college?
- Is there more to being a Christian student than just not getting drunk and sleeping with your partner or working hard to get a good job?
- Repentance is an important part of responding to God - are there any areas in your life that you need to repent of and change?

Group 4: Matthew 25: 31-46 – SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Discuss that as followers of Jesus we are becoming increasingly aware that being a Christian does not just mean an individualized walk with God, personal holiness and regular quiet times. As Christians in the western world we cannot ignore the fact that the majority of the world's population does not live like us. This means more than just helping people out (as important as that is) - we have to become aware of the larger issues and of our social and global responsibilities.

- Do you agree? Why? Read Isaiah 58:6-10.
- How can we outwork this Matt. 25 passage in our own lives as students?
- There is a saying, "if you're not a part of the solution, you're a part of the problem." Are you aware of how you are a part of the global problem?
- Do you know how you can start being a part of the solution?
- How can you find out?

what now?

CELL: Pray and ask the Lord to open a door for you to share your testimony with one person this week... maybe a co-worker, fellow student or friend.