



Leader Guide – Weekly Gathering

John 17 & 18 • for the week of April 9 • by Bethany Lee

Opening (5 minutes)

Take time as leaders to welcome people and set a tone of joy and openness in community.

Check-in Time (15 minutes)

In reflecting on the activities of your week, which of your five senses did you appreciate most?

Centering Worship (10 minutes)

Light a candle and place it where all participants can see it. Read 2 Corinthians 4:6.

“For God, who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the one Who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

Leave space for reflection, then play “There Is a Hope So Sure” by Graham Kendrick. Lyric sheets have been included as a resource. Encourage people to simply listen to the words and allow this to be a time to center on Christ.

Sharing (15 minutes)

Questions you might use during this time:

- Where have you experienced God this week?
- What stood out to you as you used the exercises this week?
- What exercise or section of Scripture caught your attention and why?
- Ask group members to look back over their journals and share some things that catch their attention.
- Ask group members to look back at the last worship gathering on Sunday. Where did they experience God?
- What did you notice (sense, feel, think, learn) this week as we gathered for worship?
- How did God show up in your life this week?
- How have you been intentional in creating space to listen to Christ this week?

Stepping Stones (10 minutes)

Encourage whoever is on for this week to share. Remind the group to listen well and be praying for this person. You may or may not want to take some time to pray as a group for the individual who shares.

Group Listening Practice (40 minutes)

Replay “There Is a Hope So Sure.” Encourage the group members to take this time to listen to the differences between the two main voices and consider the beauty that rises from individuals united in purpose.

- What are some of the truths spoken in this song?
- What images or ideas are difficult to grasp? Why?
- What personal connections or examples come to the surface as you reflect on these words?

Encourage group members to reflect on the following question as they listen to the song once more:

- What is Christ calling you to practice more deeply in your life?

**Newberg Friends Church — A GROWING community;
LISTENING to Christ; CHANGING in the Spirit; LIVING OUT love**

Play the song and leave 4 to 5 minutes for silent reflection.

Invite the group to share as they feel led.

Closing (5 minutes)

Pray for your group members, that they would sense God's pleasure in them this week as they go through their days.