

TRUE “TAKE HOMES” GROUPWORDS

Think for a minute about what some have called “*Integrated Learning*.” In our setting this occurs when the Preaching and the Small Group discussion are linked in the learning process. It is a powerful way to organize our church community around the Word of God. On one hand, the preaching and worship on Sunday provides a “*big picture*” approach to God’s Word. Then through the week the congregation takes greater responsibility for their own learning, as they take the Sunday theme into their Small Groups in practical discussion.

Often a sermon will end with final lessons or “*Take Homes*.” By combining the Small Group discussion and the previous Sunday worship theme, the “*Take Homes*” can be made even more real. We really can take them into our homes for discussion and prayer.

Sermons can convey the personal and practical implications of Scripture only so far. The primary limitation is the teacher/student ratio of 1:1000. With all of his skill, diligence, and wisdom the preacher can still only work on a wide-ranging level as he tries to communicate to a large audience. He may be extremely equipped to uncover the meaning of the text, but its most personal application should become a cooperative ministry by the whole church.

With integrated learning, the sermon sets the stage for the Small Group to do what the sermon cannot do.

Because of a Cross,
Bob Chisholm