

# *Cell – Church Lesson Notes.*

*(March 2008– April 2008)*

**Cell Church @ New Covenant, Manchester.**  
**Schedule Of Meetings In March – April 2008**

<b>Week commencing</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Abundant Life in Relationship</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Jesus, the Bread of Life</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Prayers/Communion</b>	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Cell Evangelism</b>	
<b>13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Who's Stealing Your Life?</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Victory Over Sudden Death</b>

## **Abundant Life in Relationships**

The story of the woman at the well (John 4:5–26) is probably one of the best-known stories in the New Testament. In this story, Jesus took time to minister to a Samaritan woman whose life was empty, hopeless, and meaningless. He offered her “living water” so that she would never thirst again, and He still offers that same living water to all those who are thirsty for an abundant life in Him. This abundant life has three main components.

**Life comes from purpose (John 4:28)**—Jesus knew that the woman had tried to find happiness in relationships but had failed miserably. When He revealed to her His knowledge of her five previous marriages and current live-in arrangement, she knew that He was not just an ordinary man. When she spoke of the coming Messiah, He revealed His identity to her (vv. 25–26), and the woman believed. She immediately left her everyday activity of drawing water and went into the city to tell everyone of her encounter with Jesus. In Jesus, she had found life, and now she wanted to share that life with others.

True purpose comes from knowing Christ and sharing Him with others. When you truly have Christ’s life in you, you have a driving passion to share the Gospel. Winning souls becomes your primary purpose, and your life takes on new meaning.

**Life comes from the Holy Spirit (John 7:37–39)**—The living water that Jesus speaks of in these verses is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is available to all who believe in Jesus, and when a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit, a “river” of peace, joy, and power is released. It is a source of interior strength that enables a person to stand firm in any circumstance that confronts him. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate act from salvation, and it is a wonderful privilege for all believers.

**Life comes from dreams and desires (John 4:39–42)**—The drudgery of the Samaritan woman’s life was changed and her dreams and ambitions revived. God’s life within you will cause dead dreams to resurrect and hope for the future to spring forth. Life begins to shine with fulfillment, prosperity, and value as you release the river of abundant life.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. When we first come to Christ, most of us can’t wait to share our newfound faith in Him with our families and friends. Why do we often lose this zeal and passion as time passes? How can we keep the flame for souls alive in our hearts?
2. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate event from salvation. Ask one person to share his experience of receiving this gift. If any are present who have never received the baptism with the evidence of speaking in tongues, pray for them to receive.
3. What dreams or desires has the Holy Spirit placed within your heart? Have any of them come to pass? Have you been tempted to give up on them? Pray for everyone to have a fresh revelation of God’s plans and purposes for his life.

## **Jesus, the Bread of Life**

*“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”*

—John 6:35 NKJV

Bread is one of the most basic foods in all the world and is one of the staple elements in the diet of many people. Bread speaks of nourishment, sustenance, and life, and Jesus used it as a metaphor of the type of life He offers (John 6:35).

Just as your physical body needs bread, your spirit needs the “true bread” (John 6:32–33), if it is to be strong and healthy in the Lord. Jesus, the bread of life, offers Himself as the “food” that will cause us to grow into healthy, committed disciples. Unfortunately, many do not want to partake of the bread of life, preferring to be spoon-fed with small doses of daily “manna.”

“Manna” Christians are motivated by feelings, emotions, and entertainment. One day they are up, but the next day they are down. They serve God passionately when everything is going fine, but when life throws them a curveball, they are quick to proclaim that God has abandoned them. Manna Christians run from church to church, looking for the flashiest preacher with the most flamboyant style and equating that with spirituality and godliness.

Christians who are feeding on the true bread, however, are just the opposite of manna Christians. Their faith is deep, stable, and committed. They face trials, but their faith in God’s ability and desire to help them does not waver. They are planted in the local church and actively engaged in the body of Christ. They are not fringe members, but solid, mature disciples of Christ.

Those who are feeding on the “living bread” have had a revelation of the cross. They have grasped in their spirits the eternal significance of what transpired on Calvary and applied it to their lives. They have been transformed by the reality of the cross, and that revelation propels them forward in following the Lord.

