

The Class Meeting

Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience

7:00 Welcome & Fellowship

7:04 Recap from Last Week

7:05 Chapter 4

Becoming Wesleyan Again

We have no doubt, but meetings of christian brethren for the exposition of scripture-texts, may be attended with their advantages. But the most profitable exercise of any is a free inquiry into the state of the heart ... Through the grace of God our classes form the pillars of our work, and, as we have before observed, are in a considerable degree our universities for the ministry.

—Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke, 1798 *Doctrines and Discipline*

Open with a Prayer

7:10 Introductions

What is your middle name – and the names of your children?

What church did you grow up in?

7:20 Video Presentation

7:30 Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general thoughts or reactions to this chapter? Was anything particularly exciting or challenging to you? Why?
2. What has your experience with Sunday school or other informational approaches to the Christian life been like?
Do you resonate with the example from the chapter of the study that argued that Christians ought to be concerned for the reality of global poverty? Why or why not?
3. What do you think about the author's argument for the potential contribution that a return to the class meeting could make for Christianity today?
Were there parts with which you particularly agreed? Parts with which you disagreed?
Are there ways that small groups that already exist in your church could become more effective, in the ways that have been discussed in this chapter?
4. Do you have concerns about feeling judged or excluded if you were to participate in something like a class meeting? Why or why not?
Do you think there are ways those concerns could be addressed, or that the problem you are identifying could be mitigated?

7:45 Transformation Question

Thinking back to the differences between planning to run a marathon and actually starting to run, would you say your efforts to follow Jesus are more like someone who is actively training, or more like the person who is reading a lot of magazines and buying running gear, but not actually running yet? Why?

8:00 Close with a Prayer