



Community and Social Justice Support Nights Liberating Faith

The purpose of this session is to give the JVs an opportunity to participate in a base community experience. This involves listening to the Word of God in the Scriptures, reflecting on it in the context of one's own life and experience, and then sharing it with others. In this process, the power of sharing – the gathering of experience, wisdom and insight – leads the group to shared actions and resolutions.

Listed below is a prayer service. In addition to or instead of the prayer service, you may want to invite a speaker into the group. A local activist or co-worker from one of the JV work sites might come and join with you in prayer and/or share their personal and communal experience of oppression and marginalization. The purpose is to share with each other the reality of our lives or others that we know and name the systems that cause the suffering. Through shared grieving-crying out, come up with a plan to alleviate the suffering or stand in solidarity with those who suffer.

Opening Prayer:

Options for use – Taize chant, centering in silence, a prayer recited by all or by a leader, extemporaneous prayer

Scripture reflection:

Use one or both of the following passages (Luke 4:16-19; Exodus 3:4-22).

In the style of *Lectio Divina* one person reads the Scripture aloud and leaves a period of silence for reflection. A different reader, if one is available, reads the passage(s) again leaving even more time for reflection.

*** sample questions for reflection:

- Do I experience myself as a member of an oppressed group or a group that oppresses?
- Am I a member of both types of groups (example: homosexual – oppressed group, North American – oppressing group)?
- Which social justice issues have captured my heart and/or imagination?
- Which issues have I heard of but know little to nothing about (example: genocide in the Sudan)?
- How do I live out the mission of Jesus to remove oppression from the world?
- How do I stand in solidarity with those who are oppressed?

The group then begins to share the thinking, questioning, wisdom, and insights that have been part of their prayer.

When the sharing seems complete, the leader then asks for any actions the group may wish to take in response to the sharing.

Closing Prayer:

Options for use – Taize chant, shared recitation of the Lord's Prayer, extemporaneous prayer by members of the group or the group leader.