

## Small Group Ministry Session Thirty-Two: Longing

### OPENING WORDS

There is a community of the spirit.

Join it, and feel the delight

Of walking in the noisy street.

And *being* the noise

Close both eyes

To see with the other eye.

Open your hands,

If you want to be held.

Sit down in this circle

Why do you stay in prison

When the door is so wide open?

Move outside the tangle of fear-thinking

Live in silence

Flow down and down in always

Widening rings of being.

--Rumi

## **CHECK IN**

Current state of physical or spiritual health

Joys or concerns about loved ones

Concerns/excitement about what is happening in our lives

## **REVIEW COVENANT**

## **REVIEW PROGRESS OF THE CIRCLE**

## **DISCUSSION**

Spiritual longing is different from a church improvement project. It has nothing to do with committees, structures, sermons or personalities. It has everything to do with our deepest level of desire.

1. What is your spiritual longing? Is it, like the Hindus, to have union with God? Or is it, like the Buddhists, to reach enlightenment? Perhaps your longing is more immediate – it may be a desire for guidance on the path of a “free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” Or perhaps, you long for the time to undertake such a search.

2. What is your spiritual longing?

## **CHECK OUT**

What did you like about this meeting? What do you wish had been different?

## **CLOSING WORDS**

Something opens our wings.

Something makes boredom and hurt disappear.

Someone fills the cup in front of us.

We only taste the sacredness.

--Rumi