

Welcome to Cell!



What are Cell Groups?

Cell groups are the most basic building block of the church. They are the cells that make up the larger body, a simple structure designed to nurture opportunities for radical inclusion (where anyone is welcome) and committed intimacy (where anyone can experience loving relationships).

What do Cell Groups do?

The agenda of the cell is pursuing the life of Christ. The mission of the cell is to be the church, where people can experience every part of the life of the church described in the New Testament.

About the Cell Process

The health of the cell is protected when there is balance between four areas of focus:

Upward - the cell pursues God together in prayer, worship and hearing God's Word.

Inward - the cell bears one another's burdens by caring for each other in practical ways.

Outward - the cell lives a missional life, blessing and serving the people around them.

Forward - the cell is always committed to growth - personal spiritual and emotional growth, relational growth, and growth by drawing in new people to the process.



Cell Group Weekly Meetings:

Cell groups are unique from other kinds of groups we often encounter. While they include elements of support, Bible study, accountability and service, it's not exclusively any one of those kinds of groups. Cell is a lifestyle.

Within the cell process, people are invited to be the church - to love God, to love each other, to bless and serve the world and invite others into a Christ-centered life.

To best facilitate this process, there is a basic structure to the cell group.



Cell is an integrated part of people's lives, and naturally meets in the homes of the members when ever possible.

The weekly cell meeting often includes dinner or a snack. This time provides the opportunity to connect, enjoy each other and transition in from the busy day.

The group time is structured around 4 "W's":

- **Welcome.** The cell group meeting begins with a simple Welcome Question to break the ice and help the group get to know each other a bit in a laid-back, fun way.
- **Worship.** The cell group takes about 20 minutes together to worship and pray. The purpose of this time is to turn our hearts Godward and invite God into our cell's life together.
- **Word.** During the Word time, the group uses a pre-written Word Guide to prompt conversation about how God is working in the lives of the people in the group. The Word Guide is based on Bridge City's weekly sermon. The purpose of this time is to help each person mature in their journey of following Jesus.
- **Witness.** The church exists to bring God's love to the world. During the Witness time the group considers how God is calling them to bless and serve the people in their *oikos*, or sphere of influence.

Cell Groups Grow and Multiply.

We believe the church is called to be both *radically inclusive* and to provide *committed intimacy*.

To be radically inclusive means that cell groups are open to anyone who wants to join. Committed intimacy describes the kinds of relationships in which we can know and be known, love, heal and mature. We have found that this is only sustainable in a small group of people.

To live in this paradox, cells groups *grow* and *multiply*.

During the life of a cell group, the Cell Leader mentors one or more Cell Leader Interns. Cells *grow* in both leadership and in size, as new friends join along the way.

When the group has grown beyond 10-14 adults, it will *multiply* into two brand new groups. One will be led by the original Cell Leader, and the other will be led by a graduating Cell Leader Intern. Both will begin afresh the process of growing and multiplying.

Multiplication is an exciting and essential part of the cell process. If you have questions about it, or any other part of the cell process, please feel welcome to talk with your cell leader at any time.

Bridge City Community Church
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