

**First Parish Church of Groton, Small Group Ministry  
Fall 2012 Session No. 4: How Do I Share My Gifts?**

Facilitator \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Supplies needed:** Chalice, matches, drawing/writing paper, art supplies for drawing such as markers, crayons, colored pencils; handouts: questions & quotes.

**1. Chalice Lighting/Opening Words:** 5 min.

We are a community... seeking to deepen spiritually, to take care of one another, and to be a blessing to the world.

– First Parish Church of Groton Web site, uugroton.org

Don't ask yourself what the world needs.

Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go do that.

Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

– George Thurman

**2. Check-in/Sharing:** up to 40 mins.

Each person takes a few minutes to check in. Invite people to check in by answering: *How is it with your spirit?* or to share a spiritual moment from the past week.

**3. Topic:** total time 65 mins.

**A. Introduction to the topic: *Sharing My Gifts:*** 5 minutes

**Questions:**

See the list on the last page.

Explain that participants are welcome to respond to one, all or any of the questions. And if none of these questions speaks to an individual's experience, s/he is welcome to create his or her own question and respond to that.

**B. Silence for Reflection/Writing/Drawing:** 10 mins.

Invite the group into 5-10 minutes of silence during which time they are asked to reflect on the questions. Participants are invited to use this time for writing and/or drawing their responses if they wish. Coaches might wish to remind people that the skill of their artwork is not the issue here. They may or may not wish to share their drawings with the group.

**3. Sharing: 40 mins.**

Coaches invite each person to share his or her response, taking a turn as each feels moved rather than in a clockwise fashion. Give each person an equal amount of time to share. If there is time after each person has shared and very brief comments or responses have been given, invite people into a more free-flowing discussion of the theme.

**4. Check out: 10 mins.**

Encourage participants to check out with a final thought or reflection on celebration and how having shared and listened about this might impact their lives in the days ahead.

**5. Introduction to Next Week's Topic: 3 mins.**

Next week we will be talking about **what is next**.

**6. Closing words & Extinguish the chalice: 2 mins.**

Mary Oliver: <i>The Builders</i>	On a summer morning I sat down on a hillside to think about God — a worthy pastime. Near me, I saw a single cricket; it was moving the grains of the hillside this way and that way. How great was its energy, how humble its effort. Let us hope it will always be like this, each of us going on in our inexplicable ways building the universe.
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**7. Blessing: 1 min.**

Lauralyn Bellamy: <i>Singing the Living Tradition</i> #692	If, here, you have found freedom, take it with you into the world. If you have found comfort, go and share it with others.  If you have dreamed dreams, help one another, they may come true! If you have known love, give some back to a bruised and hurting world. Go in peace.
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## Questions for Reflection: Celebration

*You are welcome to respond to one, all or any of the questions. And if none of these questions speaks to your experience, please create your own question and respond to that.*

Ask yourself “what are my gifts and my deepest passions?...what makes me feel most alive?”

When do you first remember noticing you had certain gifts and how did you go about pursuing ways to express these gifts?

What are some satisfying service experiences you’ve had and some that were not? What were the differences and does that influence how you integrate \*sharing your gifts\* into your life now?

Why/how is community important for growing your gifts?

Which gifts are you now sharing or would like to share in this church year?