

Notes to the Leader For Session 3 – Those Who Have Touched Our Lives

Session Preparation

The depth of this session will be enhanced with thorough preparation. So please distribute the preparation for this session at the end of the prior session. Have extra copies available at the gathering in case people forget their copies.

Before the gathering, you might want to refresh your memory about the song, Hymnal #18. If you don't remember the folk tune, someone else in the group might be able to lead the song.

When you arrive at the gathering place, prepare a space on a table for whatever group members bring along.

Preliminaries

“Encouraging everyone to participate” -- During the “Preliminaries” section this week, please take a few minutes to discuss the group guideline about encouraging and allowing everyone to participate. Here are some ideas from the Small Group Ministries FAQ:

- “The purpose of the content and process is to create gatherings that invite intimacy, allow for serious engagement with religious and spiritual topics, and lead toward expression of our principles and values in action... The core of the content for Small Group Ministries is the group's shared life stories in response to thought provoking UU oriented themes, and the insights we draw from them.”
- We've defined the commitment of the group to each member, and two of them are:
 1. Provide the opportunity for every member to fully participate in their own way
 2. Provide the opportunity for every member to be heard
- We've also defined the personal commitment of each group member, including:
 1. Share
 2. Listen
 3. Fully participate as you are able and in your own mode of expression.

You might close by saying that if some are not able participate, all of us lose part of what we are here for. Therefore we all work together to create a space for each to participate in his or her own way.

“Feedback” Guidelines

This session includes a segment with feedback on the sharing. In these small groups, feedback is an exercise in ministry, not judgement 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.

Preparation for the Next Session

Before everyone leaves, distribute copies of the preparation for the next session.