

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.

Share briefly about your earliest memory of love (whatever its form or flavor) and what that experience has meant to you.

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.

One of the scribes came near and heard the Sadducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

—Mark 12:28–31

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.

What is unique about your life because you love God?

Where and when in your day to day life does your love for God shine brightest?

How does this love show up in how you relate to others?

In what ways does this journey invite you to continue growing in how you prioritize your energies, time, and gifts to reflect God’s love?

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.