



Home Groups: Guidelines for Spirit-Led Dialogue

Intention:

- To gather in a Spirit-centered small group for prayerful speaking and listening.
- To make a sacred space for people of diverse religious traditions to experience meaningful conversation about their own spiritual insights and practices.
- To provide occasions for spiritual deepening through shared, prayerful listening and speaking from the heart.

Speaking from Experience:

- We speak for ourselves and from our own experience, contributing what has relevance, heart and meaning to the circle.
- When one is finished speaking, we allow a period of silence for prayerful reflection before anyone else speaks.
- We avoid speaking more than once until everyone has had a chance to speak.
- We are mindful of the time so as not to take more than our share of it.

Attentive Listening:

- We listen at the most profound level for what is being expressed, seeking points of unity rather than of difference, sinking past irritability, defensiveness and judgment to a place of gentleness and tenderness for each other.
- We seek to hear what God may be saying to us through another's words—especially when we feel resistant to those words.
- We listen attentively, without judgment, and try to stay curious about each other.
- We recognize that we need each other's help to become better listeners.

Good Order:

- We trust God/Spirit to guide our group.
- We remain mindful & expectant of the Presence & potential movement of the Spirit of Christ or Holy Spirit amongst us.
- We do not interrupt except to indicate that we cannot hear a speaker.
- We hope that all will contribute, but it is not required.
- We hold with care and in confidence what is said in the circle, we repeat nothing beyond the group that we have heard from others within the group.



Day One

Scripture

John 1:45-46 (NIV)

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.

Query

Is there anywhere you doubt that good can come from? How do you look for good, or “that of God” in others? What are you hoping to see? Do you sometimes see “that of God” in others in ways you weren’t expecting?

Day Two

Scripture

John 1:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:
He appeared in the flesh,
 was vindicated by the Spirit,
was seen by angels,
 was preached among the nations,
was believed on in the world,
 was taken up in glory.

Query

How is faith made manifest to you? How do you move from words to actions (from faith to practice)? How do you explain to others the mysteries of religion as you understand it?



Day Three

Scripture

Luke 10:36-7 (NIV)

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Romans 13:8-10 (NIV)

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Query

In what ways do you offer or receive love and mercy? Is there anyone whom you feel does not deserve love or mercy? Have you ever seen or received love and mercy from someone you weren't expecting?

Day Four

Scripture

John 4:33 (NIV)

³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Query

Consider what we have discussed these past few days about love, mercy, the mysteries of God, and the connection to our neighbor. What is our spiritual food? Do we regularly receive sustenance from our neighbors? If love is the mark of Christ's disciples, how does that affect the way we feed our neighbors?



Take-Home Queries

- What part of the SoA meeting do I want to “take home” with me? (In other words: What was the most meaningful experience, that I don’t want to forget?)
- What has God invited me to “Come and See?” What has the Spirit shown or spoken to me?
- Am I being called to any path or action? What is one thing I can do when I get home to place myself on the path to which I am called?
- How can I bring my experiences at FWCC back home to my Church or Meeting?