

The Divine

Chalice Lighting

A light that silently works in me,
Allows me to know the world in its entirety.
I don't know what it is or what it wants'
With awe, I'll call it divine.

H. Thoma

Sharing of Joys and Sorrows

Silence, holding ourselves and each other in silent support.

Shared Readings:

I can move two blades of grass apart and put my finger on God's heart.
Edna St. Vincent Millay

God is not the answer to the mystery of life but the acknowledgment of the mystery.
Ann Fields

God enters by a private door into every individual. Emerson

The Israelites had called any phenomenon that they could not understand God.
Karen Armstrong

God is that which liberates the potential for humanity, which is within each of us. I can believe in God, not because someone has proven it to me philosophically, but because I so often see ordinary people become capable of the most extraordinary accomplishments.
Rabbi Harold Kushner

If triangles made a god, they would give him three sides.
Charles de Montesquieu

Whatever your heart clings to and relies on, that is your God.
Martin Luther

Dear God: How do you feel about people who don't believe in you?
Somebody else wants to know. A friend.

"Children's Letters to God" Stuart Hample

When God does seem to come, it is likely to be as the shadow of an unseen presence or like a presence that is a room I enter from which someone has just gone.
Peggy Rosenthal

God is an intelligible sphere – whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.
Joseph Campbell

As always, the sacred shatters all the categories we necessarily use to understand the sacred. So the dance continues. That is life.
Sam Keen

Interpretation of infinity by the finite was pretty certain to be wrong.
Charles Williams

I see something of God each hour of the twenty-four, and each moment then, in the faces of men and women, I see God, and in my own face in the glass.
Walt Whitman

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

Round I Share one or two thoughts about the model of the divine that is closest to your own.

Round II Each person will have a chance to share more deeply feelings and experiences of the divine in response to the homework questions.

Round III A more general discussion

Group Business

Pass out homework for the next session. Look over together.

Closing Words and Song "Go Now in Peace"

Covenant Groups

The Divine

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group.
- to honor the group by letting the leader know if I will be absent and to come to the group one last time and say goodbye if I need to quit.
- to share with the leader the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others.
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and not tell other people's stories.
- to listen to what others share with an open heart, and to share deeply in my turn.



How do we know God?
Only by reference...by glimpse
out of the corner of our eye.
Only by taking hints and making guesses
and listening for the still small voice.

Psalm 76, Translation by Christine Robinson

Leader's Notes for The Divine

Chalice Lighting: (2 min)

7:00-7:15

Ask a group member to read the chalice lighting reading in the bulletin.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns: (10 min)

Ask group members to tell in one or two sentences...How you are today? Share any information you have about absent members.

Silence: (3 min)

Give your group the gift of three minutes of silence. Time it!

Shared Readings: (10 min)

7:15-7:25

Go around your group, letting persons in turn read a sentence of the reading.

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening: Do your rounds of deep sharing/deep listening.

Round I (15 min)

7:25-7:40

Share one or two thoughts about the model of the divine that is closest to your own.

Round II (40 min)

7:40-8:20

Each person will have a chance to share more deeply feelings and experiences of the divine in response to the homework questions.

Round III

As time permits

A more general discussion

Group Business: (2 min)

8:20-8:30

Pass out Q and Q (homework) for next time. Preview it with the group by going over it. Tell them: Read over the homework, then respond to the questions you are drawn to. There is lots of material here, it is intended to give you fertile ground for thinking about this subject. You don't need to answer every question. You may want to respond to just one or two questions.

Closing words:

Invite people to hold hands around the chalice and say one or two words about an insight they have had this evening or the feeling they are leaving with.

Sing: Go Now in Peace

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