

## AT THE MEETING

### OPENING PRAYER

We begin, as usual, with a short time of stillness, putting ourselves in the presence of God and asking for grace that everything that happens in our mind, heart and imagination may be directed purely to the praise and service of God. *Some communities use the CLC opening prayer, or some other formal prayer, to conclude this brief time of stillness. Others use a minute or two of suitable music.*

**GRACE** We ask to be in touch with our own personal experiences of God.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 139: 13 - 15 (Ask someone to read this aloud.)

### SILENCE

Ten minutes silent prayer remembering my life and prayer since the last meeting. How have I found the prayer this last fortnight? What events in my life and prayer do I wish to share with my community?

### SHARING AND LISTENING

- Remember that this is a listening, not a discussion, group.
- Include a second round if there is time.
- It's good to conclude this time of reflection with a short time of silence, praying for each other, and with a formal prayer, such as the *Glory Be* or the *Lord's Prayer*.

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER**, if wanted.

**PRACTICALITIES:** This is an opportunity for any reports, eg from members who have attended a CLC event, for questions, for discussion about any concerns, for news about any work or mission in which members might be involved, or for any business the group might need to sort out.

### REVIEW OF THE MEETING

What was good for me in this meeting?  
What was not so good? What would I have liked to be different?  
What do I want to take away with me?

**CLOSING PRAYER** (Many communities use the CLC closing prayer.)



## MEETING PLANS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# MY EXPERIENCE OF GOD



**TOWARDS  
MEETING TWELVE**

## PERSONAL PRAYER BEFORE THE MEETING

*A reminder of the suggested stages of prayer . . .*

**PREPARATORY PRAYER** Begin in the usual way.

### ASKING FOR WHAT I WANT

I ask to be in touch with my own personal experiences of God.

### MATERIAL FOR PRAYER

Before you come to prayer, read the article below. You may find it helpful to pray with the scripture passages first. But do leave yourself plenty of time for the questions opposite.

\* Psalm 139

\* Jeremiah 1: 4-8

### TALKING WITH THE LORD

Ensure that, at the end of your prayer, you spend some time talking directly with the Lord. You may like to end the prayer with a *Glory Be*.

### REVIEW OF PRAYER

Afterwards, look back over your prayer and make some notes.

## MY EXPERIENCE OF GOD

Christianity is experiential. All authentic Christian spirituality begins with the experience of God in Jesus Christ. Until there is real encounter with him, until I see him as a person who treats me as a person, my religion will remain at the level of law and ritual.

The challenge is to move from head knowledge, that is rational knowledge **about** God, to heart knowledge, or my personal experience of and commitment to the God who loves me, to Jesus as my Lord and my saviour, and to the Spirit as a power within me. I am the only one who can speak from personal experience about my relationship with God.



The questions opposite are designed help us get in touch with this personal faith experience and articulate it for ourselves. Paying attention to any relationship can improve it, by mending rifts and deepening the positive aspects. Our relationship with God is no different.

Complete each sentence as honestly, frankly, and spontaneously as you can. The answers are for you only; share only what you choose.



## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

*You will not find all these questions helpful, so do not feel that you have to answer all of them! They are intended to provoke thought about different aspects of your relationship with God, and make you more aware of the way God is relating to you. Please do not try to answer all of them. Simply answer the helpful ones.*

- ★ For me, God is . . . .
- ★ I seldom ever think of God as . . .
- ★ I feel most in touch with God when . . . .
- ★ A moment in my life when I was very aware of God's power working in me was . . . .
- ★ My prayer to God is most often . .
- ★ For me, Jesus is . . . .
- ★ I have felt the Holy Spirit active in my own personal experience when . . . . .
- ★ What I want most of all to share with someone about my God-experience is . . . .
- ★ When I am in touch with my own personal sinfulness, I think of God as . . . .
- ★ What delights me most about God is . . . .
- ★ When I think about God's love for me personally I am . . . .
- ★ For me, the surest sign of God's presence in my life is .

