



## SMALL GROUP NOTES

**MAY 8/9, 2010  
WEEK FOUR  
SPEAKER: PASTOR  
LAURENCE EAST  
LISTENING**

Something a little different this week....

I want to challenge you to step out of your comfort zones and engage in a little bit of a listening exercise this week. Come together as a group and do what you normally do. If you share a meal – do that. If you go for a walk – do that. Be sure to catch up and pray for each other. But then, get comfortable, settle down and enjoy a 'listening exercise' together.

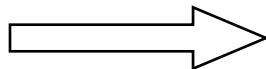
1. Start with the following assumption: "God is up to something in this world, in your community, in your unique life"
2. As a group take 10-15 minutes to discuss this question: "Where in my life do I need space?"
3. Take time to read this poem – perhaps have one person read it aloud 2 or 3 times in succession and then individually reflect on it in silence for about 15 minutes or so.

### **FIRE**

**What makes a fire burn  
is space between the logs,  
a breathing space.**

**Too much of a good thing,  
too many logs  
packed in too tight  
can douse the flames  
almost as surely  
as a pail of water would.**

**So building fires  
requires attention  
to the spaces in between,  
as much as to the wood.**



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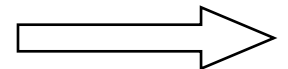
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**When we are able to build  
open spaces  
in the same way  
we have learned  
to pile on the logs,  
then we can come to see how  
it is fuel, and absence of the fuel  
together, that make fire possible.**

**We only need to lay a log  
lightly from time to time.  
A fire grows simply because the space is there, with openings  
in which the flame that knows just how it wants to burn  
can find its way.**

**- Judy Brown**

4. Read - the poem again to yourself quietly.
5. Reflect – ponder its context and meanings for you and your life.
6. Read – Psalm 42:1 and Psalm 23.
7. Respond – pray through those verses and have a conversation with God.
8. Rest – cease striving with the passages and poem and take 5-10 minutes to simply 'listen'.
9. Finally – come back together as a group and share some of the things God was saying to you and how you mean to respond to His prompting in your life.

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