

Small Group Ministry Session Six: Service

OPENING WORDS (1 minute)

I want to be with people who submerge in the task, Who go into the fields to harvest and work in a row and pass the bags along,

Who stand in the line and haul in their places,

Who are not parlor generals and field deserters but move in a common rhythm when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud. Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.

But the thing worth doing well done has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.

Greek amphoras for wine or oil, Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums but you know they were made to be used.

The pitcher cries for water to carry and a person for work that is real.

- Marge Piercy's "To Be of Use"

CHECK IN (32 minutes) (2 1/2 minutes each)

Current state of physical or spiritual health Joys or concerns about loved ones

Concerns/excitement about what is happening in our lives

REVIEW COVENANT (2 minutes)

BREAK (6 minutes)

DISCUSSION (65 minutes) (4-5 minutes each)

This is a topic to encourage a conversation both about the nature of service and the form of our Small Group Ministry. One of the hopes for our Small Group Ministry Program was that each group would engage in some sort of service to the church community or beyond in the course of a year. Several observations have been made about SGM. Many participants serve in other roles in the congregation. Many value this time for oneself without further obligations, a place to grow and "be fed"! Yet, a maturing spirituality issues forth in service and a shared project could deepen the groups' connections and experience. And small sharing groups can be overly self-involved. What do you think?

CHECK OUT (13 minutes)

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

CLOSING WORDS (1 minute)

If, here, you have found freedom, take it into the world. If you have found comfort, go and share it with others.

If you have dreamed dreams, help one another, that they may come true!

If you have known love, give some back to a bruised and hurting world.

Go in peace. - Lauralyn Bellamy

Next time, bring a poem that has affected your life in some deep way.