

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
"Afterlife and Immortality"
Covenant Group Curriculum, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist
Congregation, Davie, FL

Opening Meditation/Music/Silence/Chalice Lighting (whichever one(s) you choose to do)

Opening Words:

"I don't want to achieve immortality through my work... I want to achieve it by not dying!"
- *Woody Allen*

"Life is a great surprise. I don't see why death should not be an even greater one."
- *Vladimir Nabokov*

Check-in/Sharing

Topic/Readings:

"I have thought long and often about the possibility of life after death. Baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith, I now acknowledge no denomination, yet have an instinctive yearning for survival, as indeed the human race has always done, since humanity first sought to come to terms with death. I liked to think of my husband reunited with the parents who had gone before him, and with his comrades of two world wars. I liked to think that all pain, all suffering, had been wiped out, that he knew, as none of us can know here on earth, indescribable joy, the "peace which passed all understanding"--- a line he used to quote.

Yet, I had seen his empty shell. I had seen the light flicker and go out. Where had it gone?"
- *Daphne du Maurier*

Facilitator: Ask your group to ponder not just whether they believe in an afterlife, but in what sort of an afterlife: heaven and/or hell, immortality of an immaterial soul, communion with God, resurrection, reincarnation? Is such a vision conditional upon the goodness with which we live this life? Even if they are unsure, ask them what their hopes are and why it is they believe or do not believe in some sort of life after death.

Likes and Wishes/Feedback

Closing Words:

"And now comes the mystery..."
- *The reported last words of 19th Century clergyman Henry Ward Beecher on his deathbed*

"What will remain of us is love."
- *Philip Larkin*

Amen. May you live in blessing.