

EVENING # 3 SHEET for Chappaqua UCC Lent '78 "Cottage Meetings"

Welcome to this evening!

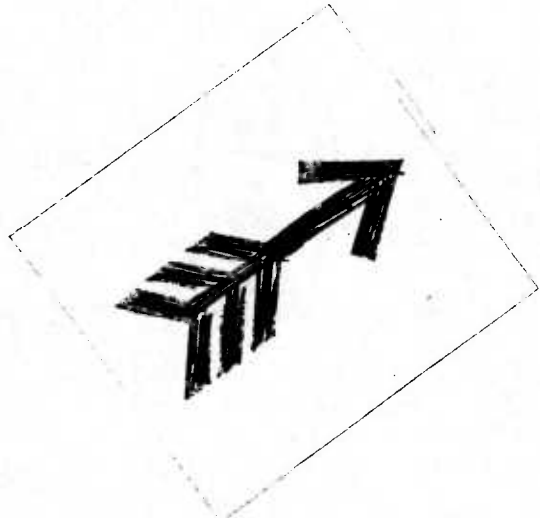
Just a few guidelines, please:

1. The evening has both its social and its serious sides, corresponding with its two purposes: to get to know one another as fellow-churchmembers in this neighborhood, and to expose ourselves to a great scripture speaking to the meaning and potential of our Christian faith and church.
2. Host, hostess, or convenor will call the meeting to Bible study by 8.30pm, so there can be a full hour of being in the presence of God and each other as we wrestle with the scripture. While some may wish to stay later, opportunity to leave without embarrassment will occur at 9.30pm.

Now for the process of the group Bible study:

The flow is described on the rest of this page. May we ask a bit of humility in disciplining yourself to follow the convenor's transition-signals? We know what a temptation it is to be angry when asked to move on to the next stage when "I was just getting interested....!" To cool down, imagine you yourself the one who took training to lead the meeting using this process; it'll help!

The EVENING SCRIPTURE is on the other side of this sheet, with plenty of room for you to make notes as you go.



PHASE 1: What did the passage say to its day about the meaning and mission of the church? [The convenor gives a brief exposition.]

PHASE 2: How does the passage prick our conscience about our lives and the life and mission of our church?

PHASE 3: What new light has come to me/us so far during this session?

PHASE 4: What can we--I, this group, this church--do and what should we do in light of God's dealing with us in this session? What attitudes, habits, courses of action do we see now as needing changing so that we may become more faithful and joyful Christians?



- 1 JESUS SAYS, "I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener.
- 2 "He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit.
- 3 "You have been made clean already by the teaching I have given you.
- 4 "Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.
- 5 "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me.
- 6 "Whoever does not remain in me is thrown out like a branch and dries up; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, where they are burned.
- 7 "If you remain in my and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it.
- 8 "My Father's glory is shown by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become my disciples.
- 9 "I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.
- 10 "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.
- 11 "My commandment is this: love one another just as I love you. The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you.
- 12 "I do not call you servants any longer, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father.
- 13 "You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures.
- 14 "And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name.
- 15 "This, then, is what I command you: love one another."