Small Group Ministry

Group Session Plan

**Where We Live: 2. Living Into the Decision**

This is the second of a series about where we live, especially as life situations change.

Focus of this session: what needs to be done in order to move toward the decision that has been made regarding present or future residence.

**Opening Words** (Suggestions: Share the readings.)

I have planned for years to clean out things. I have so many treasures gathered by just living. They are reminders of connections; of my interests; of people, places and things in my life. To let them go would be to shed part of myself.

My interests are changing. My collections of stamps or dolls or spoons or trains no longer hold the same interest for me. The family and friends that joined me in these collections are no longer her or as interested. And the world has changed. What do I do with these things now? Who would want them?

With limited space, my choices have to be clear. So now I follow the principle that I need to let go of old things in order to make space for new things. It’s like donating a box of books to a yard sale and coming home with no more books that I donated. The balance of gathering and shedding.

Our family is moving in with us. Our present space and arrangement of things will change. It’s not just having less space of our own, it is changing our patterns – and maybe having to explain our patterns to others.

I am of two minds. I want to keep all of the things that I have. Really, I do not feel like tackling the cleaning process. It is overwhelming – years of stuff. Maybe I will just leave it and let my family worry about it. But then, they have their own stuff. It would be a gift to them for me to do some of my own cleaning. And any amount will help.

Who decides what happens to my things? There are special things that I want to go to specific people. There may be some things that my family or friends particularly want. I wonder how I can distribute meaningful items so that my memory goes with them.

**Check in/Sharing**: How are things with you today?

**Topic/Activity**

Changes are needed. Now is the time for preparation. Change brings opportunity as well as challenges -- and always choices.

1. The need to make changes has been acknowledged and decisions about the changes have been made. What changes are you facing? What preparations are needed for these changes?
2. What life experience can be helpful in making these changes?
3. Changes involve making decisions about what to keep and what to get rid of. Share how these choices affect how you see your life to this point, and going forward. How would you describe your responsibility for taking care of personal items?
4. What are you keeping as connections with your past? What are you letting go?
5. What vision of the future guides you through this process?

**Check out/Likes and Wishes:** How was the session for you?

**Closing Words “**Prudent Steward”

May I be a prudent steward of my possessions.

May I let go of things in a way that honors the part that they have played in my life.

May I make space for new things that are meaningful without gathering too much.

May I communicate so that my loved ones know my wishes.

May the way I steward my possessions be a gift from my heart and soul.

May the way I handle my possessions be consistent with my vision for my life.

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