

Leader's Guide: Sacred Space

This session focuses on the places that have deep meaning in our lives.

Chalice Lighting (2 min)

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

There is an indefinable, mysterious power that pervades everything. I feel it, though I do not see it. It is this unseen power that makes itself felt and yet defies all proof, because it is so unlike all that I perceive through my senses. It transcends the senses.

—Mahatma Ghandi

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.

Sharing Our Objects to Claim This as Our Sacred Space (5 min)

Our homework for this session suggested bringing an object or photo that we might use to claim our meeting place as a sacred space for the evening. Ask members to place their object/photo around the chalice. Ask those who brought nothing to identify something they might have brought.

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 rounds of deep sharing and deep listening. Pay close attention to the time allotted each person so everyone gets to share.

Round 1 (10 min): Name one or more sacred spaces you have experience.

Round 2 (40 min): Describe your feelings when in a sacred space of your experience.

Round 3 (15 min): Share anything that the discussion has brought up for you.

Closing Words (1 min)

Read or ask someone to read the closing words.

The holy is nothing but the ordinary, held up to the light and profoundly seen. It is the awareness of creativity and a connection that we do not control, in a universe that is always larger, more intricate, and more astonishing than we imagine.

—Kendyl Gibbons

Closing Song (1 min)

“Thank You for Your Loving Hands”

Group Business (5 min)

Pass out the homework for next time.