

Our Special Gifts and Talents

Lesson plan session 7. April 2013

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING OR SOUND A CHIME (2 to 3 minutes for this and silence and opening words)

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS

We come together in an attitude of openness - not knowing quite what will happen, yet daring to receive a new idea, a new experience, sustenance for our minds and our hearts. ... We come ... seeking human warmth and fellowship in the hands and faces of those around us ... seeking reconfirmation and renewal of life, of love, and of hope.

-Adapted from Peter Lee Scott

CHECK-IN (up to 20 to 30 minutes total with up to 2 to 3 minutes per person)

TOPIC AND SHARING (up to 70 minutes for readings, questions, a few minutes for reflection and making notes if desired, individual sharing, optional open discussion at the end if the group agrees, with an optional 5 minute break about midway in the session)

READINGS

We are each gifted in a unique and important way. It is our privilege and our adventure to discover our own special light.

-Mary Dunbar

Success means we go to sleep at night knowing that our talents and abilities were used in a way that served others.

-Marianne Williamson

A community can use all the skills of its people.

-Maori proverb

There's something wrong in not appreciating one's own special abilities, my girl. Find your own limitations, yes, but don't limit yourself with false modesty.

-Anne McCaffrey, Dragonsinger

Having a low opinion of yourself is not "modesty". It's self-destruction. Holding your uniqueness in high regard is not "egotism". It's a necessary precondition to happiness and success.

-Bobbe Sommer

You have a good many little gifts and virtues, but there is no need of parading them, for conceit spoils the finest genius. There is not much danger that real talent or goodness will be overlooked long, and the great charm of all power is modesty.

-Louisa May Alcott

I don't have a lot of respect for talent. Talent is genetic. It's what you do with it that counts. ^[1]_[SEP]

-Martin Ritt

There is no such thing as a problem without a gift for you in its hands.

-Richard Bach

I knew I was a winner back in the late sixties. I knew I was destined for great things. People will say that kind of thinking is totally immodest. I agree. Modesty is not a word that applies to me in any way. I hope it never will.

-Arnold Schwarzenegger

People of talent resemble a musical instrument more closely than they do a musician. Without outside help, they produce not a single sound, but given even the slightest touch, and a magnificent tune emanates from them.

-Franz Grillparzer

QUESTIONS (Please respond to whichever question or questions you feel moved to answer. It is not necessary to respond to all of the questions. You may also respond to any of the readings that you find to be particularly meaningful.)

1. What special gifts or talents of yours have been important to you, and how have you used them?
2. What special gifts or talents in others have enriched your life?
3. Do you have any undeveloped or unused gifts or talents that you would like to explore, and what would be involved in doing that?
4. What has been your experience with the seemingly contradictory advice of, "Be proud of your gifts and talents", and, "Be modest and humble"?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available, with optional open discussion at the end after all have shared)

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (up to 5-10 minutes)

-Confirm next meeting date, time, location, and topic.

-Consider discussing the service project.

-Other

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)/CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each who wants to share, up to 5 minutes total)

CLOSING WORDS (2 minutes for words, and closing)

As we leave today may we remember with appreciation the gifts and talents of others and ourselves that have enriched our lives.

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE OR SOUND A CHIME (and additional optional closing ritual if agreed to)

(Preparation for the facilitator. Please bring the SGM Facilitator Training Manual, paper and writing implements, the lesson plan, and your calendar/date book.)

Lesson plan prepared by the Small Group Ministry steering committee (Lyn Fischrup; Bonnie Koenig; Dick Loescher, chair; Leora White), January 31, 2013.