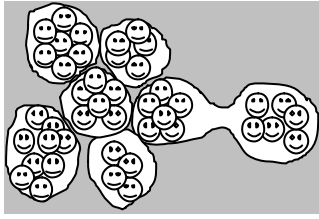


**Growing**



**Cell Church**



## Calling out Session 1

### **The Big Picture**

Before the Cell meeting please read through the Bible passage from Ephesians, over leaf.

#### **Welcome**

Have you ever been lost? What did it feel like? How did you find your way back?

#### **Worship:**

Jesus was the 'Light that came into the world' A light no darkness can quench.

Light a large candle and spend a short time individually reflecting quietly on what 'Jesus is the light of the world' means to you.

In open prayer give thanks to God for sending 'his only Son that whoever believes in him, may not perish but have eternal life.'

#### **Word**

Having previously read the passage overleaf, briefly share in turn which verses speak to you at this time and why.

Underline the verses identified by Cell members and when everybody has had a turn look at the underlined verses.

What do they say about our relationship with God?

Is there anything puzzling or difficult in the passage? Explore together what it is that Paul might be saying to encourage and us.

#### **Witness**

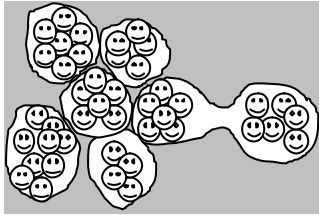
How does knowing the 'Big Picture' help us in sharing our faith?

According to this passage, what changes does conversion involve?

The story of God's rescue of a people is unfinished and we are part of it. How does this responsibility challenge you?

With all this in mind, how should Christians view those who are not (yet) believers?

**Growing**



**Cell Church**



## Calling out Session 2

### **Building Blocks of Mission: Part 1**

#### **Welcome**

Who has ever been led by an advertisement? Give an example. Did the advertisement claim that something existed when it didn't? Or did it fail to disclose something that should have been made apparent?

#### **Worship**

Say together Psalm 102:18-28 (either all together or responsively)

Listen to 'When I look to the heavens' [*From Grapevine 1995: This can be borrowed for the meeting if necessary*]

In the group, give praise and thanks in prayer that God has taken the initiative to reach out to us in love.

#### **Word**

Sin is a word we often hear in church but what does it mean? Ask each person to briefly define what they think Sin is.

Read Romans 1.18-20 and Romans 3.21-26

How does Paul define sin? Who is a sinner?

Why did Jesus come? Couldn't God just forgive people? What, according to this passage, are some of the things that Jesus has done to rescue us and how do we take hold of his forgiveness?

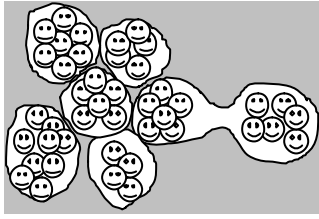
#### **Witness**

Think of the people you are most likely to be able to share Jesus with – relatives, neighbours, friends, colleagues at work. Using the insights gained from this study

- What do you think they least want to hear?
- What do they most need to know about?
- What do you feel least comfortable talking about?

Pray for those on your list that they may be open to discussing Jesus with you

**Growing**



**Cell Church**



## Calling out Session 3

### **Building Blocks of Mission: Part 2**

#### **Welcome**

Who has been on a tour visit where they had a good guide? What was good about them? What would have happened to you if you had not had such a good guide?

#### **Worship**

Read Isaiah 61.1-4 & John 14.15-17a. In whatever way is appropriate for the Cell, give thanks to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Counsellor, strengthener, encourager and advocate before the Father. Ask the Holy Spirit to come amongst you and inspire you and pray as the Spirit leads.

#### **Word**

Read Luke 14.25-33

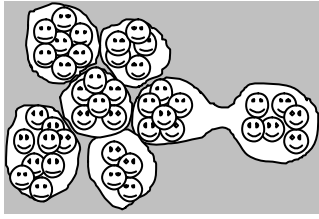
- How does verse 25 explain why Jesus gave such stern teaching?
- According to this passage what must not get in the way of following Jesus? What other things might you add to this?
- What do the two short parables in this passage mean? Explain in your own words.

