

EU CELL LEADERS' KIT

Your Guide to starting and sustaining EU cells effectively and efficiently.



Brought out by: **Field Development Department**

Version **2025 Edition**

UESI EU Cell Leaders' Kit

The UESI story began with just three student cells gathering for Bible study and prayer. From those small groups grew a movement that continues to impact campuses across India. Even today, cells are the heartbeat of Evangelical Unions – places where students meet Christ, grow in discipleship, and shine as witnesses in their colleges and universities.

This Cell Leaders' Kit is here to equip you. Leading a cell is not about running a program but about shepherding friends – opening God's Word, praying together, and living out faith in community. Just like the early church met in homes as well as larger gatherings (Acts 2:46), EU cells are called to be Scripture-centered, prayerful, and missional.

Inside, you'll find useful tips and practical tools to help your cell stay creative, student-friendly, and spiritually healthy. Whether it's a Prayer Cell, Evangelistic Bible Study, or Believers' Bible Study, the goal is the same: glorify God by building Christ-centered communities on campus.

Our prayer is that this kit will encourage and equip you as a leader, and that you'll experience the joy of seeing lives – including your own – transformed through God's Word and Spirit.

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| 1.1 Small Groups or Cells in the Bible | 4 |
| 1.2 Why Cells Matter in UESI | 5 |
| 1.3 What is an EU cell? | 6 |
| 1.4 How to start an EU Cell? | 7 |
| 2.1 Types of EU Cells | 9 |
| 3.1 Leading an EU Cell | 12 |
| 3.2 Cell Leaders Orientation Program | 14 |
| 4.1 Prayer in EU Cells | 16 |
| 4.2 Tips for leading Bible Studies | 17 |
| 4.3 Model Syllabus for EBS Cells | 17 |
| 4.4 Model Syllabus for EBS Cells | 18 |
| 4.5 Even more tools | 19 |



01

EU Cells: the Basics





1.1 Small Groups or Cells in the Bible

From the Old Testament to the New, the Bible shows God's people gathering in small groups for care, discipleship, and mission. Moses organized Israel into smaller communities for effective shepherding (Ex. 18:21-25), and prophets had groups of disciples who learned together (2 Kgs. 2:3,5).

Jesus modeled this by investing deeply in the Twelve and especially in Peter, James, and John (Mk. 3:14; 5:37). The early church too met both in large assemblies and in small house gatherings, where they prayed, studied Scripture, and supported one another (Acts 2:42-47; 12:12). Paul's letters to house churches (Rom. 16:5; Philem. 2) confirm this pattern.

Scripture makes clear that discipleship, fellowship, and mission flourish best in small, committed communities — what we call cells today.



1.2 Why Cells Matter in UESI

The story of UESI began with three simple student cells. These were not massive rallies or grand events — they were small, faithful gatherings where God worked through prayer, study, and fellowship. Over time, those cells multiplied and became the movement we know today.

Cells are the basic building blocks of Evangelical Unions. Just as the human body depends on healthy cells for growth and vitality, so also UESI depends on vibrant, well-nourished cells. When cells thrive, the EU thrives; when cells weaken, the EU struggles.

Reminder for leaders: Don't underestimate your small group. In God's hands, two or three students praying or studying together can become the seed of a campus-wide movement.



1.3 What is an EU cell?

An EU cell is a small, regular fellowship meeting with a clear purpose.

- **Small:** Between 2–10 members. The smallness is a strength, not a weakness. In smaller groups, everyone can participate, relationships grow deeper, and accountability is stronger.
- **Regular:** Cells should meet consistently (ideally weekly). Random, occasional meetings of friends don't make a cell. Consistency builds trust and rhythm.
- **Purposeful:** Every cell must know why it exists – whether for prayer, evangelism, discipleship, or a mix. Without a purpose, a cell becomes just another social hangout.



1.4 How to start an EU Cell?

The requirements are simple:

- **A Burdened Student:** One person with a vision and willingness to start.
- **At Least One Other Person:** Fellowship begins with two.
- **A Place:** Hostel room, canteen, classroom corner, tree shade, café, church hall, open home, or even online.
- **Freedom to Talk:** If you can talk then you can pray, discuss and study. Even if you are not able to sing or do games you can still meet to study and pray.

That's all it takes. You don't need loads of resources, a title, or a big crowd to start a cell. Don't wait to start your cell...

02

Types of EU Cells



2.1 Types of EU Cells

Every cell must be defined by two things:

- **Purpose** (Prayer, Evangelism, or Discipleship)
- **Context** (Campus students, area-wide students, or online participants)

1. Prayer Cells (PC)

- **What:** Groups focused on praying for one another, the campus, the nation, and global needs.
- **Strengths:** Easy to start, low preparation, to have someone pray for you is special.
- **Who:** Believers and seekers alike can be included — prayer is a powerful witness.
- **Next Step:** Prayer cells, over time, grow into Evangelistic or Believers Bible Studies.

