



Opening Prayer

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Remember a time when you knew you had done something wrong as a child or teenager. What did you feel? What was that experience like?

Communal Reading: Psalm 32:1–10

*Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!*

*Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!*

*While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.*

*For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.*

*Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.*

*I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.*

*Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers
to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
You are my hiding-place;*

*you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.*

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way
that you should go; **

I will guide you with my eye.

*Do not be like horse or mule,
which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."*

Sharing and Conversation

Sharing among the group unfolds organically, prompted by conversation starters for each session and guided by generous listening so that all members of the group have opportunity to participate.

How has repentance been challenging for you?

What does it feel like when you are forgiven? How do you know you are forgiven?

Closing Prayer

Each gathering concludes with a time of prayer. Leadership roles are shared on a volunteer basis among group participants.

Drawn from Padraig O' Tuama's *Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community*
(Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2017).

A Prayer for Reconciliation

*One: Where there is separation, there is pain. And where there is pain, there is story.
And where there is story, there is understanding and misunderstanding,
listening and not listening.*

*All: May we – separated peoples, estranged strangers, unfriended families, divided communities –
turn toward each other,
and turn toward our stories, with understanding and listening,
with argument and acceptance,
with challenge, change, and consolation.
Because if God is to be found, God will be found in the space between. Amen.*