

Notes to the Leader for Session S106 – Our Fathers

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 available at the gathering for people who have forgotten to bring their copies.

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, and to do the readings (one at the opening, one leading into the silence and one following the sharing). Let group members know that the chalice lighting reading and the closing reading will be responsive readings, with the chosen “reader” reading the normal type and the group as a whole reading the part in italics.

Reading From the Common Bowl

There are several points of view on the readings. Some love them all, some feel that one reading per person is plenty, and some don’t feel comfortable reading out loud. It should always be clear to everyone that they can pass on reading out loud. The group should decide whether they want to pass the bowl around just once, or until all the readings have been removed from the bowl. If you choose to pass the bowl just once, remind the group to trust the synchronicity of the readings.

You may invite members to add their own quotations to the bowl before the start of the session.

You can distribute copies of the bowl readings to take home so everyone will have a chance to see them all.

Timekeeping

Use this timetable as an aid to keep the gathering on track.

Preliminaries	2 minutes
Opening	1 minutes
Check-in	20 minutes
Bowl Readings	10 minutes
Silence	5 minutes
Deep listening	60 minutes
Reflecting	10 minute
Singing	2 minutes
Closing	1 minute
Total	approx. 110 minutes