

Notes to the Leader for G92 – Do We Pray?

Sensitivity of This Topic

We probably don't need to remind you that this topic can be very sensitive and controversial for UUs. But as we mentioned in the Preparation, there is growing interest within the UU movement in approaching religious topics that had previously been "taboo" within many congregations. This session is intended to allow people to express thoughts and feelings without getting into a theological debate. Hopefully your group members will keep an open mind and join together in the spirit of exploration and discovery.

Preparation

Please encourage your members to really prepare for this session. If they don't wish to follow the SGM Preparation, they can still ponder the topic over the weeks before you meet.

Group Prayer

This session asks members to participate in a prayer together. Some might prefer to think of this as a guided meditation. You'll read the following text when you lead the activity, so bring these Notes to the session. (The text isn't printed in the order of worship.) If you wish, tell people before you begin that they will have a chance to comment on this experience during Deep Listening and/or Discussion. Please take your time with the text and pause as indicated.

First, let us pray for group members who could not be with us today. We focus our loving thoughts on them. If the spirit moves you, speak the name of one who is in your thoughts.
(Pause for two or three minutes.)

Now let us pray in gratitude for every other person at this meeting today. We focus our loving thoughts on them.
(Pause for two or three minutes.)

Let us pray for everyone in our church community. We focus our loving thoughts especially on those who may need comfort or healing. If the spirit moves you, speak the name of one who is in your thoughts.
(Pause for two or three minutes.)

Now let us pray for the health and well-being of the community in which we live. If the spirit moves you, speak the name of a community member or concern that is in your thoughts.
(Pause for two or three minutes.)

Finally, let us pray for our world. We focus our loving thoughts on all humankind and the planet that sustains us. If the spirit moves you, speak the name of a people or place that is in your thoughts.
(Pause for two or three minutes.)

May we keep our hearts open to the power of love and have the grace to accept whatever comes into our lives this week. Amen, Shalom, Blessed Be.

Approximate timing

These times are approximate. Parts of the session might require more time.

Preliminaries	5 minutes
Opening/Chalice Lighting	5 minutes
Reading	5 minutes
Prayer	15-20 minutes
Deep Listening / Silent Support	45 minutes
Discussion	20 minutes
Closing	5 minutes
Total	about 105 minutes