

Small Group Ministry
Group Session Plan
Turning

Invite participants to bring readings and songs related to turning. Several are included here.

Opening Words

Turning or spinning
Bending or twisting
Always moving, ever changing
Ever leaving, ever meeting
Something old to treasure, something new to explore
Standing still but moving, moving when the world is still
"Till turning, turning we come 'round right"
Helen Zidowecki

Check In/Sharing: How is it with you today?

Topic/Activity

Sing, or read one or both of these as meditation. Share the reading around the group.

Lady of the Season's Laughter, Rev. Kendyl Gibbons #51 Singing the Living Tradition

Lady of the season's laughter, in the summer's warmth be near;
When the winter follows after, teach our spirits not to fear.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning year.

Sister of the evening starlight, in the falling shadows stay
Here among us till the far light of tomorrow's dawning ray.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning day.

Mother of the generations, in whose love all life is worth
Everlasting celebrations, bring our labors safe to birth.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning earth.

Goddess of all time's progression, stand with us when we engage
Hands and hearts to end oppression, writing history's fairer page.
Hold us in your steady mercy, Lady of the turning age.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, King James Version

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Share readings or songs that participants have brought.

1. What is "turning" for you right now? How is that for you?
2. Where do you find "grounding" when things are turning in unusual ways?
3. What "turnings" are you anticipating?

Closing Words: Sing or read

'Tis a Gift to Be Simple", Joseph Bracker, Shaker tune #16 Singing the Living Tradition

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gain'd,
To bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

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