

Gathering Question

Group members take turns answering the gathering question, designed to help folks get to know each other better in classic ice-breaker fashion. Each one shares briefly before the group takes up the primary conversation for this particular time together.

Complete the following sentence and briefly describe why:

“My favorite sound in the world is ...”

Communal Reading

A volunteer reads aloud the Scripture text(s) selected for each session. Listeners may name for the group a word or phrase that stood out in this communal reading, before personal sharing and conversation begins.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. —Hebrews 1:1–4

Sharing and Conversation

Facilitators invite sharing of personal experiences and stories around faith and community. Group members practice generous listening and self-awareness in order to create welcoming space and plentiful time for everyone to participate, as each feels led.

It is written that “God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets” and that God “sustains all things by (his/her/their) powerful word.”

Seeking to find paths forward in times of challenging, complex, and grave circumstances, we may look to God’s word to guide and sustain us. God’s word as discerned through biblical texts has and continues to guide our faith, but in times like these it can also be a blessing to hear God’s word in the context of our own lives and experiences.

How do you find God speaking in your everyday life? Has it been something you heard, saw, or felt in some other way?

How do you recognize those moments when God speaks to you?

How can you attend faithfully to God’s voice now and in the future?

Closing Prayer

Each gathering concludes with a time of prayer, suited to group disposition. Whether the group embraces a rotating practice of sharing personal favorites, joining in The Lord’s Prayer, or inviting several moments for intercessions and thanksgivings, this time of caring strengthens the connections we know through the love of Jesus Christ, expressed in human community.