

Facilitator Notes for Parenting

Business

Chalice Lighting

We come together in an attitude of openness—not knowing quite what will happen, yet daring to receive a new idea, a new experience, sustenance for our minds and our hearts.

We come with an attitude of humility, knowing how much we need one another, how alone we can be in the world, how vulnerable if we face life solely by ourselves.

We come in the spirit of love, seeking human warmth and fellowship in the hands and faces of those around us.

adapted from Peter Lee Scott

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

Silence – holding ourselves and each other in silent support – 3 minutes

Shared Readings

Our relationship with our parents is the “original” relationship of our lives, the template for all other connections. *Dale Atkins, Nancy Hass, I’m OK, You’re My Parents*

You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance.
Franklin P. Jones

Each day of our lives we make deposits into the memory banks of our children.
Charles R. Swindoll

I was a better mother before I had kids. *Lori Borgman*

Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time.
the Talmud

“It takes a village” has never had more meaning as a concept than it does today. Beyond assembling the local support team it takes to raise a child well, we need to come together globally to create conditions that provide all children everywhere hope and opportunity.
Hillary Rodham Clinton

Remember that your children are not your own, they were lent to you by the Creator.
Native American Proverb

Your children need your presence more than your presents. *Jesse Jackson*

Deep Sharing/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 describe some similarities and differences between you and your parents—either your birth parents or those who raised you or had an influence on you.

Round 2 (each person about 5 minutes)

Share more deeply stories and experiences of parenting or of being parented as a result of your exploration of the preparation materials.

Round 3

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

Closing Words

Out of our busyness, we are called back into balance, back into ourselves and the silence of present being. But it is not just back into ourselves to which we are called; it is also to the awareness of the continuous presence of the environment around us and within us. We are called to remember our relationships and our dependencies. We are called to once again feel the oneness which sustains our being in balance with creation, and to do so with wonder and appreciation.

Susan Manker-Seale

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.