

Notes to the Leader for Session 32– Presuming Innocence

Session Preparation

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 of the preparation available at the gathering for those who've forgotten to bring theirs.

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 light the chalice, read the opening words,, and read the closing words.

Reading-Round-the-circle

Reading-round-round-the circle is used in this session to read the poem on the back cover. Each person could read 2 or 3 lines at a time. Decide how many in the preliminaries. This should be done in a way that allows people to “opt out” and not read, since some may be uncomfortable reading. If someone wishes not to read, encourage him or her to say so at the beginning of the session.

Feedback

This session includes a segment with feedback on the sharing. In these small groups, feedback is an exercise in ministry, not judgment or questioning. It should be very brief, gentle, and positive, and not lead to a discussion. Like sharing/deep listening, members should participate as the spirit moves them. Some members may choose not to offer feedback and that's fine, too.

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 discussion can be eliminated or shortened.

Preliminaries	2 minutes
Opening	1 minute
Check-in	15 minutes
Reading	5 minutes
Silence	5 minutes
Deep listening	60 minutes
Feedback	15 minutes
Singing	1 minute
<u>Closing</u>	<u>1 minute</u>
Total	approx. 105 minutes

Preparation for the Next Session

Make sure everyone gets a copy of the preparation sheet for the next session.