Mature Christians have also experienced a revelation of the Word. Bible study and reading, discipleship classes, and prayer are important parts of their lives. They have an obvious hunger for the things of the Lord and the Word of God. Their commitment is firm, because they are feeding on Jesus, the bread of life.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Are you a “manna” Christian or a “bread” Christian? What could you do to help yourself mature in Christ?
2. The revelation of the cross transforms like nothing else! Have a couple of people share their own personal revelation of the cross and how it changed them.
3. The Word of God is living and relevant, nourishing your heart with spiritual food. How do you incorporate the Word of God into your daily life? Has God ever revealed something to you through His Word? What was it, and how did it help you?

### **Who's Stealing Your Life?**

*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

—John 10:10 NKJV

Jesus came that we might have abundant life. Because He is the Good Shepherd, we can have access to His power, provision, direction, and protection. There is an adversary, however, who wants to prevent us from having the abundant life Jesus promises. This adversary is Satan, and his goal is to steal from us, kill us, and ultimately destroy our souls.

There's a phrase often repeated that says "God is a good God, and the devil is a bad devil." That simple statement summarizes the two kinds of life available. We can choose God and the goodness and abundance that He provides, or we can choose to follow the devil, with all his wickedness and destruction. The choice seems obvious, but unbelievably, most people refuse the abundance and peace found in Christ. The devil deceives them, making them think that they are better off living their lives in whatever fashion they choose. He promises them riches, fame, or pleasure, and they swallow his lie, never realizing his true intent to steal, kill, and destroy.

The Good Shepherd, however, "gives His life for the sheep" (John 10:11 NKJV).

Jesus is for us, not against us. He desires to heal our bodies, restore our souls, provide for our needs, give us direction, and bless us with overflowing life. He loves us unconditionally and proved it when He died on the cross for all mankind.

It's difficult for most of us to realize just how much Jesus wants us to have abundance in every area of life. We settle for mediocrity, lack, insecurity, and dull routine. We forget that Jesus died to give us our full inheritance as joint heirs with Him. Knowing Jesus does not mean that we will never face problems or have needs, but it does mean that we have a Good Shepherd to carry us through every trial and see us through to ultimate victory.

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What are some of the devil's tactics to make people think they are better off by not following Jesus? Which of these did he try on you? How can you help people overcome the deceptive tactics that Satan uses to try to keep them from getting saved?
2. A shepherd is not a common figure in our culture, but most of us are familiar with the idea. Discuss the qualities and work of a shepherd and how Jesus fits this role.
3. What do you think Jesus meant when He said He came to give us "abundant life"? Discuss the meaning of this term. Are there limits to abundant life?

### **Victory Over Sudden Death**

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

—John 11:25–26 NKJV

God wants the very best for your family in every area of your life—finances, health, marriage, and relationships. And while bad things happen to good people—even saved people!—it is important to remember that God is always working for your good. He has great plans for your life, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jer. 29:11 NKJV).

The devil does not want you to know this, however, and will use every trick in the book to keep you from realizing victory. Since he is the accuser of the brethren, he will tell you that God has forgotten about you, that He’s not going to show up in a particular situation, or that God has let you down, even though you put your trust and hope in Him. He’ll do his best to persuade you to give up hope, to keep you from reading the Word, and to create an atmosphere of despair and hopelessness.

When something appears dead in your life or when circumstances have caused you to simply give up or believe the lies of the enemy, that is the time to stand up and fight for your miracle. It may require doing something different that might take you a little out of your comfort zone. John Maxwell says, “If you do what you’ve always done, you’re gonna get what you’ve always got.” When you step out of the comfort circle, however, you find God waiting with the beginning of a life-changing miracle!

Experiencing a resurrection miracle requires believing that the miracle will come and depending on God’s timing. Just as Jesus instructed the men to take away the stone that sealed Lazarus in his prison of death, you must remove any obstacles to your miracle, especially unbelief and doubt.

Finally, you must wait for God to work, and you must realize a miracle may not come in the form you want or expect. You must allow God’s timing to perform His perfect work.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What are some of the areas in life in which people sometimes give up or lose hope? What lies has the devil used to persuade people to give up? What about your life? Are there some hopes or dreams that you’ve given up on? What lies has the devil used to cause you to lose hope?
2. You hear people say they believe in God all the time. Discuss what it really means to believe in God and to believe in resurrection life.
3. What are some things you could do to step out of our comfort circle? (Examples: attend early morning prayer, read the Word daily, witness to someone at work)