

Tips on Nurturing Your Small Flock Group

Eugene and Joanne Kimble, Small Flock Group Leaders at College Park Church, have found the following tips helpful as they start new small flock groups and encourage participants to apply the word of God preached from the pulpit each Sunday.

- A. Encourage each member to obtain the previous Sunday's notes. (If they are not able to pick the notes up on Sunday morning, they can download them from the Sermon Notes link on the Flock Group Ministry page of the BSMI website at http://www.bsmi.org/flock_sermon_notes.htm.)
- B. Have someone read the Sunday Scripture lesson and then enlarge upon the topic.
- C. Ask open-ended questions that have no right or wrong answer but that stimulate discussion, such as:
 1. "How did this sermon minister to you?" (a blessing, encouragement, admonition, etc.)
 2. "What new insight did you receive from the Scripture passage?"
 3. "What illustration stood out and why?"
 4. "What question(s) did the sermon raise in your mind?" (Either not understanding some point or wanting more information about it)
 5. "Were you able this week to apply some particular part of the sermon?"
 6. "Tell us how you have been edified, strengthened and built up in your spiritual nature by the sermon."
 7. "Does taking notes during the sermon influence how you listen, help you to understand better, help you to keep your attention focused?"
 8. (You will not, of course, want to use all of these questions at one time.)
- D. Use the Discussion Guide that is posted weekly along with the Sermon Notes on the Flock Group Ministry's website mentioned above. They are located in the far right column of the table containing the Sermon Notes/Slides.

References that give helpful suggestions for studying a book of the Bible (basically that is what we do when we further our study of our pastors' sermons):

For a good inductive approach of observation, interpretation and application see *The Willow Creek Guide to Leading Life-Changing Small Groups*, 48-50. Also see, *Small Group Leaders' Handbook*, by InterVarsity Press, 53-68.