

Unitarian Universalist Small Group Ministry Network Website
SMALL GROUP SESSION
THINKING ABOUT ILL FORTUNE
Glenn Turner, First Unitarian Universalist Church Auburn, ME

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

The Fear: What if the market crashes? What if I lose my job?

“Can I help you?” she inquired, in a manner that said she hoped she wouldn’t have to.” - Liza Cody

The Hope: Someone will be there for me. There are people to turn towards.

“We are here to help each other get through this thing, whatever it is.” - Mark Vonnegut

The Faith: What do I owe others? What would it cost me to help them?²

“The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?” But...the Good Samaritan reversed the question: “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?” - Martin Luther King

Perhaps, what happens to him, and what happens to me are two sides of the same coin. ght

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: “Thinking About Ill Fortune”

Just as we might speculate about winning a lottery, we might consider what we’d do if we lost our job, or if health costs ruined us financially.

A financial reversal is much more likely than winning the lottery, as home foreclosures, bankruptcies, and sudden loss of jobs indicates. Many of us are comfortably off, a few rich, many living on the edge, and others of us can barely scrape by.

Discussion: Given a severe economic setback in your life -

What would you do?

To whom would you turn?

Do you have the emotional resources to cope with the loss of your home or job?

What effect would it have on your self-esteem or ability to reach out for help?

How do you feel towards friends and relatives who get into financial difficulties? Are there ways you can help?

What are the resources in your religious life that you would draw upon?

LIKES AND WISHES

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

CLOSING WORDS:

“Oh, my friend, it’s not what they take away from you that counts. It’s what you do with what you have left.”
- Hubert Humphrey