

Sunday 7th March

Cell Format

Church Vision "To raise up a people passionately in love with Jesus, zealous about His works and bold in the declaration of their faith. A people who will impact the nations by building strong, local churches"

Church Mission "Taking cities for Christ and making disciples through Worship, Word, Warfare, Witness, Works and Wealth"

Cell Mission "To raise up 12 leaders (sons and daughters) through the steps to success (Win, Consolidate, Disciple and Send) who will relationally connect people into small groups of 3-12, with the purpose of building one church in many locations"

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Notices

Impacting the Nations Annual Movement Conference

Thursday 15th – Sunday 18th April

Ice-Breaker Purpose – to get to know each other better

We have included below some options from www.google.com You can search Christian Ice Breakers for more if the following do not suit your group.

Worship Purpose – to bring the heart and spirit of the church into the cell group and to take your people into the presence of the Lord

If you require word and chords to any of the church songs, please contact the office.

Prayer of Three

Matthew 18:19-20

1. The prayer of three is a prayer of agreement for the salvation of souls.
2. Each cell member should have 3 names of likely candidates for salvation.
3. The cell is then divided into groups of three for prayer.
4. Each group of three exchanges the names so that each group has a total of 9 people that they will do battle for.
5. Each day, for thirty days the group should be praying against the demonic spirits and the strongholds that have a hold of the people's minds.
6. The cell may call a day of fasting and once a week when the cell meets they also pray the prayer of 3 as a team.
7. On the third week each cell member will call their 3 people and ask about their welfare. They build relationship, not share the gospel yet.
8. During the 4th and last week of the prayer of 3 they begin to invite them to a Church/Macro/Cell meeting.

Witness

Purpose - to prepare and focus the people to witness 'in the highways and byways'.

Teach your group how to lead someone to Jesus -

1. They need to ACKNOWLEDGE before God that they are a sinner - ROM 3v23, AC 3v19, 1 JN 1v9.
2. They need to BELIEVE that Jesus died in their place, that He was raised from the dead to give them eternal life - 2 COR 5v17, 1 PT 3v18.
3. They need to RECEIVE God's free offer of eternal life.
4. They need to ACCEPT Jesus as their Lord - 1 JN 5v11-12, JN 1v12.
5. They need to CONFESS Jesus as their Lord - MT 10v32, ROM 10v9.
6. The following is an example of a salvation prayer -

"Lord Jesus, I open my heart completely to You today. I ask You to forgive me for all of my sin, the things that I have done that have offended You and offended others. Lord Jesus, I yield my whole life completely over to You today".

It is important when reaching new people that you create a non-threatening environment for them to come into. Here are some ideas for reaching new people on a Cell group night -

1. BBQ Night
2. Movie Night
3. Games night

You could also organize fun events on a Saturday morning or afternoon for cell group members to bring their non-Christian friends.

Word

Using any of the notes given and your own notes from the service, discuss Corey's message from the 11am service

God is God And Has Not Changed

Using Corey's notes from Sunday's message, discuss any of the points within your group.

The Notes can be found at the end of this cell Format

Wealth

Purpose - To help your group live an abundant and prosperous life by break the spirit of poverty and releasing a spirit of generosity.

1. Make it a habit to pass the plate around at the same time each night.
2. Lead people into this exercise by asking them to give an amount that they can afford - \$1 - \$2.
3. Speak to your group about breaking the spirit of poverty by the act of giving.
4. Don't be so concerned about the amount. It is more important that everyone in the group participates each week.
5. Be absolutely positive and be sure you do not bring any soulish pressure.
6. hand your offering in to the office during the week or at the Information Desk in the weekend with your name and marked "cell group offering"

Works

Purpose - To lead your cell group in active involvement toward building the church.

If you choose to host a fun event this month for your group and their non-Christian friends, delegate the organisation of this to responsible members your group. You could delegate to each member one of the following -

1. Organise the food and drinks needed
2. Organise any tables, chairs etc needed if you are going to the beach or park
3. Ring their friends and family to come along
4. Meet any transport needs within the group

If there are new Christians in your cell group -

1. Assign a person to each one to follow them up and take care of them
2. Use the Foundation Studies on the Web to teach the new Christians.

