

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
SMALL GROUP SESSION  
**IF YOU WERE TO WIN THE LOTTERY...**  
Glenn Turner, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Auburn, ME

(Do not share this session plan with participants beforehand)

**OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:**

“When the jackpot gets as big as it is right now, inevitably the talk around the office turns to “What would you do if you won the lottery?” I’ve given this some thought over the years and I don’t believe anyone who says their “life won’t change much” or that they are “going to stay at their current job”. If you didn’t want your life to change why were you playing the lottery in the first place? Trust me, I love my job but if I win the lottery I will be putting in my notice in a hurry. Having a job, at least the first year after winning, won’t be conducive to my new found freedom. I don’t think Shelly would like it if I took a month off twice a year to go on vacation. My life will change, but will it change for the better is the question. Either way, I will get my picks tonight and I will be back tomorrow morning for work as unlucky as ever...but I’m OK with that. – Jim Daniels

Imagine that in tomorrow’s mail, you find you have won five, ten, fifty million dollars. Now take these moments of silence to empty the pockets in your mind and see what thoughts collect.

**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:** If You Were to Win the Lottery, How Would You Change Your Life?  
Discussion

Well, what if you were to win the lottery? How would you change your life?

Take these questions in order:

Would you keep your job?

Would you continue to live where you are?

What would you buy?

What would you share with friends or relatives?

What causes would you support?

How could your newfound wealth enhance your spiritual life? How would you like to change your life?

**LIKES AND WISHES**

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

**CLOSING WORDS:**

Will winning the lottery make you happy? Well that's the million-dollar question. There are plenty of cautionary tales of rags to riches to tears. Basically if you were unhappy before you won, you'll be unhappy after you win. A small win won't change your life but will put a spring in your step. Experts calculate that the exact amount most likely to make you happy is a \$1,869 win....so remind me, what are the chances of that?

Allison Daniels for CNN