

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 place on earth 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.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein. For it is he who founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep. —Psalm 24

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.” —Revelation 21:1–6a

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.

Drawing upon these texts and upon your experiences of the world God has made and our human impact upon it, how do you believe God is calling you to care for creation in this place and time?

For you, how does this Christian ethic of care depend upon faith, hope, and love?

What challenges impede your ability to embrace this call to be a caretaker to all God has created?

What resources (personal, communal, societal) might aid you in responding to the needs you perceive in this pivotal time?

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.