

# An Example of a Simple Structure for a Community of St. Chad Spiritual Growth Group

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## 1. Scripture:

*Select a suitable Bible passage to be read by one member of the group.*

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.' [Luke 9.51-end]

## 2. Meditation:

*Allow a period of silence for meditation on the Bible text, say 5 minutes, then each member can, if they wish, share any insights or related thoughts.*

## 3. Sharing:

*Each member of the group should be given an opportunity to share and reflect upon their experiences since the last cell meeting of their relative successes in following the Rhythms of Grace. The speaker should be given an uninterrupted time to share, say 10 minutes maximum. The Rhythms are summarised below.*

- (i) **On being transformed into the likeness of Christ.**
- (ii) **On being open to the Holy Spirit's presence, guidance and power.**
- (iii) **Having set aside time for prayer, worship and reading.**
- (iv) **Having been a gracious presence, having sought to serve others and in working for justice.**
- (v) **Having shared ones faith and supported God's mission both locally and globally.**



## 4. Prayer:

*Following the time of sharing, supportive prayers and prayers of thanksgiving can be offered. Perhaps the Collect of the Day or some other prayer from the Communities' resources can be used before the Lord's Prayer and the Collect for St. Chad is said.*

O Lord, from whom all good things come: grant to us your humble servants, that by your holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Be with us as we seek to follow in the footsteps of your servant Chad, whose humility and prayerfulness attracted so many to your kingdom. Let our lives, like his, reflect the light of Christ and the hope of faith. In the name of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**