

CELL GROUP

WEEK ONE

Spend some time the first week going over a history of the Fish House. Many times new people will be asked about the fellowship and are unaware of any background of our group. Also include in this summary a vision of where we are going in the future; i.e. the numbers we projected to meet and the numbers we have met. This is a good time to bring in the discipleship method of reproduction through the cell group. Move right into the purpose of the cell group, including both the knowledge and the relationships. Lay out your expectations, if any, and get them excited about some of the topics you will be covering. It is also good to lay out some examples of cell groups which have multiplied to show that it is possible to pass on what we will be learning here.

I. History of Fish House

- 1970 Campus Ministry/Fish Newspaper
- Thursday Bible Study at the Fish House
- Elders study in California
- Some work done within churches; restricted, so proceeded on own
- Thurs. FishHouse/Sunday and Wed Central Meetings/Small Groups
- Home Churches/Sunday and Tues Centrals/ Personal Discipleship
- Home Church Splits/Tuesday and Sun Splits/Cell Group Mult.

II. Biblical Imperatives for Church Structure

The following is a list of what scripture lays out as the normative provision that the church should have available to all members:

1. Quality Bible teaching
2. Opportunity to develop good personal relationships in a small setting
3. Opportunity to be personally shepherded by competent leaders
4. Opportunity to develop and express spiritual gifts with the help and direction of spiritual leaders
5. Opportunity to practice corporate worship
6. Meetings where non-Christian friends can be brought knowing that effective evangelism will be practiced

I Cor 12 and 14, Rom 12, I Pet 5:1-5, Eph 4:11-16, Col 2:19

In addition, examples of the structure of the NT church were adopted to meet these needs. Different kinds of meetings were started to accommodate the increase in the number of converts, i.e. from small groups to home churches.

Example: Acts 2:46 mass meetings at Solomon's Portico to hear the apostles teaching and small meetings house to house (break bread worship and express gifts)

Acts 20:20 at Ephesus-same

Rom 16:5 house churches

The Fish House has been able to provide a level of ministry care which is rare for a church this size. Will continue to work as long as leadership and money remain adequate.

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III. Teach on leadership. See sheet on plurality of leaders and method of raising leaders up on the home church level for splits. The need to see this position by becoming equipped and developing gifts.

Lay out our vision for growth; see sheet explaining 4% per month and that every home church of 30 people would need to split every 1 1/2 years. In 10 years, 1 home church would multiply to 64, and at this rate we would see 74,595 people and need 6,177 leaders. Explain how unrealistic this seemed yet we have surpassed these numbers already. We projected that it would take 3 years to multiply from 8 original home churches to 32 and in 3 years, we have gone from 8 to 36.

IV. Move into the importance of cell groups at the base of this multiplication and leader development. Lay out the duplication of disciples process that Christ followed and how we follow the same method through cell group multiplication. Explain cell group:

- meet regularly at same time each week
- study, share, pray, fun
- combination support and training group
- requirements=committed to home church and willing to learn
- crucial function of 1st century church was the building up and caring for one another Heb 10:23-25, Rom 12:8-18
- I Tim Paul says present yourself to the lord as workmen handling accurately the word of truth. We must learn how to apply the word in our lives along with others
- Home church, learn how to bring people and care for them. Central to the success of the home church is our ability to assume the responsibility of being God's instruments in serving other people
- Have 3 ring notebook to keep notes, handouts, tests etc in so that you have a manual from start to finish in teaching this information to others

2nd week { V. The first week, it is good to spend the sharing time by going around to each girl and letting her share a little about her background and conversion. It is good for the leader to go first because if the leader is open about her past, it will be easier for everyone else to be also. This sharing can give the cell leader a better understanding of the people in the group as things about the past are brought to light. It is also good to realize that there are some experiences that we have in common with each other. Openness on this first week will dictate how open you will be with each other in the weeks to come and gives a good basis to begin to build relationships.

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Share time

ASSIGNMENT WEEK ONE

Using at least five scripture for each section, write out the answers to the following questions:

1. What is the state of man before he receives Christ?
2. How do you receive Christ?
3. What all happens to a person after he receives Christ?

Since most of your people are not pros at reading the Bible and finding the appropriate verses, encourage them to spend some time after the meetings or during the week talking to an older believer who may be able to take them to the word and show them the answers. You may also want to suggest a few books that may have some of the answers also.

Purpose: This assignment should make sure that everyone in your cell group understands the doctrine of salvation and is indeed saved. It will also get them into the word right away which many of them never open outside of a meeting. This assignment also encourages them to initiate with other people, to ask questions and a reason to strike up a conversation with someone they may have been hesitant to approach before. With this preparation, they should be able to participate in your next cell group meeting.

You can also assign a good evangelism book that they can start to read, even though it won't be due for a few weeks. Out of the Salt Shaker, by Pippert, is good and easy.

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