



## Piloting the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community

### Session One: Nurturing Key Values

#### **Aim**

To help potential leaders evaluate where they can mesh the five values of the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community at work in a small group, and to equip them to nurture key values in the life of a small missional group and its members.

#### **7.00pm WELCOME**

In your personal opinion, what is the best thing about being a Christian?

OR

If your house were burning down what would be the one thing you would get out and why?

#### **7.15pm WORSHIP**

Enjoy a time of thanking God for these aspects of following Jesus.

#### **7.30pm WORD**

Read Matthew 6.19-24 in which Jesus is teaching ostensibly about wealth.

1. Why do you think Jesus encourages his disciples to think about where their treasure is rather than just tell them to give a proportion of their wealth away?
2. Where is your treasure and the desire of your heart?
3. How do you feel these verses apply in your life?

Pray for each other as you seek to apply what you have learned.

#### **8.00pm WITNESS**

**Challenge 1** Pray for someone who does not yet know Jesus to come to know him. Next time we will ask how you are getting on.

**Challenge 2** Are you doing anything with a small mission or prayerful group to share God's love? Next time, come prepared to share something you have done.

## Values: Key Points to Remember

1. A value is something of which we have a high opinion. It is important to us.
2. There is a link between beliefs, values and behaviours.

Traditionally the church has taught belief and expected Christians to behave in a Christian manner. However, we make choices about how we behave, based not on beliefs but on what we have come to value. Beliefs do influence our values, but there is often a lag or disconnect between believing biblical truth and actually valuing the things of God. For example Jesus taught us to love one another. We believe we should do this but many of us fail to do it in the radical way he modelled. This could show that we value our own comfort or happiness more than Jesus' command to love one another, which is usually costly for us.



3. Cells encourage people to live from five Bible-based values (overleaf). The four Ws of a cell meeting are designed to assist with this.

**WELCOME** To find out more about each other and what is important to each other. To help each member of the group to speak in the group. This helps **create community**.

**WORSHIP** To **encounter God**, placing him at the centre of the cell community and expecting his work in our lives.

**WORD** To apply the Bible to our lives, encouraging individual maturity and accountability – **becoming disciples**

**WITNESS** To focus on those who don't yet know Jesus, we learn to work together to make Jesus known to them – **doing evangelism**.

Throughout the meeting **all involved** in ministering in different ways.

## Values: into practice

Cell Value	In practice for cell meeting	In practice for leader
<b>Encountering God</b>	<p>A sense of God's presence when the cell meets.</p> <p>Time given to worship and prayer.</p> <p>Encountering God changes in people's lives.</p>	<p>My personal relationship with God. My expectation that he changes people's lives.</p> <p>I make sure quality time is given to worship and this is led in a way that enables those there to engage.</p>
<b>Doing Evangelism</b>	<p>The cell longs to see more people discover Jesus and has a growing vision for sharing God's love outside the church. The cell prays for people who do not yet know Jesus. The cell works together to regularly reach out beyond church boundaries e.g: social events, practical service, or running Alpha courses.</p>	<p>My personal commitment to pray for 1—3 friends. I place a high priority on helping the group to work together to share God's love—making sure we are always engaged in or working towards the next opportunity to reach out.</p>
<b>Creating Community</b>	<p>Hospitality is warm towards each and every person Community grows by prayer, care and sharing in a small group. People feel safe with each other and share deeply. People show care for each other outside the cell meeting. Others as well as the cell leader help to facilitate community.</p>	<p>I have a pastor's heart for each member of the group and love them sacrificially. I facilitate the quality of care for each other inside and outside the meeting. My personal openness creates the environment for other people's real problems to surface and be dealt with.</p>
<b>Becoming Disciples</b>	<p>Members are seeking to grow closer to God and to live out their faith actively. They seek to be accountable to each other. The <b>Word</b> section of the meeting is not merely discussion, but involves prayer for each other as we apply what we have learned to our lives.</p>	<p>I develop my own relationship with God and seek to allow the Spirit work in every area of my life. I am open and accountable to others in my walk with God. I encourage the cell to apply the Bible's teaching and values practically to their lives.</p>
<b>All involved</b>	<p>Welcome is key to making sure everyone's voice is heard in each meeting. Everyone contributes something. The work of hospitality and leading is shared. New, as well as established, Christians involved in leading.</p>	<p>I seek to identify the gifts of other cell members and help them to use them. I encourage others leadership. I facilitate others to lead the cell meetings and seek not to be leading more than one of the four <b>Ws</b> myself.</p>

## 8.45pm Evaluation

1. If needed, recap the definition of a value and the link between beliefs, values and behaviour.
2. Where could the values of the group be seen in action in the shortened cell meeting we shared?
3. If you are the leader of a missional small group, which value would you think we most needed to grow in?
4. Which value do you think your own church, cell, mission team or missional small group is strongest in? Share what makes you good.
5. How can a missional small group be led to encourage its members to live by these values?

## Matthew 6.19-24

Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

<sup>22</sup> "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good (single), your whole body is filled with light. <sup>23</sup> But when your eye is bad (divided), your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

## Growing in God

This initiative is the result of the partnership of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich with Rural Ministries. It is open to Christians of any denomination or stream.

