

Teaching in Flock Groups

The teaching that goes on during your flock group sessions is more of a facilitation process of applying (massaging) the word of God into the hearts and lives of its members. We are richly blessed as a body of believers at College Park Church to have a pulpit ministry that is filled weekly with sound biblical teachings. Our task as flock group leaders is to engage our groups in remembering what was taught, identifying application principles, and encouraging one another to apply what has been taught to our lives. As you guide them through the process (facilitate), you will be encouraging them (teaching them) to obey and put what they hear into practice.

Since it is easy for leaders to drop into a mode of a traditional teacher in a classroom situation than a facilitator of the process, let's revisit our purpose.

Purpose of Flock Groups

The purpose of flock groups at College Park Church is to provide an extension of the weekly public ministry of the church into flock groups meeting in the homes of its members. As an extension of the public ministry, we are encouraged to pursue our mission as a church, "To glorify God by making disciples through teaching, worship, fellowship, evangelism and compassion."

As the early church "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer"¹, we are encouraged to do likewise in our flock group fellowships.

Flock groups, however, are more than...

- Support groups or social clubs or counseling sessions.
- Evangelism training classes.
- Home Bible studies.
- Focus groups.
- Prayer meetings.

The Flock Group Ministry Council at College Park Church encourages the flock group leaders to structure their meeting time in four areas, referred to as pillars:

- Teaching...with emphasis on application of the pastors' teachings
- Fellowship...as we share what God is doing in our lives.
- Prayer...in active communion with God for each other and our church.
- Outreach...sharing our faith with others and serving others in word and deed.

As we meet together in each other's homes, we have an opportunity to remember what is being taught, search the scriptures and apply the principles to our walk with the Lord.

¹ Acts 2:42

Why is Teaching a Part of Flock Groups

As the body of believers of the early church, "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer", we are encouraged in our flock groups to devote ourselves to our pastors' teachings. Note that being devoted to the teachings of the apostles is the anchoring activity that helped bind the body of believers together as they met together in each other's homes.

The teaching pillar of a flock group gathering allows time for each of us to...

- Be reminded of, and to examine God's word,
- Be encouraged to obey it ,repent, and apply it,
- Enjoy fellowship while discussing The Grandest Subject - Jesus.

Our Goal for Teaching Segment

The goal of the teaching segment is to remind each other of what we heard from God's word, examine the Scriptures and apply the principles of God's word to our lives.

Remind

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, encourages us to remember what has been taught.

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. Jude 1:17

John, also encourages us to...

Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. Revelation 3:3

Examine the Scriptures

What better place to dive into God's word and discuss it's implications for our lives than in our flock group gatherings. In doing so we, like to Bereans, will be assured that what was taught is based on sound biblical teachings.

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Acts 17:11

Apply

After being reminded of what was taught and examining the scriptures, the most important dimension is to apply the principles to our lives. In the Revelation of John, he encouraged his readers to...

"Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; **obey it, and repent.**" Revelation 3:3

Matthew records how Jesus told those listening to his sermon on the mount that application brings wisdom and establishes a firm foundation on which to live our lives.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

On the day Jesus ascended into heaven, he commissioned his disciples to go, make disciples, and teach them to obey.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

This means that there needs to be an application of the sermon to our lives, not just a discussion about what was said. We need to teach one another to obey Jesus' teachings daily. And we do so in the full knowledge and empowerment of the presence of the Holy Spirit and resurrected Lord guiding us along our journey.

What should the Teaching Segment Look Like?

If you were to drop in on the teaching segment of a typical flock group, you would see that...

- A. In following the example of the early church in being, "devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings" (Acts 2:42), the source of the application discussion is on the Sunday sermons of College Park Church.
- B. Everyone in the group is encouraged to participate as the flock group leader facilitates the discussion, draws people into the discussion, and helps the group to stay focused.
- C. The focus of the discussion is on applying sound instruction and Godly teaching, centered upon Jesus, and not upon controversies that result in strife.

"What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three--should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace." 1 Corinthians 14:26-33

"You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine." Titus 2:1

"If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands

nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain."

1 Timothy 6:3-5

"Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith."

1 Timothy 6:20-21

"Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son." 2 John 1:9

During the teaching segment your role will be more of a facilitator than a traditional role of a teacher that you generally see used in Sunday School or in a small group Bible study. For more on developing your facilitation skills, see Chapter 8 on Facilitation in the Flock Group Ministry Manual.