Encouraging One Another

Select Leader who will decide when to move from section to section. Select the person who has spent the most years as part of a Bible-based small group. In order to finish this study in 20 minutes, the leader is asked to limit each section to 4 minutes.

Introduce one another and then ask each person to say one thing about small groups that has made a difference for growth in Christian maturity.

Bible Basis. (ask one person to read it): Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Personalize. To help one another see the relevance of the topic for life today, first read all of the following questions, and then let people talk about any of them (it is not necessary to take them in order or to talk about all of them).

The Questions: What goals for meeting together are in the verse? Have you experienced small group meetings where these goals failed to be achieved? How should life change after a small group meeting? How would I rate my group in living up to the goals in the verse? How would I rate myself in bringing about these goals?

Application. Based on the verses above, I think God's will for me today is ... (this may be different for each person)

Insight. What is there about me that keeps me from doing this? (This will provide insight into your sin nature, whether it be areas of deliberate disobedience or weakness. Seeing our sin afresh leads to seeing our savior afresh).

Christ. How is he the answer to the particular insights surfaced above (these would include forgiveness for what is past, and strengthening your new life for the next time to temptation comes up). Prayer at this point could include repenting of sins, and asking God to bring about change.

Future. A Promise to rely on: Ephesians 4:15-16. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (more in this format at www.foundbytes.com/nurture/TableD/TableDmenu.htm). To find materials, at www.ilcslove.org/library.htm, select "Keyword", then type "group."