

UUCR Small Group Ministry Session Plan
ANCESTRY and Remembrance

May your time together be meaningful and full of warm connection! -Rev. Rebekah

CHALICE OR CANDLE LIGHTING

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OPENING WORDS

We have gathered here in search of deeper understanding.

We have come in search of wisdom, in search of community.

We have come in search of hope and healing.

Let this be a place not only of searching, but of discovery.

Let this be a place not only of learning, but of wisdom.

Let this be a place not only of meeting, but of connection.

And let this be a place where healing fosters giving, and hope fosters service.

(Adapted from Rev. Sue Ayer)

CHECK-IN

READINGS

I don't know who my grandfather was;

I am much more concerned to know what his grandson will be.

- Abraham Lincoln

Do well and you will have no need for ancestors.

- Voltaire

Some people are your relatives but others are your ancestors, and you choose the ones you want to have as ancestors. You create yourself out of those values.

- Ralph Ellison

We are our grandmothers' prayers and we are our grandfathers' dreamings,
we are the breath of our ancestors, we are the spirit of God.

- Ysaye Barnwell, from *We Are...* (Hymn #1051)

When you start about family, about lineage and ancestry,
you are talking about every person on earth.

- Alex Haley

The man who has nothing to boast of but his illustrious ancestry is like the potato - the best part under ground.

- Thomas Overbury

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

QUESTIONS and REQUESTS (Please respond to any of the questions and readings you feel moved by. It is not necessary to respond to all of them.)

1. What spoke to you from the readings?
2. Do any of the readings connect to your understanding of your faith or being UU?
3. Who are some people you consider ancestors (related or not)?
4. What wisdom of the elders have you ignored at your peril?
5. How are your ancestors speaking today? Are you making the time to listen?
6. What ancestry are you hoping to leave for those who come after you?

SHARING (up to 6 to 8 minutes each without interruption, depending on the time available, with optional open discussion at the end after all have shared)

MOMENT OF SILENT GRATITUDE

LIKES (celebrations, gratitudes, appreciations for needs met) and WISHES (mournings, requests, acknowledgements of needs not met)/CHECK-OUT (a few words or phrases from each who wants to share)

CLOSING WORDS (2 minutes for words, and closing)

And now, may we have faith in life to do wise planting that the generations to come may reap even more abundantly than we. May we be bold to bringing to fruition the golden dreams of human kinship and justice. Thus we ask that fields of promise become fields of reality.

- V. Emil Gudmundson

EXTINGUISH THE CHALICE OR CANDLE