If there are members in your group that have been away -

1. Ask a regular person who is in relationship with them to contact them

If someone in your group has had a baby or is physically sick -

1. Organize people to visit that person
2. Help with meals, gardens, child care etc if needed

There is always work to do at Springbank Campsite. If you can organise your group to go out and help in the gardens, please call the office.

God Is God – And Has Not Changed

It has been said by some – “that to properly study mankind you must study a man.” I am not really opposed to this idea – yet I would say – to properly study a Christian – “**you must study Christ.**” I am aware that Christ is much better example than most Christians are – I think that goes without saying – but it is into His likeness that we are being changed – and if God has begun a good work in you – the scripture tells us – that God will labour until the work is complete. Look at what it says in Philippians:

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6 (NASV)

You see – God’s labour is not complete until it is totally finished. Once God has begun a work in a person’s life He will not stop until that work reaches its completion. Therefore – to understand Christians it would be a good idea to study Christ – for God’s goal for our lives is that every follower of Christ will be made more like Him. In the process of studying Christ and allowing him into your life you will gain much benefit.

A naturalist may boast of his ability to understand the insect world. He may be able to arrange all the insects into classes and call them by unutterable names. But let me ask you – is there any moral value in knowing these facts? Is knowing every insect that creeps on the earth going to make me a better person? Is knowing the name of every star in heaven? I don’t think so. I will have head knowledge – but where is the heart knowledge. If I am a computer scientist and know both hardware and software – will that knowledge make me into a virtuous person? No! But if one is to study Christ – to understand His love for the Father and His love for the world – there is great moral value in the endeavour. He who often thinks of God – has the ability to set his mind on godly things. This is of great moral and spiritual value to our soul. This is why Paul tells us:

“Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth.” Colossians 3:2 (HCSB)

Nothing will help a person more – then to investigate godly things – to seek God’s wisdom and God’s guidance. To walk closer to Christ should be the desire of every Christian.

Do you wish to become more like Jesus Christ? Dig into Christ! He is the Alpha and the Omega – the Beginning and the End – the unchangeable One – the Eternal One.

“I am God—yes, I Am. I haven’t changed.” Malachi 3:6 (MSG)

Only He has the power to forgive us. Only He has the power to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Study Him – pursue Him – build your relationship ... with Him – come to know Him.

God has always been in the life change business – that fact has never changed. That is why the scripture says:

“I am God—yes, I Am. I haven’t changed.” Malachi 3:6 (MSG)

This morning I want us to look at five facts of an unchanging God. Lets jump in with fact one:

1. God's NATURE has not changed

He is infinite – He is almighty – He is all powerful. He has not changed.

The mountains with their snow-white crowns will with time – be worn away. Rain will beat upon them. Rivers will trickle down their sides. Storms will unleash their forces against them and over time the power of nature will have its effect upon the mountains. But this is not so with God. He is God – and He never changes.

We change. As children we grow – just not physically but emotionally and socially as well. It seems that our bodies are constantly in transition. As a toddler we seem to have unending amounts of energy – running here and there – discovering all kinds of things and getting into all kinds of mischief. During adolescence and youth our hormones change and we find those of opposite gender of interest. We date – we marry – we raise families. We become parents then grandparents. But with time our metabolism slows down. Ageing takes its effect on all of us. We don't run so fast (if we even run at all). We don't see so well – our eyes have become dimmed and our vision blurred. We don't hear so well. We forget some things. Yet, God does not change. God is perpetually the same. He is not composed of flesh and bone. He is spirit – pure and holy. He remains the same – unchangeable. There are no wrinkles on His brow. No age spots on His hands. He does not get dark circles under His eyes for lack of sleep.

He is the great I Am – the Great Unchangeable. His essence does not change. Even when Christ became man – God's nature did not change. **Flesh did not become God – but God became flesh and dwelt among us.** By this act the Godhead did not change God – for God is God and does not change. He remains everlasting, eternal, the one unchanging God, the Father of lights, with whom there is no shadow. That is why He can say:

"I am God—yes, I Am. I haven't changed." Malachi 3:6 (MSG)

2. God's CHARACTER has not changed

Whatever God's character was from before time – it still is today.

