

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.

What moves you to tears or gives you goosebumps?

Conversation Prompt

Each person in the group responds in turn to the session's conversation prompt, which invites sharing of personal experiences and stories around faith and community. Generous listening and attending to how long each person shares will help everyone feel welcomed into the conversation.

*Describe your current "relationship status" with Jesus (single, married, "it's complicated," etc.).
What else do you want from this connection in your life? What key things do you share when someone asks about your faith or spiritual life?*

Insights and Invitations

As the conversation draws to a close, facilitators may lift up insights from what has unfolded within the group session, including questions suited for additional personal reflection or for revisiting together in the group's next gathering.

Facilitator Insights and Invitations

Closing Prayer

Each gathering concludes with a time of prayer, suited to group disposition. Whether the group embraces a pattern of sharing personal favorites, joining in The Lord's Prayer, or leveraging the closing prayer provided in the conversation guide, this time of caring strengthens the connections we know through the love of Jesus Christ, at work in human community.

Borrowed from our Baptismal Covenant (*Book of Common Prayer, page 304*)

Leader: Our Lord be with you.

Responder: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

We invite your prayers and thanksgivings in the chat to be read aloud by The Responder.

A period of silence is kept after the last prayer request before The Leader prays:

Leader: Loving God: Mother, Father, and Parent of us all;
Blessed Jesus: model and advocate, savior and friend;
Holy Spirit: rushing wind and purifying fire,
we give thanks to and praise You; each one and all.

Responder: Guide us as we follow in the footsteps of our ancestors.
Lead us away from selfishness, correcting us when we err.
Give us courage to do what is holy, right, and good,
by considering always those whose situations are worse than our own.
And make us always instruments of your peace,
as we strive to seek and serve You in others.

Leader: With Jesus, our constant companion, we are bold to pray:

Responder: Thy will be done! Amen.