*[For supplementary study if time is available look up Luke 9.57-6; Matthew 19,16-22 and 2 Corinthians 11.16-29. What do these have to say about the cost of being a disciple of Jesus.]*

#### **Witness**

- Many of us present the good news of Jesus as something that people can either take or leave. Should there be more urgency?
- What situations might you face this week in which you can put into practice some of the truths you have learned here?
- Consider the people on your prayer list. Is there anything new to report? Pray together for those you have named and also for those who do the work of evangelists, especially J John.

**Growing**



**Cell Church**



## Calling out Session 4

### Why we should call out ... and why we don't

#### Welcome

What jobs around the house do you feel;

a) most competent to do and b) least competent at. Would we ask for help & why?

#### Worship

One person read aloud Psalm 34.1-10, the remainder following it in their bible. Spend a few moments in silence reflecting on the psalm. On a slip of paper, each person write a short sentence of thanksgiving to God. The leader begins with *"Give thanks to the lord all you his people, give him thanks and praise"* each one in turn then reads out aloud their short sentence. The leader concludes with *"We will bless you O Lord from this time forth and for ever. Amen."*

#### Word

In this study, we'll look first for the reasons for sharing our faith and why we don't.

**Responsibility:** *1 Peter 3:15-16*. If we are being asked about our Christian hope, who is taking the initiative? Why does this make sharing our faith easier? How can we live lives that arouse a genuine interest in our faith? What advice is given on the manner in which the truth is shared? How might our witness to Jesus not be done with gentleness and respect?

**Motivation:** *2 Corinthians 5:11 - 6:2* What motivates Paul's enthusiasm?

**Command:** *Matthew 28:16-20* What are to be disciples' objectives? Where are they to do this? How are they to do this?

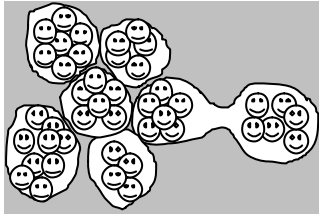
**Why we don't:** *Jeremiah 1:1-10, 17-19* What is Jeremiah's response to God's call? From what God says, what are the underlying issues? Can we empathise? What are the specific encouragements that God offers Jeremiah? If God gave us these encouragements would they help us to be a better witness for him?

List the reasons for sharing our faith in Jesus that have emerged in this study. Which seem the most compelling to us?

#### Witness

Go back to the names of the people we have on our prayer lists. Is there anything new to report? Pray together for those we have named.

**Growing**



**Cell Church**



## Calling out Session 5

### **The where of mission ... sharing our faith here, there and everywhere**

#### **Welcome**

The house next to you comes up for sale. What sort of people would we like to come and live in it? What sort of people would we least like to come and live in it?

#### **Worship**

John 1.35-37: The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said "Look, the Lamb of God". When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

*Allocate five people (if possible, otherwise adapt) to read the meditation over leaf.*

#### **Word**

Read Acts 1:6-11: What are the four areas where the disciples would be witnesses? In this study, we'll look these four zones of witness.

Jerusalem: our inner circle. *Matthew 13:53-58*

What is easy about sharing our faith within this zone? What is hard about it?

Judea: the neighbourly neighbours. *Acts 8:1-4*

If we had been forced to flee from somewhere because of persecution, what attitudes towards witnessing would we be tempted to take to our new place of residence?

Samaria: the not-so neighbourly neighbours *Acts 8:4-8*

What principles or ideas can we think of to try to build (or rebuild) bridges to people in this category?

Ends of the earth: no one is excluded. *Romans 15:14-24*

Illyricum was the Roman province that covered the Balkans. From a map, how far is it from Jerusalem? Where does Paul want to go now?

For each zone, consider:

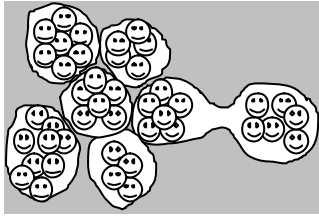
- · who, for us, is in this zone?
- · what attitudes do we have towards people in this zone?
- · what contacts with people in this zone have we had in the last week?

