

## Cell Outlines - Week beginning: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2006

### Theme: Relationships within the Church

**Welcome:** Have you ever had to endure an argument/ disagreement with another Christian? How did you resolve it? What lessons did you learn - if any? Have you ever received an unexpected act of kindness from a fellow Christian? How did you feel - as they say?!

#### **Worship.**

Read through Psalm 133 together. Spend some time thanking God for His people. Tell Him what you appreciate about your church and cell group. Perhaps you could listen or sing along to a worship CD too.

**Word/ Teaching Slot:** Christians can sometimes be tempted to give up their service for the Lord because they feel that they are on their own and no one cares for them. They feel that the problems they are going through are peculiar to themselves alone. Satan will try to convince us that we do not need to be concerned about other people. He will prompt thoughts like, 'As long as I have God, who needs Christians!' However, the truth is that as Christians we are 'living stones that God is building together into a spiritual house' (1 Peter 2:5). We need each other to grow into the people God wants us to be - we can't make it on our own. The word 'fellowship' in Greek is the word 'koinonia' and means 'communion' or 'sharing in common' (Acts 2:42).

Have a read through the passages below and see what insights they give us. Discuss together their relevance today - if any.

#### Key Scriptures:

- **Acts 2:42-47** The True Fellowship of the early Church
- **Acts 15:36-41** Not so true fellowship in the early Church - oops!
- **John 13:1-5, 12-17** Jesus' example to His disciples - foot washing!
- **Ephesians 4:25-32** No relationships through half-truths and cover-ups, i.e. Not being real with people.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:13b-15** More practical advice!

#### Questions and Discussion Points

1. One of the greatest pains you can have in the life of fellowship with other believers, is the pain of having to stand by and watch other people, whom you love deeply in Christ, take actions or stances which you know will be unproductive, hurtful or divisive. What can we do in such circumstances, if anything. Discuss.
2. Do you think you really need other Christians to spiritually grow or is it just a nice thought? Discuss.
3. Have you ever thought of encouraging other people in your local church or generally in the body of Christ by sending them cards, letters or emails with encouraging words or relevant Bible verses on them? If you've received such things what was your reaction?
4. Is your cell group contributing to the practical needs of others within the life of the church or is it a bit 'clicky' and perhaps not interested in the rest of the church family? Discuss!
5. How much do you value your fellow cell members? Have you ever told them? Now's your chance!

#### **Witness & Application**

##### **2 Suggestions:**

1. Draw and meditate on a relationship map. Place a dot, representing you, on a blank piece of paper and then place dots with initials around you (representing people you know - maximum, about 20 people). Place those whom you regard as your close friends near to your dot and those who are not so close further away. Then ask yourself why people are where they are? Is it right or should some changes be made? Ask the Lord's forgiveness for any wrong attitudes and ask Him for help to forgive those who have wronged you.
2. Make a list of practical ways in which you can express your commitment to each other by serving each other (Philippians 2:4). Did you know when you serve others you are serving our Saviour Jesus? (Matthew 25:31-46)