

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

ONCE UPON A TIME

Adapted from Mallory Covenant Circle Session, Associated with the Evergreen UU Fellowship
Marysville, Washington

Preparation: Each participant is requested to locate and bring his or her favorite book or story from his or her own childhood. Let participants know that they will be asked to share their book, or at least a portion of the book with the other participants.

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

"What about a story?" said Christopher Robin.

"What about a story?" I said.

"Could you very sweetly tell Winnie-the-Pooh one?"

"I suppose I could," I said. "What sort of stories does he like?"

"About himself. Because he's that sort of Bear."

"Oh, I see."

"So could you very sweetly?"

"I'll try," I said.

So I tried. A.A. Milne

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: "Once Upon a Time..."

Sharing the Books: (Note to Facilitator: Divide the amount of time for the session by the number of participants and calculate the amount of time each participant has to share. Add in some time for transition, over-runs and closing.)

Participants will be take turns sharing their favorite childhood book. Each participant will have ____ minutes for sharing. You may not be able to read the entire book, but you can select excerpts to read. If you were not able to get a copy of the book, you can simply retell the story in your own words. If you have time, you might also discuss the importance of the story in your life and why you chose that book. I will let you know when you have one minute remaining of your allotted time.

Questions for Additional Sharing

Did you have rituals around reading books when you were a child?

What were some of the other important books when you were young? Are there echoes of these stories in your life today?

If you have had children, what were your traditions or rituals around reading to them?

What is the importance of reading in your life now?

LIKES AND WISHES

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

CLOSING WORDS:

"Is that the end of the story?" asked Christopher Robin.

"That's the end of that one. There are others." A.A. Milne