2. Evangelistic Bible Study (EBS) / GIG (Groups Investigating God)

- **What:** Small groups that explore the Gospel.
- **Who:** A mix of believers and seekers.
- **How:** Keep it simple, 30–60 minutes max. Encourage open discussions, don't force singing or prayer if participants are uncomfortable. Use current issues, films, books, or questions as discussion topics instead of always studying the gospels.

Tip: Rebrand if needed. If "EBS" sounds dull, call it a GIG (Groups Investigating God) or use creative names that appeal to seekers.

3. Believers Bible Study (BBS)

- **What:** Aimed at discipleship and nurturing believers.
- **Importance:** The backbone of EU – where students are fed and trained for all other activities.
- **How:** Plan the syllabus. Cover holistic topics such as discipleship, doctrine, mission, academic issues, UESI's aims, practical Christian living and etc. Try to cover all 4 Aims. Include topics from Witness for Me.
- **Time:** Ideally under 90 minutes. Even 30 focused minutes can be fruitful.

Context-Based Cells: Cells are also defined by where and how they meet:

- **Campus Cells:** Linked to a single campus. Can be PC, EBS, or BBS, but always focused on impacting that campus. Activities should address campus realities. If meeting on campus or café be mindful of what is appropriate in that setting, avoid activities that attract unnecessary attention. Follow the rules of the campus with regards to meeting location and time.
- **Area Cells:** Students from multiple campuses gather. Useful for fellowship and growth but should eventually help multiply into campus cells. Challenge: coordinating different schedules and streams.
- **Online Cells:** Use Zoom, GMeet, or WhatsApp. Keep them short (max 40 min), focus on interaction. Encourage cameras on, gallery mode and interactive apps.





03

Cell Leaders

3.1 Leading an EU Cell

Starting a cell is one thing; sustaining and leading it well is another. A good leader helps the cell stay true to its purpose and ensures members grow meaningfully.

Preparing for a Cell Meeting

- **Prayer First:** Pray for members individually, for the topic, and for God's leading.
- **Know Your Group:** Choose studies/discussions that are relevant to their faith stage, academic pressure, and current issues.
- **Keep it Simple:** Don't overload with too much content. Leave room for interaction.
- **Cell Program Flow:** (a) Warm-up/icebreaker, (b) Study/discussion, (c) Sharing, (d) Prayer, (e) Hangout.

Conducting the Meeting

- **Begin on time, end on time:** Respecting schedules builds trust.
- **Encourage participation:** A leader is more of a facilitator than a lecturer.
- **Use open-ended questions** (e.g., "What do you think this passage says about God?").
- **Be sensitive:** not all students will open-up immediately. Build trust over time.

Follow-Up After the Meeting

- **Check on members during the week:** A short text/call means a lot.
- Encourage **practical application** of the lesson in daily life.
- Spot **potential leaders** and begin mentoring them gradually.

Common Challenges in Cells (and How to Handle Them)

- **Irregular Attendance:** Keep meetings engaging, follow up personally, and remind students why the cell matters.
- **Lack of Participation:** Use creative methods—games, role-plays, current affairs discussions. Don't put anyone on the spot.
- **Conflict Among Members:** Handle it privately, prayerfully, and with humility. Encourage forgiveness and unity.
- **Leader Burnout:** Share responsibilities. Rotate facilitators, prayer leaders, or hosts. Don't carry the load alone.

Growing Beyond the Cell: A healthy cell will always multiply. The aim is not to remain a closed group, but to grow and send out.

- **Multiplication:** When a cell reaches 8–10 members, consider dividing into two.
- **Raising Leaders:** Invest in potential leaders early, so they can lead new cells.
- **Campus Impact:** Cells are not an end in themselves. They are the launchpad for evangelism, discipleship, and campus engagement.



3.2 Cell Leaders Orientation Program

CLOP helps orient our cell leaders so that they are effectively equipped for the task of starting and sustaining EU cells. This is different from Committee Members Orientation Program (CMOP) where the focus is to orient committee members with the functioning of EU committees and the various roles and responsibilities. The following is a model syllabus for CLOP.

Module 1: Foundations of Cell Ministry

- Vision & Biblical basis of cells (Acts 2:42–47, Eph. 4:11–16)
- Why small groups matter in UESI
- Different types of cells

Module 2: The Cell Leader's Role

- Personal Care & Discipleship
- Communication & Follow-up
- Shared and Successive Leadership

Module 3: Skills for Leading

- Starting EU cells and Witness
- Facilitating Group Bible Study
- Handling Group Dynamics & Conflict
- Time Management
- Balancing Studies with Ministry
- Planning Cell Meetings and Syllabus

Module 4: Personal Formation of a Leader

- Spiritual Disciplines
- Integrity & Character of a Leader
- Dealing with Stress, Burnout & Temptations
- Leading with Humility & Vision

