



Faith Groups Sharing our Lives, Growing in Faith

A Gathering of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark Friday, January 29, 2021

During the Friday night gathering, participants will be placed in Zoom breakout groups for a little over an hour. Each breakout group will have a facilitator in it who's been previously assigned. The facilitator's role on Friday is to participate as a group member themselves; to keep an eye on the clock; and to gently guide the group through these four segments:

- I. **GATHER**...Members of the group will gather in their Zoom breakout room, and members will introduce themselves, perhaps share what town they live in, what church they attend, other brief details they'd like to share. *Approx. 8 minutes*
- II. **SHARE**...Members of the group will share a recent experience of God in their life. The facilitator could start the group out asking, for example, "Where have you seen God in the past week?" or "Share a moment that you felt God's nearness recently."
Approx. 24 minutes

- III. **REFLECT**...On Scripture. In addition, the group may choose to reflect on the Bishop's words which will have preceded these breakout sessions. This is a time for group discussion and reflection. Tonight's scripture passage is from Isaiah:

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19 NRSV)

Approx. 24 minutes

- IV. **PRAYER**...The group should take time to pray together, about thanksgivings, intercessions, hopes, needs that may have arisen during Sharing and Reflection. You might also include time for silent prayer. *Approx. 16 minutes*

Some norms each group may wish to follow:

- Please share without interrupting.
- Make sure everyone has the opportunity to speak (yet no one should feel they have to speak).
- This is not a time for "fixing" or "problem solving."
- Don't worry about silences or gaps in conversation.