

Lesson 2-3 - Cell Group

1. In lesson 2-2 we discussed building a spiritual interpersonal relationship with one person; in this lesson we will expand the discussion to small groups which we will refer to as cell groups. A cell group is a small community of believers in the church.

2. Do you have any cell groups in your church? Are you involved in a cell group?

3. Can you think of any cell groups in the Bible?

4. Consider Jesus and His disciples. This was a cell group. How did they get started?

5. What was their purpose?

6. How often did they meet?

7. Who led them?

8. Did they love one another?

9. Consider Paul, was he involved in a cell group? What are the answers to questions 5-8 for Paul's group?

10. Based on our experience, here is some information about cell groups:

Meeting place: homes, church, or anywhere

Frequency of meeting: usually once per week

Cell size: usually 6 to 15, if you have more than 15, it may be better to split into two cells.

Benefits:

- enhanced inter-personal relationships

- enhanced accountability

- enhanced sense of belonging and purpose

Purpose:

- evangelism

- prayer

- leadership training

- Bible study

- fellowship

- introduction to church

11. Suggested cell group topics:

- Prayer for church and pastor

- Intercessory prayer

- Prayer for other countries / missionaries

- Local evangelism

- Church fundraising

- Addiction recovery

- Support groups

Social activities with an emphasis of introducing people to the church. These activities can be varied: cooking, karate, swimming, music, photography, addictions, health issues, etc.

12. Can you think of others?

13. Remember that the human body is made up of many cells, each cell has a purpose and all the cells, in concert, give life to the body. This is the same for the body of Christ: each cell contributes to the overall mission - The Great Commission

Mathew 28: 18-20

Jesus came to them and said: I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth!

Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.

14. Leader / Facilitator: The leader / facilitator should be someone who walks with God and is full of love, willing to forgive, and not be judgmental. It is important that everyone in the cell group participates and not just one or two. The leader / facilitator should make this a priority.

15. In worldly activities, you will see the following human characteristics: jealousy, pride, vanity, self-centeredness, argumentation, revenge, bitterness, impatience and others.

16. Do your friends have any of these characteristics?

17. Do you have any of these tendencies?

18. Read 2 Timothy 2:22

Flee from youthful passions. Instead, pursue righteousness, faithfulness, love, and peace together with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22

19. The characteristics in item 15 will tend to destroy a cell group; they can also destroy a family, a marriage, a church, and you.

20. How can we purge ourselves of these characteristics?

21. Let's consider jealousy: How long did it take to eliminate your jealousy? Or, how long do you think it will take to eliminate your jealousy?

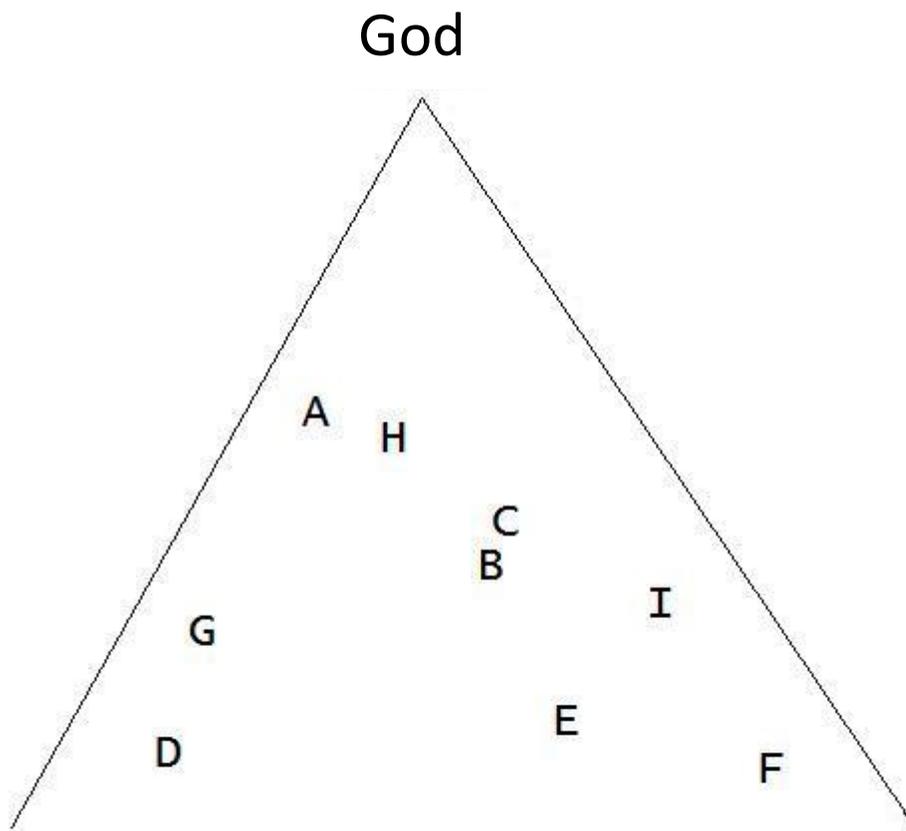
22. Where does jealousy come from? (review 1 lesson 6)

23. Let's consider one of the basic principles of the word of God (Jesus): If we love God we will keep his commandments and God is Love.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments; John 14:15

We have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us. God is love, and the person who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 1 John 4:16

24. Let's consider a functioning cell group comprised of members A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I. Each one is different and at different stages of growth and closeness to God. Each has some or all of the problems defined item 15, but all want to shed these characteristics and replace them with things like joy, peace, love etc. Consider the following diagram.



25. what problem do B and C have?

26. How should H deal with F?

27. who should be the leader / facilitator?

28. How can you help F?

29. what happens when the group and individuals drawn near to God?

30. what do you do with D?

31. Conclusion: A cell group can build the body of Christ, other people, and you. Use God's principles and enjoy this experience.

32. To do: Join or start a small group in your church and head in the direction of item 27.

33. The most important of all cell groups is the family. we will discuss this in a later lesson.