

IMPORTANT Notes to the Leader for G298 —Blessing Each Others

Preparation

There is no formal preparation sheet for this session, but ask members beforehand to be thinking of things they appreciate about each of their fellow group members and blessings they wish for them.

Special Notes:

- This month's church theme is Grace/Blessing and this session is designed with that theme in mind.
- This session may also be used to mark a group's first year anniversary or other milestone. It would also work well around Valentine's Day.
- It works well with M25, "Saying Goodbye to Member." You could insert that session after the sitting in silence (eliminating the sitting in silence in the M25 session).
- This is a shorter-than-usual session, but since it's celebratory in nature, you might plan to share a meal or other festive activity during the second hour.
- **Bring** index cards or slips of paper. There should be enough for each person to have as many slips as there are people in the group. Also bring paperclips or rubber bands, scratch paper and pens.

Preliminaries

Prior to beginning the session, go over announcements of the church events given at the last leader meeting or from a recent church bulletin. Remind members of the next meeting date and location. Get a volunteer to light the chalice. Explain the session's format, and emphasize that the written comments should be totally positive and that they will not be read aloud at this meeting.

Writing Our Appreciations and Blessings

- Pass out the index cards or slips of paper, enough so each person has as many slips as there are people in the group. Write other members' names on the top of each card, one per card.
- Explain that there will be 30 minutes of silence in which to write a appreciative, positive comments about each person in the group on his or her card. The comments may begin with words such as, "I admire ..." or "I respect ..." or "I'm glad I know you because ..." etc. Add a blessing for that person.
- When everyone is finished, have group members get up and put their cards for each person facedown on that person's chair. The cards are to be taken home and read at home.
- Discussion will focus on how people felt about this exercise, not about the specific things they wrote.

Timekeeping

Use this timetable as an aid to keep the gathering on track. This is a shorter-than-usual session, which can be used on its own or in conjunction with M25, "Goodbye to Member

Preliminaries	2 minutes
Opening	1 minute
Check-in	15 minutes
Reading	5 minutes
Silence	3 minutes
Writing Our Blessings	30 minutes
Sharing Our Blessings	2 minutes
Discussion	15 minutes
Singing	1 minute
Closing	1 minute
Total	75 minutes