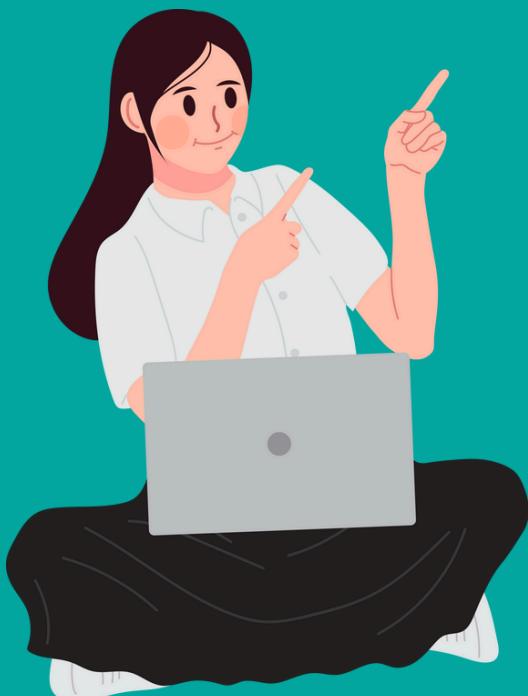
Regular Follow-up After Orientation

The EU committee may plan to coordinate with the cell leaders periodically to evaluate the cell health and take corrective steps if necessary.



04

Resources for EU Cells



4.1 Prayer in EU Cells

Prayer is the lifeline of every EU cell, we are assured by Scripture that the Lord actively involves in our prayer. Therefore, pay attention to how you plan your prayer time - let us not take it for granted. **What to pray for? Here are a few suggestions:**

Pray for:

1. the group members and their personal prayer concerns.
2. the campus, teachers, administration, fellow students, issues on campus and academic activities.
3. the city, town or state - administration, current issues, other campuses and churches.
4. UESI ministry - needs of your EU, region, state and UESI National concerns (UESI InTouch has prayer points).
5. World - current issues, unreached nations, etc.



4.2 Tips for leading Bible Studies

- Study the passage in advance; know the main idea and key questions.
- Start with icebreakers & easy questions to help people open up.
- Use open-ended questions to encourage discovery and participation.
- Value every contribution and ensure everyone gets a chance to share.
- Keep the focus on God's Word, not personal opinions or tangents.
- Always draw out real-life and relevant applications.
- Allow room for prayer, encouragement, and the Spirit's leading.



4.3 Model Syllabus for EBS Cells

This is just a suggestive list to help you prepare your own syllabus based on your needs. Note the mix of topics included.

1. **Who is Jesus?** John 1:1-14
2. **The Problem of Evil and Suffering** Genesis 3:1-19
3. **What is True Freedom?** John 8:31-36
4. **Success and Satisfaction** Luke 12:13-21
5. **What True Love looks like?** John 15:12-17
6. **Dealing with Stress and Anxiety** Matthew 6:25-34
7. **Identity – Who Am I?** Psalm 139:13-18
8. **Forgiveness – Is It Possible?** Luke 15:11-32
9. **The Cross – Why Did Jesus Die?** Isaiah 53:3-7; John 3:16-18
10. **Truth in a World of Opinions** John 18:33-38;
11. **Justice – Why Does It Matter?** Luke 4:16-21
12. **Temptation – Can I Overcome?** Matthew 4:1-11;
13. **Who Is My Neighbour?** Luke 10:25-37
14. Additional materials: **Discover Life** and **Radical Jesus**



4.4 Model Syllabus for BBS Cells

The following list is an example to help you plan your BBS study plan in line with the 4 Aims of UESI. You can plan as per your context.

| | Bible Study Topic | Aim |
|----|---|------------|
| 1 | Is this Jesus Radical? Mark 1:12-21 | Evangelism |
| 2 | Jesus Breaks down Barriers Mark 1:40-45 | Evangelism |
| 3 | Jesus, the Risk-taker Mark 3:1-6 | Evangelism |
| 4 | The Call to Discipleship Luke 5:1-11 | Fellowship |
| 5 | The Cost of Discipleship Luke 14:25-35 | Fellowship |
| 6 | Peter, the Transformed Leader Acts 1:12-26 | Fellowship |
| 7 | Money and Materialism Matthew 6:19-34 | Testimony |
| 8 | Group Discussion: History of UESI | Fellowship |
| 9 | Philip: The Barrier Breaker Acts 8:4-13; 26-40 | Fellowship |
| 10 | Book Study: Your Mind Matters | Testimony |
| 11 | Talk: Doctrine of Redemption | Fellowship |
| 12 | Movie: Life of William Carey | Mission |
| 13 | Group Discussion: Core Values of UESI | Fellowship |
| 14 | Group Discussion: Effects of Social Media | Testimony |
| 15 | Understanding Students Mission Acts 26:19-23 | Mission |

Additional materials: the 3 Radical Series. | Available from: books@uesi.in



4.6 Even more tools

Scan the QR code to access some more tools such as:

- EU Cell Progress Chart
- Cell Evaluation Sheet
- EU Student Member's Self Evaluation Sheet
- Annual BBS Syllabus

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/eckfdd25>



Thank You & God Bless

To know more contact:
fdd.uesi@uesi.in

 [@uesiofficial](https://www.instagram.com/uesiofficial)
 www.uesi.in

