

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.

core values

introduction

FACILITATOR: *Welcome to the first cell outline on evangelism. This is designed to give a broad introduction to the subject as one of the core values of cell life, along with the other material that you have on worship, relationships and the marketplace.*

Later on you will be able to look a lot more in-depth at evangelism as we will be providing two "four packs" for you to go through, with material on God's heart for the lost; barriers to evangelism; the gospel and how to communicate it; living and relational evangelism; post-modernity; being culturally relevant; social responsibility and world mission.

For now, however, what you have here is an overview, to get evangelism on the agenda of the group, right at its heart. Evangelism is the primary reason for the existence of your cell and so it is important to spend some time looking at what it means and what we can do. The final aim for this material is that, by the end of the cell meeting, as a group you will have some very specific and concrete ideas for what you are going to do. Make this meeting a time of motivation, helping people to see that evangelism is possible and that we are going to do it!

1: core values – evangelism (cells that multiply)

welcome

FACILITATOR: *Go around the group and ask each person to complete this sentence: When it comes to stepping out into the unknown, I tend to be _____.*

worship

FACILITATOR: *Have a big sheet of paper ready. Spend five minutes as a group answering the question, 'Who is Jesus?' and then another five minutes answering the question, 'What does Jesus do today?'. Write the answers on the paper and try to include Bible verses. Spend the remaining ten minutes praying and worshipping Jesus for the things that you have written down.*

word

FACILITATOR: *Go around and ask each person to give a one-sentence definition of evangelism. Continue by working through the following passages together and discussing the questions posed following each one.*

CELL: Read Matthew 28:16-20.

- Who is this command given to?
(ex. First to the disciples, but then also to all of us so that evangelism is not just for an exclusive elite group of people called 'evangelists', but is for all of us.)
- What is the link between Jesus' authority and his command to us? What are the implications for us?
- What are disciples? What does it mean to 'make disciples'?
- What is the difference between making converts and making disciples and how can we incorporate what we are saying into our group?

Read Matthew 5:13-16.

FACILITATOR: *When looking at these questions, try not to let people use jargon or come out with pat answers. This passage has often been looked at so much, yet the impact is still missed – don't let people get away with the usual stuff!*

CELL: Discuss at length the picture imagery of 'salt' and, separately, of 'light'.

-What does each of these mean?

-What does it mean for 'salt to lose its saltiness' and for a light to be 'put under a bowl'?

-What does this mean for us today? How, literally, in our college setting do we sometimes 'lose our saltiness' and 'hide our light under a bowl'?

The sentiments of this passage can, perhaps, best be summed up by St. Francis of Assisi's words: "At all times preach the gospel; if necessary use words".

-What does this mean for us today in college?

FACILITATOR: *Spend the last fifteen minutes looking practically at how you can put into practice what you have discussed this meeting: Identify the different networks that each person has (ex. people they sit next to in class, people they work with, next door neighbor in the dorms, etc.).*

In what ways can you be 'salt and light' in your college, both as a group and individually? Be careful you don't just discuss this and then do nothing about it - what have you decided to do?!

What goals do you have as a cell?

Set 3 specific targets for the next month/term/year regarding how you want to see the cell grow and your friends become Christians.

As part of your goal setting as a cell, put a date on next month's calendar to host a friendship event as a cell.

Before moving onto the witness section, ask everyone, what the key value is from this meeting that we want to take away with us?

witness

FACILITATOR: *Has your group established a slogan or purpose statement that sums up the cell's desire to do evangelism out of this group? Does everyone in the group know it?!!!!*

Ask how many in the group became Christians through a friend? Statistics tell us that around 70% of Christians became so through a friend. What is the significance of this? It is clear therefore that 'friendship evangelism' is key. Ask each person what different networks of friends are open to them and discuss that as a cell, friendship events are one way we can each reach out to our non-Christian friends.

Break the cell into groups of 3 and explain the triad prayer model that you will be using as a group during these "core values" cell lessons. (You may decide to use this model at other times throughout the semester also.)

CELL: Triad Prayer

-In your groups of 3, each person identifies 3 non-Christians that you will commit to pray for.

-Commit to each other that you will pray one minute per day for all the names you have listed as a group. (9 names = 9 minutes per day you will each be praying.)

-Also commit as a threesome to join together one time per week for about 20 minutes to pray for the nine people. (For this particular cell packet, this will be done as part of your weekly cell group.)

-After 30 days, invite one or all of those you've been praying for to a friendship event.

FACILITATOR: *If you have people in the cell not comfortable with or not desiring to commit to a triad prayer group, have those individuals pray for the campus each week while the triad prayer groups pray.*

what now?

CELL: Continue to pray each day for the next week for those on your triad prayer list. Provided your threesome listed 3 names each, you are committing to pray a total of 9 minutes per day (1 minute each person).

2: core values–relationships (cells are communities)

introduction

FACILITATOR: Relationships are of primary importance to God. We see this by the way God himself works in intimate, interdependent relationships within the Trinity. We are created in the image of God and are designed to operate in a similar level of relationship to each other. Christianity is much more than a personal, individual response to God. The fullest and most biblical expression of our faith is experienced through being part of a community of believers.

