

Money

UU Community Church of Santa Monica

Small Group Ministry

Adapted from *Heart to Heart: Fourteen Gatherings for Reflection and Sharing*

by Alicia Hawkins and Christine Robinson

November 2014

Welcome

Year-End Evaluation 10 minutes

We appreciate your feedback about your experiences over the past year in Small Group Ministry. Please pick up an evaluation form and complete it at this time. When you are done, please put it in the envelope provided.

Chalice Lighting

We gather this hour as people of faith
With joys and sorrows, gifts and needs.
We light this beacon of hope,
sign of our quest
for truth and meaning
in celebration of the life we share together.
-Christine Robinson

Sharing Silence 3 minutes

On Our Hearts 20 minutes

Covenant and Ground Rules

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group;
- to let the leader know if I will be absent or need to quit;
- to share with the leader the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others;
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others;
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart;
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, or giving advice;
- to ask questions gently and only if necessary;
- and to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn.

- Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins, *Heart to Heart* (adapted)

Readings

Do not race after riches, do not risk your life for success, or you will let slip the Heaven within you.

- Chuang Tzu 29.

“Your money or your life,” says the outlaw in the old joke. When there is no answer, he prods the rich [person] and yells, “Your money or your life! Are you deaf?” “No!” cries the rich [person]. “I just can’t decide!”

- as retold by Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins

In pursuit of a balanced attitude about money, perhaps our goal in life should be to live richly rather than to be wealthy...“Wealthy” is not measured in any way except by comparison with others...The grass is always greener somewhere else, and one never can quite say, “I’ve achieved wealth and can now turn to other things.”

“Rich” is a broader and deeper word than “wealthy.” You can be rich with friends or enjoy something richly. A color is rich if it is deep and well pigmented...In music, a rich tone is one that has a full range of overtones just under the surface... Most of us will never be wealthy, but many of us could be rich.

- Christine Robinson and Alicia Hawkins

I’ve been rich and I’ve been poor, and rich is better.

- Mae West

Questions for consideration

1. What did you learn about money when you were growing up? Have you changed your views as an adult?
2. Think about the percentage of your money that you share, save, and spend. Are you satisfied with the balance between those uses? What other choices would you consider making?
3. If you won the lottery, what would you want to do with the prize money?
4. What might “living richly” mean for you?
5. How has your spiritual/religious life helped you, or not helped you, live a balanced life when it comes to money?

Sharing 60 minutes

Closing Activity / Reflecting On Our Time Together

Closing Words

We are really alive when we listen to each other, to the silences of each other as well as the words and what lies behind the words.

-Frederick Buechner