

Practical Tips on Building Community

Eugene and Joanne Kimble, Small Flock Group Leaders at College Park Church, have found that building community does, for the most part, come naturally as small flock groups gather together for regular meetings in each other's homes. There are, however, some things we as leaders can do to stimulate the process and encourage our group to draw together.

Getting to know each other can be fun, unique, or spiritually thought provoking:

A. Ask open ended questions that have no right or wrong answers. For example,

1. "What is your favorite passage of Scripture, and why?" (Jim Jordan)
2. "Tell us two things about yourself: first, what one thing have you done in the past week or two that no one else in our group is apt to have done? and second, show us one item from your pocket, purse, billfold, or Bible that reveals something about yourself." (J Higbee)
3. "When have you most felt you were a part of the body of Christ?" (Schuth's)
4. "Tell us something about yourself." (Van Gorp's)
5. "What does it mean to follow Christ in the work place?" and "Has this question arisen in your mind in the past week or so?" (Jim Williams)
6. "When you lived at home what was your favorite room and why?"
7. Tell us...
 - How did you come to Christ?
 - How and when did you meet your spouse?
 - How did you learn about College Park Church?
8. "What verse or verses of Scripture have you been living on this week?"
Comments about the Scripture are okay but not necessary. (Pastor Kauffman)
9. "If your home was on fire, assuming that all family members, pets and your Bible are safely out of harm's way, what object would you want to save, and why?"
10. "Share with us some memorable event of your life. What makes this particularly memorable to you?"

B. Play games, like the Christian version of the Ungame, or selected questions from it.

C. Here's an interesting exercise. "Prepare to tell us three things about yourself. Two of these things should be true but one should be false. Don't tell us which is which.

After the first person tells their three things, we will try to guess which is the falsehood. Then each of you will get a turn to try to stump us.”

- D. Every three or four months have a pitch-in meal
- E. Invite a special speaker (Bible centered topics or testimonies only). This could be in conjunction with a meal together. You could join with another Flock Group for fellowship or this could be an outreach to the unsaved.

For the Internet-literate, put the term “ice breakers” into your search engine. You will find many more ideas and suggestions that can be used for Community Building.

If you have “tips” about community building that you would like to share, go to the suggestion box on our website at http://www.bsmi.org/flock_suggestion_box.htm and tell us about them. For example, in Appendix C of the Flock Group Ministry Manual you'll find Sample Ice Breaker Tips we recently received that you might find helpful.

For those who would like to explore community building as it relates to reaching out to people within the neighborhoods in which we live, you'll enjoy reading the book entitled *The Connecting Church...Beyond Small Groups to Authentic Community*, by Randy Frazee. See Resource in Chapter 10 for more information on this publication.