Jesus gave us this model to follow of sharing lives, serving each other, building each other up, discipling each other and loving each other. In Acts 2:42-47, we see that the disciples knew what to do when Jesus was no longer with them. They imitated how Jesus had lived with them – a shared lifestyle of loving God and loving each other. It is often the quality of our relationships that says most about who God is and what he is like. The distinctions in relationships between Christians are one of the most vivid demonstrations of Jesus in the student environment.

(FACILITATOR: 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!)

welcome

CELL: Game --Team Tie-up

As a group, stand in a circle, shoulder to shoulder, looking inwards. Everyone take their right hand and grab the right hand of someone across the circle (not the person right next to you). Next take your left hand and grab the hand of another person across the circle (not the same person as before and not some one immediately next to you). From this position, it will be possible, without letting go of anyone's hand (by stepping over legs and under arms) to get back into a circle where everyone is holding hands with the people next to them. See how long it takes you!

FACILITATOR: After the game, briefly review the targets and goals you established as a group last week including the date for the friendship event scheduled for next month. Consider having these goals and targets typed ahead of time and ready to hand out to everyone.

worship/witness

CELL: Break into the same triad prayer groups from last week and spend approximately 20 minutes praying for those individuals you listed last week. As you pray, also take time to praise and worship God for each person and for the work the Lord wants to do in each of their lives.

FACILITATOR: For those individuals who did not commit to a triad prayer group, have them gather together and pray for the campus at large.

word

CELL: As a group, look through Romans 12. Write down all the commands you can find that involve others, then discuss the following:

What do we learn from this about the values that we need in order to build relationships both in our cells today and in our lives in the future?

Our Christian life should not be based on meetings but on relationships. How does a cell structure aid the building of relationships and the development of community?

FACILITATOR: Some ideas if you are getting stuck:

-Chance to spend time with a small group of people and really get to know them

- Share lives, easier to be open, honest and vulnerable
- Provides support and care through hard times
- Look at each other, not the back of someone's head
- Pray for each other
- Develop in gifting and confidence - safe environment to step out and do things for the first time
ex. Ice-breaker, worship, pray and prophecy
- Encouraging each other
- Hearing each others' contributions and perspectives
- Accountable in following Jesus 7 days a week

FACILITATOR: *Divide the group into single sex groups. Ask each person to share with the group his strengths and weaknesses in building good relationships. Encourage openness and honesty, asking who has been hurt in the past through relationships. This could be a very important time of building friendships in the group through people being honest and allowing others to see their weaknesses.*

Lead from this into praying for one another in your groups. Pray for each person based on what he shared. Encourage people not to be embarrassed, especially as there will be two groups of praying going on in the same room, but be bold as you pray for one another, asking the Holy Spirit to be working in each other's lives. Allow people to feel free as to how they pray, whether that is using prophetic words or reading out a scripture, or laying on of hands.

what now?

CELL: Take time this week to talk to your group facilitator about an area you can commit to being involved in based on the goals and targets you have established as a cell. (ex. Helping to plan the upcoming friendship event, assisting in any preliminary set up for the cell meetings, etc.)

Continue to pray each day for the next week for those on your triad prayer list.

3: core values – worship (*Jesus at the center*)

introduction

FACILITATOR: A suggestion for this session is that this word section is followed by the worship section in order to help the group with learning to worship together.

There will be a chance in later sessions to study further aspects of our worship in more detail.

Objectives

- Worship is a lifestyle*
- What happens when we worship together*
- Discussion of ideas of how to do this in the fusion cell*
- Using a structure to worship together and a chance to worship using this structure*
- Worship as part of evangelism*

CELL: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22: 37-40

The focus of the Fusion Cells is on these verses: our relationship with God, with each other and with our community. The aim of this session is to discover the importance of loving God with all our heart, soul and mind together as a group.

welcome

CELL: Name a part of creation that especially inspires you in your walk with the Lord. (ex. the awesomeness of the ocean, a quiet walk in the woods, looking at the stars on a clear night, etc.)

witness

CELL: Break into the same triad prayer groups and continue to spend time praying for each non-believer. Encourage everyone to be specific and intentional as they pray.

FACILITATOR: *For those individuals who did not commit to a triad prayer group, have them gather together and pray for the campus at large.*

worship/word

FACILITATOR: *As a group read the following passages then discuss and answer the questions.*

CELL: Read Romans 12:1.

Discuss a life of worship and what does this mean for us as Christians in the student world?
Name the different areas of our lives that are to be involved in our worship of God.
What is to be learned from this as to how we worship God when we have left college?
If true worship is about our whole lives honoring God, why do we have “worship times”?
What is special about coming together deliberately to worship God with music, prayer, etc.?

CELL: Read Matthew 18:20, Hebrews 10:19-25 and Psalm 133.

FACILITATOR: *All these passages are concerned with ongoing worship and fellowship but also with the event of being together for the purpose of worshipping God. The Hebrews and Psalm passages use imagery of the Old Testament high priest entering the presence of God. They indicate that the event of us coming together to worship is special in itself. It is a time of particular intimacy, cleansing and blessing.*

CELL: Discuss ways that, as a group you can worship together, in order that you experience the presence of God and actively give him love (singing, giving, serving, testimonies, liturgical prayers, caring, reflecting, prophesying, creating, exercising spiritual gifts etc.).

