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| Lenten Guided Prayer – Circle process for small groups | |
| Talking piece | Choose a talking piece that connects to the theme or is meaningful (ex. Small bowl, stone, twig, LED candle, etc.) |
| Opening | Read a scripture text from the prayer sheet you’ll be reflecting on that day. |
| Explain Centre | Create a centrepiece that reflects the theme or simply light a candle and place on a small table in the centre of your circle. |
| Explain Talking Piece | Explain that the talking piece is a critical element of creating a space in which all participants can both speak and listen from a deep place of truth.  The person holding the talking piece has the opportunity to speak without interruption while everyone else has the opportunity to listen without the need to respond.  The talking piece will be passed around the circle from person to person.  Only the person holding the talking piece may speak. It is always okay to pass the talking piece without speaking.  The circle keeper may speak without the talking piece if necessary to facilitate the process, but generally will not speak without the talking piece.  If the talking piece has a particular meaning, explain that. |
| purpose | Be prepared to share the Purposes of having a circle:   * *To move through Lent prayerfully with others* * *To have an opportunity to reflect on how we are encountering God in our days and our experiences with the prayer sheets provided by LGP* |
| Introductory Round | Choose a question inviting participants to introduce themselves through the question. For example:   * *Name* * *Check in: How are you arriving today? Internal weather report. Etc.*   Keeper goes first to model a brief response. Aim for shorter introduction round to afford time to get to values and guidelines. |
| Guidelines | Offer guidelines, and seek agreement from each member that they can honour guidelines for the group. Inquire if there are additional guidelines needed. Post guidelines where all can see them (e.g., on Centrepiece, blackboard or flip chart)   * *Honour the talking piece when it is being used.* * *Speak and listen with respect.* * *Speak and listen from the heart.* * *Personal information shared in circle stays in circle.* * *Take the time you need while being mindful of the need for others to have time.* * *Take care of yourself.* |
| Round of Agreement | Use talking piece to ask: *Can you support these guidelines for our time in Circle?* |
| Question Round | *- What happened for you as you engaged (or didn’t) with the prayer sheets this week?*  *- Is there an insight from your time in prayer that you would like to share?* |
| Second round Options | * Use the Closing Reflection question from the prayer sheet. * *What did you learn this past week that might inform/influence how you enter the coming week?* * *Where did you experience God this week?* * *Name one joy and one challenge from the past week.* * *As you think about your experience of LGP, for what are you most grateful?* |
| Checkout Round | * Pass the talking piece around and ask participants to share one word that sums up how they are feeling right now as the Circle comes to a close |
| Thanks | * Thank participants for their participation |
| Closing | Offer a brief prayer; may use the closing prayer from this week’s prayer sheet. |

Circle Process outline prepared by Alicia Buhler, Mary Lou Klassen & Steve Manske.