

Notes to the Leader for Session G33 – Stages of Faith

About this Topic

This session is one that attempts to educate about a topic with which many people are unfamiliar. The member preparation is therefore more academic than it usually is. In addition to reading the materials provided and thinking about the questions, you should encourage your members to attend church on October 13 to hear the sermon on this topic by Marie Houck. In this sermon Marie will describe these “Stages of Faith”, and will chronicle her journey through those stages and describe how understanding them has led her to a new understanding of her own faith.

Preparation for this session will enhance the experience for members. Learning these concepts will help members develop the language for understanding each other in a new way.

Preliminaries

Prior to beginning the session, take a few minutes to go over the announcements of church events given at the last leader meeting or from a recent church bulletin. Also, remind members of the next meeting date. Get volunteers to light the chalice and lead the Responsive Reading (regular type) at the beginning. Point out the list of UUA resources on the back of the Order of Worship.

Discussion

The discussion period is meant to allow group members to go deeper, share things they may have forgotten to share, and exchange ideas. It is important that people not comment on others' sharing except in a very supportive way.

Timekeeping

Use this timetable as an aid to keep the gathering on track.

preliminaries	2 minutes
opening	5 minutes
check-in	15 minutes
responsive reading	5 minutes
silence	5 minutes
deep listening	60 minutes
discussion	15 minutes
singing	3 minute
closing	1 minute
<u>total</u>	<u>approx. 110 minutes</u>

Preparation for the Next Session

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