

## 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's one thing you have learned you would rather not live without?*

## 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.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age – houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.” —Mark 10:23–31

## 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.

*How has life pushed you to let go of something and how did that turn out?  
(a loss? a gain? movement in a new direction?)*

*How do God's mercy and grace make change possible in our lives?*

*In what ways do Jesus' expectations feel difficult? In what ways might they free us?*

## 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.