

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website  
SMALL GROUP SESSION  
**MY RELATIONSHIP/BELIEF ABOUT GOD OR A POWER BEYOND  
MYSELF..**

Rev. Glenn H. Turner, First Universalist Church UU, Auburn, ME

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

“Whether or not you believe in God, you must believe this: when we as a species abandon our trust in a power greater than us, we abandon our sense of accountability. Faiths... all faiths... are admonitions that there is something we cannot understand, something to which we are accountable. With faith we are accountable to each other, to ourselves, and to a higher truth. Religion is flawed, but only because man is flawed. The church consists of a brotherhood of imperfect, simple souls wanting only to be a voice of compassion in a world spinning out of control.”

— Dan Brown, *Angels & Demons*

MEDITATION

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, for five minutes each, if there  
is time remaining, additional sharing and responses are welcome.

FOCUS: “MY RELATIONSHIP/BELIEF ABOUT GOD OR A POWER BEYOND MYSELF”

“The idea that God is an oversized white male with a flowing beard, who sits in the sky and tallies the fall of every sparrow is ludicrous. But if by 'God,' one means the set of physical laws that govern the universe, then clearly there is such a God. This God is emotionally unsatisfying... it does not make much sense to pray to the law of gravity.”  
- Carl Sagan

Discussion questions:

How has your engagement with the question of God changed over your life?

Do you have a belief about God or a higher power which sustains you? What is it?

What beliefs do motivate or sustain you?

If you don't believe in a God who possesses human qualities like love and who embodies justice and mercy, do you think that there is anything out there at all that inspires those qualities in us?

To What should we pay attention?

LIKES AND WISHES

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

CLOSING WORDS:

“In the beginning, God created the earth, and he looked upon it in his cosmic loneliness.

And God said, "Let Us make living creatures out of mud, so the mud can see what We have done." And God created every living creature that now moveth, and one was man. Mud as man alone could speak. God leaned close to mud as man sat, looked around, and spoke. "What is the purpose of all this?" he asked politely.

"Everything must have a purpose?" asked God.

"Certainly," said man.

"Then I leave it to you to think of one for all this," said God.

And He went away.”

— [Kurt Vonnegut](#), [Cat's Cradle](#)

Let us take leave of each other, once again, with our thinking caps on, our ears tuned to the miracle of life, and with hearts filled with affection and love.