

## Notes to the Leader for Session M18 – Birthing

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. You may wish to remind people a few days before the session that this is the last time you will meet as a group, and that they each need to bring a flower to this final session.

### Extra supplies

You will need to bring in stones for the altar (one per person). You can purchase inexpensive polished agates at Black Market Minerals in The Great Mall. In addition, bring in extra flowers, in case someone forgets to bring one.

### Altar Set Up

Set up the altar with the chalice in the middle, and with a circle of stones around the outside; the flowers will be placed between the stones and the chalice.

### 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. Get volunteers to light the chalice, read the chalice lighting and the reading. Make certain that everyone has a flower. Finally, you might suggest that everyone read the thoughts on change that are on the back of the order of service before you begin.

### Sensitivity of This Topic

This is the last session in which you will meet together as one group. It may be emotionally difficult for some people; you should expect that some may want to linger after the end of the formal meeting.

### Before You Leave

If you have not already made arrangements for this group to get together socially some time in the next two or three months, it might be a good idea to set a time to do that before this meeting is over.

### Timekeeping

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

Preliminaries	3 minutes
Completing The Altar	3 minutes
Chalice Lighting	1 minute
Check In	15 minutes
Reading	2 minutes
Sitting in Silence	2 minutes
Sharing/Deep Listening	60 minutes
Communion of Stones	2 minutes
Song	5 minutes
Communion Blessing	1 minute
Communion of Flowers	10 minutes
Extinguishing the Chalice	1 minute
Total	approximately 105 minutes