

I. Creating Community

◆ **Defining Community**

- Sharing life together; Growing in transparency and openness
- Process that is learned and that takes TIME
- It is a gift from God; It cannot be legislated or organized
- Freedom to be who you are; Sharing mutual acceptance
- Sharing a common vision and purpose; values and priorities
- It is dependent, in part, on what we do; It is a spiritual discipline
- Once it's tasted, you will always desire it

◆ **Healthy Community Qualities– Does Your Cell Measure Up?**

- Interaction--(Malachi 3:16; Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16)
- Intensity--(Galatians 6:2; James 5:16)
- Affirmation--(1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11; Hebrews 3:13)
- Corporeality--(Acts 2:44-47; Romans 12:13)
- Reciprocity--(1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:15-16)
- Commitment-- (2 Thessalonians 2:15)
- Continuity--(Romans 15:4-5; Galatians 6:9)
- Openness--(Acts 2:46-47)

◆ **What Are the Stages/Lifecycle of Cell**

- Forming Stage--Begin to get to know each other
- Conflict Stage--Evidence of different values; iron sharpens iron
- Community Stage--Past conflicts to enjoyment; potential danger
- Ministering Stage--Focus on outreach and discipling of each member
- Multiplication Stage--Excitement about releasing leadership and gifts

◆ **Creating Hospitable Homes**

- Change your view of home and possessions--from fortress to outpost
- Seek to worry less about protecting and preserving our “things”
- Why do you have your dwelling? As an extension of God's kingdom.
- Practice hospitality (Acts 20:20; Rom 12:9-10,13; 1 et 4:9; Heb 13:2)

II. Creating an Welcoming Environment

◆ **Getting Ready Before Members/Guests Arrive**

- Before cell, invite Christ's presence to be known in your home
- Make room in your heart for those who visit (2Cor 7:2)
- Keep main gathering area uncluttered--have seating ready beforehand

◆ **As Members and Guest Arrive**

- Greet and welcome people with affection as they enter your home
- Serve light snacks to create a welcoming atmosphere
- Observe how conversations flow as people, eat, drink, and visit
- Be alert to greet those who are alone and first time visitors
- Arrive early in order to be able to greet everyone when they arrive
- Stay on your feet during the Welcome to visit and wait for late-comers

◆ **As Members and Guests Leave**

- Insure that the host's home is clean from the meeting
- Encourage member to help rearrange furniture
- Offer thanks to the host at the end of the meeting for their hospitality
- Bless the home and family of the host during the closing prayer

III. Ice Breakers – A Powerful, Overlooked Tool

◆ **Purpose of Ice Breakers – Reason for the Madness!**

- Gives everyone a chance to have a laugh and a smile
- Gets adults/children talking in an informal way—helps all to relax
- Helps members get to know one another—provides memory pegs
- Draws visitors into the group in a non-threatening way
- Stimulates sharing later during worship, word, and works
- Serves as a practical reminder that we don't need to be so 'spiritual'

◆ **Choosing An Ice Breaker**

- Choose ones your group would enjoy--keep the cell in mind
- Some are good "get to know you" questions; some good when visitors are present
- Should be appropriate for the cell group and inclusive
- Encourage everyone to participate – kids too.
- Keep them simple. Simpler the better

◆ **TIPS & TOOLS**

- Use the first 5-15 minutes for Welcome and Ice Breaker
- Keep one eye on your watch, one eye on the group interaction
- Spread the "doing" of hospitality and ice breakers around, delegate
- Goal: For members to have been encouraged during the evening
- Be alert during the ice breaker for members with needs
- Simple ice breakers = quicker response, and more time for all share
- Avoid complex ice breakers that take a lot of time to answer
- Try the ice breaker while everyone is standing
- Be sure and include children

IV. Life Application