

What is the purpose of a CU meeting?

For people to encounter the living God

To celebrate together what God is doing in your CU, on your campus – how often do you share good stories from the front?

Is that what people expect? Is that evident from the way the night pans out

Is your night planned to help people do that or is it just to fit in all the constituents and sometimes vary the order.

Why are CU meetings always like churches?

It is not a church service -don't use terms like program or service, it doesn't need to be formal yet not flippant either. Relax – be yourselves, don't try to be something you're not- try to avoid preacher voices, sombre voices.

What about non-Christians?

Don't strip back worship and prayer – people need to see authentic faith, God at work, if they are to come to follow Jesus prayer and worship will be part of their learning.

BUT explain it well – make sure people know they aren't being forced, pray for God to be at work and speaking

Practically

- ⇒ Be intentional – growth is about God, willingness and an environment that facilitates that.
- ⇒ Have a running order with times, brief everyone involved well – especially speaker as to what is happening (esp. if having sharing, or opportunities connected to talk)
- ⇒ Let people know what is happening – nothing worse than people not knowing what to expect – especially in worship – stop between songs – disrupts flow, often people wonder if finished
- ⇒ Explain clearly from the front –language – try to practise not using Christian jargon. Speak clearly
- ⇒ Announcements – necessary but can take too much time – often people lost loads concentration by time comes to speaker. Think of creative ways – email, website, through small groups, flyers, PowerPoint
- ⇒ Strip back the unnecessary crap
- ⇒ What provision is there for people to respond to what God is saying? Do you have talk, song/s and end or is there opportunities for silent prayer, prayer with others, discussion etc? How many of you remember the last 3 sermons in church – why not? Amazing the impact merely asking people to reflect on what God has been saying, or one/two things struck them. Need to help people with the application
- ⇒ What provisions are there for people to follow up what is said in large gatherings – books, activities, sharing stories, small groups
- ⇒ Starting times – got to tighten up. If you start on time and people are late they will learn – respecting student unions
- ⇒ Think about participation – are your large gatherings spectator affairs or are people getting involved?
- ⇒ Use different people up front – not just committee – involving creates ownership. Vary format.
- ⇒ If telling people to see someone about something – ALWAYS get person to stand up so people know who they are
- ⇒ Evaluate- not just the slickness, timing, but most importantly – is God truly encountered and worshipped, and are students equipped and inspired to follow Jesus? What do we need to/can we follow up?

Speakers

Welcome them – introduce them (it's a good idea to find out a little bit about who they are the things they are passionate about), provide a lectern for notes, water, write and thank them promptly afterwards.