

Ask someone to share a current situation where they need to hear from God. Lead the group in a time of listening to God about this situation. Believe that He is going to speak and go around the group afterwards asking people to voice what they feel God might be saying. (This may feel as if it will be a bit contrived, but God is very gracious and wants to encourage us – so do not underestimate what might happen!) Do not be afraid to share what has come into your head – afterwards the group should gently try to weigh what has been said – this is part of learning how to tell the difference between God speaking through us and our own ideas

OR

Witness – Pray for those on your cell list in a similar way as described above. Seeking to hear what God wants you to know about them and how you can support them. Share what you think God may be saying as above.

DURING THE WEEK

If you can borrow or buy the book “Prayer- Finding the Heart’s True Home” by Richard Foster, read the chapter on Meditative Prayer.

The leader of the worship section next week will need to prepare carefully.

Encountering God: True Worship

Aim: To become true worshippers

Welcome: What stimulates your walk with God?

Word – Read the story of the Woman at the Well from John 4. What can we learn about worship from this passage?

1. **Knowing who we worship.** How has your understanding of who God is grown in the past 6 months? In what areas do you think you may still need to grow your understanding of who God is.
2. **Not where we worship, but how.** Read Psalm 24.3-4. What do we need in order to worship God? Are there any aspects of my life which are a barrier to me coming close to God? Read Romans 8.15-16

Worship

3. **Real worship is Spiritual.** Ask God to fill you with his Holy Spirit in an extended time of worship. This could begin with a time of confession and lead into an intimate expression of gratitude to God for who he is and what he has done..

Witness – “Many Samaritans of the village believed in Jesus because of what the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did”.”

What has Jesus done for you? Who have you told about this? Who do you think might like to hear about it in the future.

DURING THE WEEK – If you have got Richard Foster’s book “Prayer – Finding the Heart’s True Home”, you might like to read the Chapter on the Prayer of Adoration this week.

Cell Members Notes for July/August: ENCOUNTERING GOD

Special Dates for Cells (See also benefice newsheet)

10th July - 4.30pm Worship "4ALL", "OUT OF THIS WORLD"

5.30pm - Holiday Club Leaders' Meeting at Swainsthorpe Church

18th July – Cell Leaders Meeting. Please bring along one other potential future leader from your cell. Discuss with Sally who you think this might be.

25th-29th July - Starship Discovery Holiday Club

31st July - Family Fun Day, Service and Picnic at Tasburgh Village Hall

5th-10th August - Living Water Event on Norfolk Show Ground. Ask Chris Gaze for details.

Doing Evangelism: World Class -

Aim: To consider the opportunities we have to spread Jesus’ love round the globe.

Welcome Place a large map of the world on the table in the centre of the group. Using different kinds of small markers – counters, drawing pins, pennies... get people to place a marker on countries with which they have a connection. Start with countries they have visited. Then try countries where they have friends or countries with which they do business. Explain these links to each other.

Then think about the things you have eaten, purchased or used today and place a different kind of marker on where you think their country of origin may have been. Invite comment on any patterns that have emerged. What conclusions do you draw about the world we live in?

Worship. Read Psalm 47.1-2, 6-8. Play some quiet music or sing a song (eg. Over All the World). As you do so, look at the world you have marked – acknowledging that God is sovereign in every country.

Word - Read The Great Commission Matthew 28.16-20

Even at this stage the disciples had a mixture of faith and doubt (v.17). But Jesus came to them with specific instructions and a job to do.

How do you think his disciples would have interpreted and understood his instructions? When Jesus told his disciples to “go into all the world” it was much more difficult to travel and people often didn’t have many connections outside their own area... what opportunities do you have to communicate with or affect other parts of the world by your actions? Eg. Have any issues been brought up for you by the G* meeting or the Make Poverty History Campaign.

What opportunities do you have to be part of the task of “making disciples” a) locally and b) globally.

What do you think God is saying to you through this passage today?

Witness –

- Ask each other about answers to prayers that you prayed for particular friends last week.
- Organise a fun activity as a cell for August and invite friends who don't normally come to church including the people on your cells prayer list
- Keep praying for the people on your cell's prayer list.
- Pray for particular people and countries which have come up in your discussion today

DURING THE WEEK -

- Only 4 study sessions are provided for the summer. If you wish for more – you might like to borrow Christian Aid's Act Justly Video and cell studies from Sally or see www.surefish.co.uk/actjustly

Encountering God: Surrender -

Aim: To highlight our motivation for the choices we make. If Jesus comes first in our lives, our motivation to be obedient will show in the choices we make.

Welcome Tell the group 3 things about yourself which they did not already know, one of which is untrue. Ask the group to guess which one you have made up.

Worship Go round the group asking each person to say something about the character of God which they appreciate and perhaps why it is particularly relevant to them at this time. Then have a time of thanking God in prayer or song for these aspects of his character

Word – Think of some significant choices you have made recently. Share some of these with the group, describing briefly the process of your decision making. Who were you motivated to please in the choices you made.

Read John 14.15-21 What does Jesus want our motivation for what we do to be?

List some reasons why we should be obedient to Jesus.

The following passages may help: Romans 5.6-8, Deuteronomy 5.33, ! John 4.9-10, Romans 12.1.

In pairs or 3s, share one area where you are struggling to be obedient to God and then pray for each other. Or pray for a specific decision which you will have to make soon, that your choice will be motivated by love and obedience to God.

Witness – In the same way that we want Jesus at the centre of our own lives, we also want him to be Lord over the area where we live. As a group identify some “strongholds” that are standing against Jesus’ rule in your area – eg. Attitudes such as materialism, pride, judgementalism. Pray together for these to be broken and Jesus love to flow in.– NB take care – this is not about judging individuals.

Continue to pray for those on your cell prayer list.

DURING THE WEEK: If you can borrow or buy the book “Prayer- Finding the Heart’s True Home” by Richard Foster, read the chapter on The Prayer of Relinquishment

“The Purpose Driven Life” by Rick Warren consists of 40 daily readings about surrendering ourselves to God’s purpose for us. Why not buy or borrow it to read each day over this summer.

The leader needs to watch the Alpha Training Vdeo on Ministry if they wish to use it in next week’s cell. Choose which part will be most useful for your cell.

Encountering God: Hearing God’s Voice

Aim: To practice Listening for God’s Voice

Welcome – How does God communicate with you? If you can, give an example from your life.

Worship – Read Psalm 23. Think of times when the truth in this psalm has been evident in your life. Give God the glory for the things he has done by

- a) getting into pairs and writing a psalm praising him for what he has done in your lives
- b) b) singing praise together
- c) another way suggested by the leader of this part of your cell meeting.

Word – Read John 10.1-6. What conditions have to be in place for us to hear God’s voice. Make a list from these verses and from the experience of the group. Encourage people to share their experiences of hearing from God.

If you are able to borrow it, watch part of the ministry training on the Alpha Training Video and discuss it together. If we are going to effectively use our gifts to minister within the cell, and to those outside the church, we need yto grow in confidence about hearing from God. Ask each cell member what they think is the next step for them, then pray for each other to move forward in this.

