

## Notes to the Leader for G53 — The Spaces In Between

### Session Preparation

At the end of the prior session, please distribute the preparation sheet and make sure absent members receive a copy. Encourage members to read the explanation and try the exercise in the preparation. It might be hard for a member to share at the session without doing the exercise. You can point out that even 30 minutes would be sufficient, though more time enhances the experience. And even if the experience doesn't turn out to be very rewarding, something can be learned from that.

Have extra copies of the preparation available at the gathering for those who've forgotten to bring theirs.

### 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 read the opening words.

### Reading Round-the-Circle

Reading round-the-circle should be done in a way that allows people to "opt out" and not read, since some may be uncomfortable reading. If someone wishes not to read, encourage him or her to say so at the beginning of the session.

### 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.

### Timekeeping

Use this timetable as an aid to keep the gathering on track. It leaves 15 minutes available in case the sharing portion runs longer or a Life Ritual is planned. If it appears that portions of the session will run long, the group members can take decide whether to stop, continue, or eliminate other portions.

preliminaries	5 minutes
opening	2 minutes
check-in	15 minutes
reading round-the-circle	3 minutes
singing	3 minutes
silence	5 minutes
deep listening	60 minutes
feedback	10 minutes
<u>closing</u>	<u>2 minutes</u>
total	approx. 105 minutes

### Preparation for the Next Session

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