

 S.T.E.M Cells

 Introductory Leaflet

**Want to start a S.T.E.M Cell?**

**1. What are S.T.E.M Cells?**

Stem Cells encourage growth in the body.

They are the cells from which all other cells develop.

They growth. They change. They divide. They specialise.

 **S.T.E.M** stands for: **S**piritual **T**ransformation through **E**ncouragement in **M**ission

Our aim in starting them is to encourage every person connected to the church to form a **S.T.E.M Cell** and so grow in discipleship.

**S.T.E.M Cells** are groups of two to four people who meet regularly to encourage and hold one another to account to:

🞟 Know Christ

🞟 Grow in Faith

* Go to the World

🞟 Show the love of God

The reason they are not larger is because:

🞟 It is harder to share honestly in a larger group.

🞟 The Bible encourages the development of groups of this size. (Matthew 18:30; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Luke 10:1) The size of the group mirrors "God in three persons blessed trinity".

**2. Who is in a S.T.E.M. Cell?**

They are not necessarily groups of friends, though they can be.

The best people to be part of your group are:

🞟 Those you know want to grow themselves

🞟 Those you trust to help you grow in your Christian Life.

🞟 Those who are as keen as you to Know Christ; Grow in Faith and Show God's Love to others.

No-one puts you in a cell. You decide who you want to meet with, where you want to meet and when you want to meet. That said, STEM Cells are single sex since this often allows members to talk about issues more openly and honestly.

**3. Where do S.T.E.M Cells meet?**

Wherever you want to meet - at work; in a coffee shop; at home; over a meal; in the park; whilst jogging! Anywhere and at whatever time suits you!

**4. How do S.T.E.M. Cells start?**

It is up to you to start a **S.T.E.M. Cell**.

It's simple - you invite at least one or two others to join you in your **S.T.E.M Cell**.

Then you meet ideally at least once a fortnight but you can meet weekly if you have the time and feel that this is most helpful, or meet as often as you like. All we ask is that when you start a S.T.E.M Cell you let us know.

**5. What's a S.T.E.M. Cell for?**

S.T.E.M. Cells have three main aims:

**First: To Encourage you in Knowing Christ.**

Jesus said, "Man will not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." They are therefore firstly - Bible Reading Groups.

As a cell:

1. You decide which Bible Book you are going to read.

2. You decide how many chapters a day you will read.

3. If the group meets fortnightly it is suggested that you read 28 chapters, that's 2 a day. Remember this is Bible Reading not Study. If it is a small book you either choose to read it a number of times or choose a number of books.

4. The idea is:

🞟 To make it a challenge, and to stretch yourself. If you don’t manage to read all the chapters you do the same exercise again until everyone in the group has.

🞟 To read the passage a number of times in between meetings so that it can soak into you.

🞟 When you meet you share what has spoken to you from the chapters you've read.

**Second To Encourage you to Grow in Faith.**

At their heart **S.T.E.M Cells** are designed to help you grow in faith. They provide you with a safe environment and the tools to share openly and honestly with one another:

🞟 How you're doing in your Christian life and growth in the things of God?

🞟 What hinders your moving forward with God?

There are a number of questions that you will work your way through every time you meet that will help you do this and not miss anything out. Pick up the **S.T.E.M Cells** **Instruction** **Leaflet** on running your **S.T.E.M Cell**.

**Third To Encourage you to Show God's Love**

Each member of the **S.T.E.M. Cell** asks God for three non-Christian friends that he would have them pray for. Each Group member then commits to pray for those people every day.

Praying that they might:

🞟 Show God's love to them and share God's Good News.

🞟 Invite them to Journeys or Alpha.

🞟 Come to know Christ for themselves and join the **S.T.E.M. Cell**

**6. What else do S.T.E.M. Cells do?**

**🞟 S.T.E.M. Cells** encourage their members to get involved in mission and find a meaningful place to minister.

🞟 **S.T.E.M. Cells** look to grow by inviting new people to join.

🞟 **What happens when a S.T.E.M. Cell reaches 4?** It then divides leaving room for 4 more, two in each cell. The aim is to grow each **S.T.E.M. Cell** into a collection of Cells that come together once a fortnight as a Life Group **\***

🞟 **S.T.E.M. Cells** therefore do not replace Life Groups **\***  but rather they feed into Life Groups. A Life Group **\*** is the outworking of a **S.T.E.M. Cell**. Some **S.T.E.M. Cells** will not become Life Groups but just multiply

[ **\*** See Separate Sheet ]