

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
SMALL GROUP SESSION
BEYOND THE WORD “GOD” - ITS MEANING TO US
By the Rev. Glenn H. Turner

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

We come together each time to honor and understand our lives.
We bring our pasts and share them; our dreams and express them.
We use words, silence, and gestures.
Words can't define our lives,
But they help us to reach out to each other,
That we may be renewed, connected, unburdened.
Apprehend with wonder our lives...
For “from wonder into wonder
Existence opens.”

-adapted from Judy Mannheim

CHECK IN: (40 - 50 minutes)

What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, issues you are facing. Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted, if time remaining, general response and conversation is welcome. Confidentiality.

FOCUS: “Beyond the word God - its meaning to us”

“How much did I hear of religion as a child? Very little, and yet my heart leaped when I heard the name of God. I do believe every soul has a tendency toward God.”

- Dorothy Day

“It isn't that I believe God is dead, but God is so silent, has been for so long, and is so hidden, I take it as a sign I must watch in other places or simply tend my small fires until the end.”

- Mary Micka

“God, I can push the grass apart / And lay my finger on Thy heart!”

- Edna St. Vincent Millay

Discussion:

What do you feel about God, the idea of God, the place of God in your life? What is the presence of God in your life?

If uncomfortable with the word, or its connotations, what do you believe in, have faith in, beyond yourself?

LIKES AND WISHES

How did this session go for you? Is there anything you'd like to call particular attention to?

CLOSING WORDS:

We wander through exile, through times without belief,
but sometimes we come home, to the spirit in our souls.
Let us keep our channels open and never view life as strange,
But, at each second, be aware how God is moving always
through us and through each flower.
Let us be in each other's presence with gentle hearts
and gentle hands,
For the living can be healed by love

And the healing can make us whole.

-adapted from May Sarton and Carolyn McDade