

## Leader's Guide: Service

Service seems like a basic, simple concept—we help someone or some group. But it is actually quite complex spiritually, emotionally, and culturally—for both the server and those being served. Just think of all the meanings around the word “servant” and you begin to sense the larger issues.

### *Chalice Lighting (2 min)*

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

Share your love, your wisdom, and your wealth and serve each other as much as possible. Live in harmony with one another and be an example of peace, love, compassion, and wisdom.

—Lama Thubten Yeshe

### *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 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):** Share a time when you admired the service done by someone known to you.

**Round 2 (40 min):** Have you found joy in service (as mentioned in Tagore's quote)?

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

### *Closing Words (1 min)*

Read or ask someone to read the closing words.

If I can stop one heart from breaking,

I shall not live in vain.

If I can ease one life the aching,

Or cool one pain,

Or help one fainting robin

Unto his nest again,

I shall not live in vain.

—Emily Dickinson

### *Closing Song (1 min)*

“Thank You for Your Loving Hands”

### *Group Business (5 min)*

Pass out the homework for next time.