

UUCR Small Group Ministry Session Plan
The Work of Justice

May your time together be meaningful and full of connection! -Rev. Rebekah

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS

We have gathered here in search of answers to hard questions.

We have come in search of understanding, in search of community.

We have come in search of hope and healing.

Let this be a place not only of searching, but of discovery.

Let this be a place not only of learning, but of wisdom.

Let this be a place not only of meeting, but of connection.

And let this be a place where healing fosters giving, and hope fosters service.

(Adapted from Rev. Sue Ayer)

CHECK-IN

READINGS

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable...Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph.

-Haile Selassie, former Emperor of Ethiopia

Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance.

-Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

Until justice is blind to color, until education is unaware of race, until opportunity is unconcerned with the color of men's skins, emancipation will be a proclamation but not a fact.

-President Lyndon B. Johnson

Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us.

-Pope Francis

I am only one but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

-Edward Everett Hale

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

QUESTIONS and REQUESTS (Please respond to any of the questions, requests, and readings you feel moved by. It is not necessary to respond to all of them.)

1. What justice issues do you care about most, and how did you develop that concern?
2. Tell about satisfying and rewarding experience(s) you have had working for justice, social change, or service to help others.
3. What challenges or difficulties have you found when attempting to promote justice, social change, or help others, and what did you learn?
4. How do you cope with the limits of your compassion and ability to impact change?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available, with optional open discussion at the end after all have shared)

MOMENT OF SILENT GRATITUDE

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)/CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each who wants to share)

CLOSING WORDS (2 minutes for words, and closing)

As we leave this community of the spirit, may we remember the difficult lesson that each day offers more things than we can do. May we do what needs to be done, postpone what does not, and be at peace with what we can be and do. Therefore, may we learn to separate that which matters most, and that which matters least of all.

-Adapted from Richard S. Gilbert

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE