

## W – WELCOME

The 'welcome' is the opening of the cell and should create an informal, friendly atmosphere. It should allow everyone to be involved and get to know one another.

The 'welcome' should try to accommodate these accepts:

W	warm atmosphere
E	enthusiasm
L	laughter
C	conversation
O	open
M	motivation
E	enjoyable

Some ideas for 'welcome'.

- **Play a game** – Who am I? A memory game. Tell each other 2 truths and one lie about yourself, allow the group to try and work out the lie. Who's in the bag?
- **Ask a question** – What is your earliest childhood memory? If you could be anyone in the world for one day, who would you be and why? If you had to describe yourself as a chocolate bar, what would you be and why? If you were stranded on a desert island, what three things would you take and why?
- **Do something creative** – Draw yourself as an animal. Using play dough make a model of someone in the group. Allow people to pick 3 scrabble letters out of a bag and they have to describe themselves using words that start with those letters.

## W – WORSHIP

In a nutshell worship is simply focusing on God.

Usually worship will come before the ‘Word’ of God. It is the ideal way to make sure everyone is ‘ready’ and right with God before receiving the ‘Word’.

Worship should not just be about music – it is so much more! It should involve everyone in the group. Try to use your imagination by using different resources available.

The following are five examples you can follow:

- Give everyone a small piece of paper (book marker size) and ask everyone to think of a word to describe God, i.e. ‘grace’ – ‘Your grace is sufficient’. They might want to include scripture to support that chosen word. They might want to decorate this piece of paper (provide arts and crafts). Whoever was leading the group would then encourage everyone to talk and share a few moments about their book marker to the rest of the group.
- Place lots of pictures in the centre of the group. Get everyone to ask God to speak to them through one of the pictures on the floor. Give everyone time if needed to share with the group what God is saying to them (optional).
- Provide everyone with paper and ask them to write their prayers using the following headings: **A**doration. **C**onfession. **T**hanks. **S**upplication. Also known as ‘**A.C.T.S.**’ Encourage the group to share if they wish to do so.
- Listen to music and encourage everyone to reflect on God in their life through prayer etc.
- Pick a scripture i.e. a Psalm. Ask the group to go through the scripture, reading each verse individually and reflecting on it and praying about it.
- Provide a large piece of paper and write on it the letters of the alphabet. Then for each letter ask the group to come up with a word (beginning with that letter) that best describes God i.e. **A** – amazing. **B** – brilliant. **C** – caring etc.

Has your worship idea included one of the following?  
Prayer, Bible, Music.

Does the worship time focus on God and have you prayed about it?

Ask yourself what you need to bring and don’t forget about it!

## W – WORD

‘Word’ is the main part of the meeting. It is where we receive our spiritual food and teaching in relation to God. The ‘Word’ should be relevant and challenging to all members of the group – where ever they are on their walk with God!

When a new group forms the ‘Word’ will be lead by the cell group leaders but in time as members of the group develop and grow spiritually they will be encouraged to take a lead in the ‘Word’.

The aim of the ‘Word’ is not to preach to the group. The key to ‘Word’ is to be interactive. The purpose of the ‘Word’ is to encourage all group members to have questions, answers and to be involved in discussion.

The person leading the word will need to prepare this before the meeting. A topic or subject will need to be prayed about and chosen. Scriptures relevant to that subject should also be prepared and considered. When planning the ‘Word’ a good introduction should be prepared as this will help to inspire the group members into conversation and capture their interest and imagination. To encourage the group into discussion some carefully thought out questions should also be prepared. Consider open end questions and not questions that can simply be answered with a ‘yes or ‘no’. Questions beginning with **Who, What, Why, Where, When** and **How** our good ways of developing thoughtful discussion.

A word should also have a conclusion, a finish to it, a point to it – it is important to **listen to everyone** when delivering the ‘Word’ but it is important for the person taking the lead to keep the conversation in line with the topic being studied.

Below are some ideas used in cell group ‘Words’:

- Listening to God
- Sharing the Gospel with friends and family.
- Responsibilities of Christians.
- Dealing with temptations.
- Relationships.

Tips for preparing the word:

- Pray about the ‘Word’ and keep the topic simple and make sure you fully understand it yourself!
- Try to be prepared and don’t leave it to the last minute.
- You don’t need to plan in great detail, just prepare a ‘frame’ to the word and leave room for the Holy Spirit to operate in the delivery of the ‘Word’
- Try something different and if works, great and if it doesn’t – don’t worry that’s the great thing about cell it is a learning environment and it does not matter if things don’t go to plan some times... Praise God!
- Consider using visual aids – some times images can tell a thousand words and get a point across a lot more effectively!
- One of the most important rules of cell groups... **DON’T GIVE UP !!!**

## W – WORKS

‘Works’ usually comes at the end of the cell group and can also be known as *Witness*. It should focus in on the application and evangelism of the cell. It can be a time where as a cell you can pray for your cell to make an impact. A ‘works’ that should be done at the beginning of any new cell and routinely there after, is as a group to write down a list of your target group. Everyone should be able to think of at least one person who they would like to bring along to cell. This list can be updated and as a group you will get to know each others non-Christians friends so that you can encourage them in their witness to them.

Although the works could be a continuation or the practical application to the ‘word’ this should not be relied upon. The works still needs to be planned but if you feel it more appropriate to change the ‘works’ in reflection to the ‘word’ just received, then your prepared ‘works’ could be done the following week.

Some other examples of ‘works’ are:

1. Why not bring a newspaper and let everyone choose one thing in the news that they want to pray for? Or pray as a cell for a national disaster that maybe in the news that week.
2. Why not adopt a cell country or missionary to pray and support as a cell? This ‘works’ could be revisited once every couple of months.
3. Allow the cell to split up into smaller groups to pray for one other and then encourage them to keep in touch with that person during the week. Make sure you vary the groups so it’s not always the same people praying with the same group.
4. Get everyone to write down a prayer request on a piece of paper. Mix them up and allow everyone to pick one which they can take home and pray for that week.
5. Plan a cell social or outreach together. This should not be done the week before but at least 2/3 weeks before, so that prayer can be placed into the event. You could pray for individuals that you are trying to reach.

The ‘works’ section usually is the prayer time for the cell although doesn’t have to be every week. Like in all the other W’s, make sure you plan it well and pray about it, but also be as imaginative as possible!!

For more ‘works’ ideas, along with more ideas for ‘welcome & worship’ why not visit Hope Church website and follow the ‘useful resources’ link and then ‘cell ideas’.

<http://www.hopechurchbangor.org>