



...Help me! I'm a CU leader!

- What to do at my CU? -

You may have just started a CU...

...Or you may be in the swing of things already but could do with some help with your week to week meetings?

We've come up with some ideas of how a Sixth Form or College CU may look from week to week!

Synopsis:

1. Starting meetings

2. Welcome

3. Open in Prayer

4. Main Event Ideas:

- 4.1: Exploring what the bible says
- 4.2: Issues of relevance
- 4.3: Visiting Speakers
- 4.4: Praying together
- 4.5: Evangelism and Outreach Ideas
- 4.6: Socials
- 4.7: Video Ideas!
- 4.8: Sharing Testimonies
- 4.9: Always pray it all in!

A typical weekly agenda might look something like this:

1. Arrive promptly

- So that you are able to greet people as they arrive.
- You should start the meeting promptly, as most people don't have a huge amount of time.
- If you're having a visiting speaker, make sure someone has met them at the college reception- make sure they sign in!

2. Welcome

- A friendly atmosphere is so important to make people welcome, particularly newcomers. There are many 'Icebreaker' games you could try to set people at ease.
- Encourage people to bring their lunch with them - you can eat as a group. But check that you are allowed to eat in the room you are using.
- Why not provide drinks for people? Someone turned up at a CU for a cup of tea once and actually became a Christian.

3. Open In Prayer

- Thank God for being with you all and ask Him to bless what you do.

4. Main Event / activity

This should occupy the bulk of the time you spend together.

You might want to do one of the following:

4.1) ...Explore what the Bible says.

There are many Bible Exploration/Study guides available, but most are too long for half an hour studies. The "***User Friendly Guides to.....***" are a series of short, ready-to-use Bible Exploration Guides written especially for smaller CU's with limited time to meet. Key things to remember here are:

- Take a Bible with you!
- Stick to the text.
- Avoid red herrings.
- Know the difference between opinion and truth.
- Ask for help if you need it.

Be careful here with people in the CU (or church for that matter) who use single verses as proof texts. Always check what someone says with the rest of Scripture: A student announced in one CU that "those who smoke will go to hell!" When asked why, the reply was, "because it says, somewhere in Leviticus I think, that we shouldn't use our nose as a chimney!"

4.2) ...Discuss an issue of relevance to the CU members amongst yourselves.

Determining what subjects to address is the important part. CU members could do the research and lead discussions on individual topics. Tough subjects (for example, "Suffering") should be handled by someone who is mature in their faith and quite knowledgeable...

4.3) ...Have a visiting speaker.

Invite a good speaker in to talk about a particular topic that is of interest to the group.

But - how do you know who is a good speaker?

You need to find someone who is going to teach you the Bible properly - what it actually says, not what they think it says or want it to say. Three suggestions to help you here:

1. Invite someone you know, or have heard, and have found to be helpful.
2. Ask your church minister to come, or to recommend someone.
3. Ask a prospective speaker to affirm their belief in key Christian truths, as listed for example in the Festive "Doctrinal Basis". Good speakers will be happy to sign their acceptance of these truths. If they do, you are likely to have someone who will teach you properly.

4.4) ...Pray together.

You might simply want to meet together to share needs and pray for one another. A CU in Cornwall didn't know what to do for the first term. They knew they had to do something so met to pray each week. This group of 3 students grew to 12 over the term, 5 people turning up one day to see what was so special about this prayer meeting.

4.5) ...Evangelistic / outreach event.

- There are loads and loads of different options, check out our other resources created especially for Evangelism!

But here are a few taster ideas:

- **Camcorder** (ask people a question like: Who is Jesus? and invite them to come and see themselves on video and listen to a talk that will explore the answer to the question)
- **A Questionnaire** (a great way of getting into conversation with people, publish results on noticeboard)
- **Meal/Food with a message**
- **Band** (someone can give their testimony)
- **Video clip with a talk**

- **Remember those special times of year...** What about a Carol service!
- **For Easter time** – why not give out Crème Eggs with an Easter Gospel Tract!? Or pull a Hot cross bun party with a talk!?
- **Pancake party?**
- **'Just looking group'**
- **Grill-a-Christian** (Invite a panel of Christians in to answer any question on the Christian faith)
- **Big Issues** (Prove to me that God exists, why does a God of love allow suffering and evil? etc)

Remember ...

***"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."** - Romans 1:16*

4.6) Social event.

Maybe a party or gathering every now and then where your CU members can invite their mates... no specific 'talks' as such, no pressure to pray – but just a fun atmosphere where your Non Christian and Christian mates get mingling!

4.7) Watch and discuss a video

A small CU in a large FE college near Manchester planned an outreach event using the film "The Matrix". The event, to be held in the college bar was widely advertised, and friends of the CU received personal invitations. 2 clips were chosen for discussion, and a speaker was invited to come in and share the gospel.

4.8) Share a personal testimony.

It is important that these times focus on God, and what He has done for individual Christians, or a Church. The aim of sharing a testimony is to give glory to God.

4.9) Prayer

- Pray about what you have learnt, and how you can encourage one another to apply the lessons heard.
- Simply close in prayer.



*"How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who brings good news,
the good news of peace and salvation,
the news that the God of Israel reigns!"*

Isaiah 52:7