Was He powerful when He created the universe? Was He mighty when He formed the mountains? Was He holy when He told Moses to remove his shoes for he was standing on Holy ground? Did God ... speak the world into existence? Of course He did. He was powerful then – and He is powerful now. He has not changed – He has not aged.

Was He wise when He put all things in order? When He set the stars in their place? Did He have wisdom when He planned the way of salvation? Yes He did – He was wise then and He is wise now. His eyes see clearly. His ears hear with no restrictions. His wisdom is unchanging from the beginning even till now – it has never – never changed.

Psalms 104 "How countless are Your works, Lord! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures." Psalms 104:24 (HCSB)

He has always been holy. He has always been just. He has always been wise. **"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty – the earth is filled with His glory."** He is unchanged mercy. He is unchanged love. He is unchanged justice. He is unchanged truth. He is unchanged goodness. He is unchanged generosity. God has not changed. That is why God says:

"I am God—yes, I Am. I haven't changed." Malachi 3:6 (MSG)

Mercy, justice, faithfulness, wisdom, patience, holiness, compassion and any other attributes of God – have not changed – forever and ever and ever.

3. God's PLANS have not changed

A man started a journey but became sick on his day of departure – so he changed his plans. Another man was building a house. But before it was finished he ran out of money – so he changed his plans. Has this ever happened to God? Has He ever gotten sick – so He has to change His plans? Has He run out of money – so that He cannot finish what He started? No! Never! Do you remember the verse from Philippians that I read earlier in the sermon? Let me read it again to refresh your memory:

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6 (NASV)

God does not get sick. He does not run out of money. He is not forgetful. He has unlimited storehouses of supply and He will always - always accomplish what He sets out to do. Look at this promise God makes for His children:

“For I know the plans I have for you — plans for [your] welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 (HCSB)

Every person makes plans – with some we are successful – but not all. God, however, is the master-mind. He knows all the “in-s and out-s”. He knows all the details. God does not alter His plans because He has the cold or the flu. He does not alter His plans because He has nothing to wear. He doesn't alter His plans because you don't agree with them. God's plans are from everlasting to everlasting. They do not change – they do not get adjusted. He is the everlasting God – the Mighty One - the Holy One and His plans will be accomplished.

4. God's PROMISES have not changed

Ah! We sure like to rest on the sweet promises of God – don't we? But what if one of those promises ... changes? What if one of those promises turns out to be false. Where is the promise – if it turns out to be a lie? Church you have been lied to – but here is a fact – you have never been lied to by God. What He says – He does. His yes is always yes and His no is always no. He does not change. He does not give you a promise one day – and take it back the next. God does not work that way. I like the way the Message Bible states Hebrews chapter six verse eighteen. Follow along with me as I read:

“God can't break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go.” Hebrews 6:18 (MSG)

A promise is never a promise if it is changing all the time. I don't know about you but I want something solid – something that is sure – something that I can rely on – and that something are the promises of God. God's Word is full of promises and they do not change.

Church you can rest assured that you can stand on the promises of God – because God's promises have not changed.

5. God's LOVE has not changed

Church – did you know that from the beginning of time – God has loved you? It is true. From the beginning of time God has loved you. Look at what it says in Ephesians:

“He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

The Message Bible says it this way:

“Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.” Ephesians 1:4 (MSG)

God loves us with an everlasting love. God loves us with an unchanging love.

I know that many of you are parents – and as parents we have the honour and privilege of seeing our children grow up. I love the age of my children now but I also loved my children they were toddlers. My children had a tendency of getting dirty. They would go outside – and they seemed to look for ways to get dirty. If there was a mud or water- they would fall in it or jump in it. – making a mess of them-selves. Getting covered in mud – and having fun. Did I quit loving them because they were covered with filth? Did I give them up for adoption because they got dirty? Did I disown them for playing in the mud? No! They were still my children and there was nothing wrong with them that a little cleansing - a little scrubbing would not fix. I would take them ... and wash them – scrub them up – make them clean again. They were always my children - no matter how dirty they got.

The same is true of God. He knows that we have been playing out in the mud. He knows that we have gotten dirty. He knows what kind of filth is clinging to our clothes. He also has a way to clean us up. Look at what First John tells us:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

He is faithful – forever and ever and ever – to forgive us our sins and to cleanse from all unrighteousness. God's love for you has not changed – no matter how dirty you have gotten.