#### **Witness**

We often long for the power of the Holy Spirit to descend on our churches as it did on the early church. But do we also long to have the same extraordinary vision and zeal to go across all barriers and reach others for Jesus? Pray that:

- our personal witness will be inspired and empowered by the Spirit.
- we will be led by the Spirit to act and speak for him.
- we will get opportunities to speak for him.
- the Spirit will continue his work of spreading the good news throughout the earth through organisations, projects and individuals. Continue to pray for the people on our lists

**Growing**



**Cell Church**



## Calling out Session 6

### The seven pillars of mission: Part 1

#### Welcome

What is the most expensive object that anyone has ever bought without seeing it first? Did we feel it was a risky purchase beforehand? Why do we prefer to see something before we hand over our money?

#### Worship

Read Isaiah 6.1-8. Sing or read, as a prayer 'Open our eyes Lord' we want to see Jesus' (HON 409 green or HON 532 orange)

#### Word

Pretend our church decides it wants to see more people come to faith in Jesus. Along with encouraging prayer for conversions, the following ideas are suggested:

- Bring in a special speaker for a week.
- Appoint a full-time church evangelist.
- Create an evangelistic team of people who are obviously gifted.
- Make every church member a bit more effective at sharing their faith.

Which solution do we think is most effective? Why?

**Pillar 1: Prayer** *Ephesians 6:19-20* What are Paul's specific prayer requests?

What reasons can we give for why prayer is vital to sharing our faith?

**Pillar 2: Presence** *John 1:6-18* What principle of mission does Jesus set out here?

Why do people tend to listen more carefully to people they know than they do to strangers? Why is 'being there' important?

**Pillar 3: Proclamation** *Romans 10:8-15* What is the responsibility that is placed on those of us who already know about Jesus?

Do we ever find ourselves slipping into the frame of mind where we think, 'If only my friends or family could hear so and so speak, they might become Christians'? What is that saying about how we see ourselves?

#### Witness

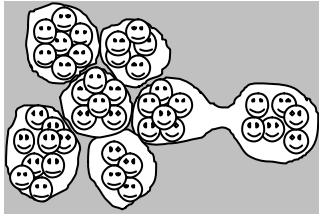
If we could make just one change to help our pattern of praying, what would that change be? How could we take a step towards that?

What could we do with our leisure time in order to have more contact with non-Christians?

What situations might we face this week in which we can put into practice some of the truths that we have learnt together?

Return to the names of the people on our pray lists for the past five weeks. Is there anything to report? Continue to pray for them.

**Growing**



**Cell Church**



## Calling out Session 7

### The seven pillars of mission: Part 2

#### Welcome

Have you ever been persuaded by some one to do something? How did this happen and what was the outcome?

#### Worship

Say together Psalm 67. Give thanks and praise to God as appropriate to the group. Ask for God's blessing.

#### Word

Consider the scenarios set out overleaf. For each scenario, come up with:

- the worst possible thing to say (the most insensitive and incompetent answer we can manage);
- a comment that might help the person listening travel further down the road towards faith in Christ.

Pillar 4: Persuasion *Acts 17:18-33* What things are present in this speech which show Paul is building bridges with his listeners?

Pillar 5: Power *Acts 1:8* What is the task or function of the Holy Spirit?

Pillar 6: Praise *Romans 12:1* What would it mean for our lives to be living sacrifices?

Pillar 7: Patterning *Matthew 28:18-20* What does Jesus say that new followers are to be taught?

Do we actually depend on the Holy Spirit to help us in our work as witnesses?

Does our personal and church worship adequately reflect the value we place on God?

#### Witness

Are you making good use of the evangelistic resources - books, tapes, videos and live events such as music, theatre and mission meetings - that are available?

Pray once again for the people that we have been praying for during this course.

Discuss how the Cell intend to attend the Just 10 Mission after Easter, who they wish to take and how you intend to meet together during the mission period.