FACILITATOR: *One way of looking at an act of worship would contain these three elements:*

1. Re-enactment

Re-telling the story - what Jesus has done for us

2. Realization

Make it real now - what Jesus is doing for us

3. Anticipation

The future – what Jesus will do for us

CELL: Use the structure above to worship God together now:

1. Remind each other what Jesus has already done, by dying on the cross, rising from the dead and pouring out his Spirit on us. This could be done through looking at the gospels or praying or singing together. You don't need an instrument, but just be sincere in focusing on Jesus.
2. Share testimonies of present or recent activity of Jesus in your lives now. This could be an experience of Jesus that really changed your behavior or thoughts. It does not have to be perfect or complete; just the fact that you know that Jesus is working in you is enough to encourage one another to worship.
3. Look to the future. We should live in the anticipation of Christ's return. You could pray for one another that lives are lived in this anticipation. The psalmist anticipated that the whole earth would praise God. Focus together on the possibility of this in your own situation however remote or bizarre the concept seems at present! Pray that through your choosing to love God and love one another that your friends and colleagues will be drawn supernaturally into the presence of God.

FACILITATOR: *The verses in Psalm 133 anticipate that our unity and worship together will result in the presence of God with us which leads to his blessing of life for evermore. This blessing of fruitfulness is proclaimed all through the Bible as being for all peoples and all nations. People will be drawn to this blessing through our worship. Worshipping together, then, is an important part of evangelism. In the context of your worship, pray for the presence of God to be in your lives in such a way that those around you inherit God's blessing.*

what now?

CELL: Continue to pray daily for the 9 people on triad prayer list. Include meaningful vocal praise to God for what He wants to do in these lives.

4:core values–marketplace (every member to maturity)

introduction

FACILITATOR: *One of the core values of the Fusion Cells is that they are a place of equipping for us to live out our relationship with God in the heart of our world. It is vital that we take the gospel into the marketplace and not keep it within the confines of Christian meetings.*

Aim - To open our eyes to the possibility of living a full and holy life in the careers, cultures, and places where God has called us to live and work.

Objectives

- To see where Jesus and Paul spent their time and discuss the equivalent places in our society.
- To see God's love for the world and his desire that we love it too and are fully involved in it.
- To hear God's voice for our futures, and to put incarnation and love into practice now.

welcome

CELL: If money and time were not an issue, what is one thing you would do in service to God?

worship

FACILITATOR: *Get everyone to write a psalm of their own, expressing their feelings towards God. When they have been read out, ask people to share what struck them about different bits of other people's psalms. Then pray and worship into what has been said.*

witness

CELL: Break into the same triad prayer groups from last week and continue to spend about 20 minutes praying for each non-believer. Be specific and intentional as you pray.

FACILITATOR: *For those individuals who did not commit to a triad prayer group, have them gather together and pray for the campus at large.*

Also take time to finalize plans with everyone for the upcoming friendship event.

word

FACILITATOR: *Read and discuss the following passages together as a group.*

CELL: Review Matthew 5:13-16 from week 1 of this packet.

-Where will most people see our light and where will it have most effect?

-Where did Jesus and Paul spend their time?

FACILITATOR: *(ex. Synagogue, temple, lecture hall, marketplace, the beach, mountainside, at home, in jail, social gatherings, in the tax office etc.) These places, including the synagogues and temple, were not simply religious places, but places where people gathered, worked, discussed, exchanged ideas and socialized.*

-What are the equivalents of the marketplace and synagogue today?

-Where are issues debated where we can be salt to the flavor of decisions, philosophies, theories and trends of our society?

FACILITATOR: *(ex. the media, tv, radio, film, music, fashion, journalism, advertising, internet, politics, business, education)*

CELL: Read John 3:16 and 1Cor 5: 9-10.

-What is God's attitude towards our involvement with our world?

FACILITATOR: *The passionate love of Jesus and Paul took them not only to the disadvantaged and those without a voice; they also involved themselves in places of gathering, of influence, and strategy.*

Christians have often withdrawn from the world through fear and arrogance but a motivation of love drives out fear and should drive us right into the heart of our communities. Our attitude should be that we embrace the world with the same passion and energy that motivated Jesus.

FACILITATOR: *If time permits, as a group look briefly at the life of Daniel in the Old Testament who is a good example of one who was salt and light in a godless society. His work meant that he was fully involved with his culture and God blessed him in this work as he sought always to obey God and bring God's creative word to his. It is worth looking at his life to see how he coped and succeeded in his world.*

CELL: Pray for each other for the love of God that will drive you into the marketplace. Is God speaking now to any of you about your future work and your place in society? Pray that each other's gifts, skills and abilities can be anointed by God while at college for use in the places of gathering and influence.

what now?

CELL: Continue to pray for those on your triad prayer list. At the end of this week, take time to invite the 3 non-believers you know and have been praying for in your triad prayer group to the upcoming friendship event.