

Facilitator Notes for Expectations

Business

Chalice Lighting

May this flame,
symbol of transformation since time began,
 fire our curiosity,
 strengthen our wills,
 and sustain our courage
as we seek what is good within and around us.

Bets Wienecke

Sharing of Joys and Concerns (each person about 2 minutes)

Silence – holding each other in silent support – 3 minutes

Shared Readings

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

When we treat man as he is, we make him worse than he is; when we treat him as if he already were what he potentially could be, we make him what he should be. *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

Don't cross the bridge till you come to it. *English proverb*

That was a memorable day to me, for it made great changes in me. But it is the same with any life. Imagine one selected day struck out of it, and think how different its course would have been. Pause you who read this, and think for a moment of the long chain of iron or gold, of thorns or flowers, that would never have bound you, but for the formation of the first link on one memorable day. *Charles Dickens, Great Expectations*

If you expect nothing, you're apt to be surprised. You'll get it. *Malcolm Forbes*

The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our image. Otherwise we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them. *Thomas Merton*

Don't count your chickens before they are hatched. *Aesop*

High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation. *Charles Kettering*

A wonderful gift may not be wrapped as you expect. *Jonathan Lockwood Huie*

Life is so constructed, that the event does not, cannot, will not, match the expectation.
Charlotte Bronte

The Master's power is like this,
He lets all things come and go effortlessly, without desire.
He never expects results; thus he is never disappointed.
He is never disappointed; thus his spirit never grows old.
Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching translated by Stephen Mitchell

Expect the best, plan for the worst, and prepare to be surprised. *Denis Waitley*

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

In the rounds of sharing, pay close attention to the allotted time so that all members have the opportunity to share.

Round 1 (each person about 2 minutes)

Briefly share an expectation that is or has been important in your life.

Round 2 (each person about 5 minutes)

Share more deeply feelings, stories and attitudes on expectation in response to the preparation material.

Round 3

As time allows, share additional thoughts or reflect on what others have shared.

Closing Words

Even
After all this time,
The sun never says to the earth,
You owe Me.
Look at what happens
With a love like that,
It lights the whole sky.
Hafiz (12th century Persian poet), "The Sun Never Says"

Song or Chime

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group
- to let the facilitator know if I will be absent or need to quit
- to share with the facilitator the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time
- 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 share as deeply as I can when it is my turn