

Leader's Guide: Religion and Science

This session focuses on the interplay of science and religion in our lives.

Chalice Lighting (2 min)

Ask someone to read the chalice lighting reading found in the bulletin as you light the chalice.

While faith illuminated the glass, it does so by turning it into a mirror; the glass is dark and all we can see are the reflections of our own desires. The last three centuries of science have enabled us to penetrate this darkness and transform the mirror into a window on the universe. Now when we look out, the opaque glass has become translucent, with patches of transparency appearing. We begin to see what is truly out there; we come face to face with the terrible beauty of the cosmos that gave birth to us.

—Anne O'Reilly

Sharing of Joys and Sorrows (10 min)

Ask group members to check in, telling in one or two sentences how they are doing this week. Share information about absent members.

Silence (3 min)

Give your group the gift of three minutes of silence. Time it if you would like.

Shared Readings (5 min)

Have each person in turn read from the shared readings found in the bulletin until all the readings are finished.

Deep Sharing and Deep Listening (65 min)

Do your three rounds of deep sharing and deep listening. Pay close attention to the time allotted each person to ensure that everyone gets a turn to share.

Round 1 (10 min): What is one of your earliest memories of learning about the sciences (such as astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth science, physics)?

Round 2 (40 min): How does your understanding of science inform your faith?

Round 3 (15 min): What did you learn from the readings and homework or from the thoughts of other members of the group?

Closing Words (1 min)

Read or ask someone to read the closing words.

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science.

—Albert Einstein

Closing Song (1 min)

“Thank You for Your Loving Hands”

Group Business (5 min)

Pass out the homework for next time.