

Notes to the Leader for Session 10 – Person or Independent Web?

Session Preparation

This session is more philosophical/intellectual than most. The depth of this session will be enhanced if each member thinks about the topic in advance. Please distribute the preparation sheet at the end of the prior session and make sure absent members receive a copy. Have extra copies available at the gathering for people who have forgotten to bring theirs.

Exploration

This is a somewhat “meatier” topic than others. Some people may have a great deal to share about it, but for others, the issue will raise more questions than anything else. We are therefore introducing a new type of sharing called “Exploration.” This will offer people an opportunity to share personal insights as well as half-formed thoughts, and to ask and answer questions. As with discussion, it is important that people not comment on others’ sharing except in a very supportive way. It will be up to the leader to make certain that everyone has an opportunity to share whatever insights they might have.

Reading

The reading from *Fashion Me a People* is being included in both the preparation and in the order of service, in order to give everyone a chance to read through it and digest it.

Preliminaries

Prior to beginning the session, take a few minutes to go over the announcements of church events given at the last leader meeting or from a recent church bulletin. Also, remind members of the next meeting date.

Get volunteers to read the chalice lighting, to light the chalice, and to read the brief reading. Describe the “Exploration” method of sharing. Remind member that this period is meant to allow group members to go deeper, share things they may have forgotten to share, and exchange ideas. It is important that people not comment on others’ sharing except in a very supportive way.

Timekeeping

Use this timetable as an aid to keep the gathering on track. If the deep-listening portion goes on over the allotted time, the exploration can be eliminated or shortened.

<i>section</i>	<i>minutes</i>
preliminaries	5
opening	3
check-in	15
reading	5
sitting in silence	10
exploration	60
singing	5
closing	2
total	105

Preparation for the Next Session

Before everyone leaves, distribute copies of the preparation for the next session.