

Notes to the Leader for Session 8 – Response to Terror and War

Session Preparation

The depth of this session will be enhanced if each member thinks about the topic in advance. Please distribute the preparation sheet at the end of the prior session and make sure absent members receive a copy. Have extra copies available at the gathering for people who have forgotten to bring their copies.

Sensitivity of This Topic

The degree of violence and the complete unexpectedness of the attacks during 9-11, and the war that has followed, may have caused very unsettling reactions in your members. Please expect emotional responses. If someone seems overcome, you might gently suggest that they not feel obligated to continuing sharing, or just offer simple reinforcement and wait until they can continue speaking. Have Kleenex on hand.

Preliminaries

There have been, and will continue to be, many opportunities to educate ourselves and debate about the complex issues surrounding 9-11. However, our groups are focusing on the personal aspects. Please remind folks at the beginning of the session we are simply sharing our own reflections and being supportive of what others are thinking and feeling. Remind them of how the feedback segment works (see notes below).

You might also mention that if anyone is too overwhelmed to share with the group today, they might opt out, although all of our experiences are richer when each person shares.

Also, remind members of the next meeting date. Get volunteers to light the chalice and say the readings. The text by Dr. King has been made into a responsive reading, with one person reading the regular type and the rest of the group reading the italic type.

Feedback

This session includes a segment with feedback on the sharing. In these small groups, feedback is an exercise in ministry, not judgment or questioning. It should be very brief, gentle, and positive, and not lead to a discussion. Like sharing/deep listening, members should participate as the spirit moves them. Some members may choose not to offer feedback and that's fine, too.

Singing

We've included the words to John Lennon's famous song, "Imagine." If the group doesn't feel comfortable singing this song, we suggest #34 in the hymnal, "Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire."

Timekeeping

You may use this timetable as an aid to keep the gathering on track. If the deep-listening portion goes over the allotted time, the feedback could be shortened and/or the second reading could be eliminated.

Preliminaries	2 minutes	Feedback	10 minutes
Opening	1 minute	Singing	5 minutes
Check-in	15 minutes	Reading	1 minute
Responsive Reading	5 minutes	<u>Closing</u>	<u>1 minute</u>
Silence	5 minutes		
Deep listening	60 minutes	Total	approx. 105 minutes

Preparation for the Next Session

Make sure everyone gets a copy of the preparation sheet for the next session.