



General Conference 2019 has left many people in our congregations feeling unsure. Offering a quiet, safe space where people can sit comfortably to listen to one another and share their feelings can begin to help people process. When possible limit the group size to 15 to offer everyone time.

This small group time is for connections. Advise the group that there will be opportunities for information sharing, debates and setting forth plans, however this is a chance to be present for one another.

### **Opening Prayer**

*God of love, we invite you into this place.*

*Jesus we light this candle as a sign of your presence.*

*Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us.*

*We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to you and to one another's voices. Amen.*

While the after-effects of the Special Conference 2019 will unfold for many months, we have come together to share our hearts today. Today we will practice deep listening to one another. Each person will be given an opportunity to share. We will respectfully listen, we will not comment or debate about the other's outlook. We will give a moment to process and silent prayer, then move to the next person. Whatever is said in this space is held in sacred trust and to be kept in confidentiality.

- *What one word would you use to describe how you are feeling about what you have heard or seen about GC2019? Some examples are surprised, confused, upset, or content.*
- *What practice, such as prayer, meditation, holy conversation has sustained in challenging times in the past? Have you engaged in that practice now?*
- *Lent is a season of reflection, what intentional Lenten practices might offer you direction and build up your faith as we process the outcomes of General Conference?*
- *While today I likely do not have any answers, beyond what I have shared, over the days and weeks to come as information is released I will endeavor to find answers.*
- *What questions are forefront on your mind?*

### **Closing**

Thank you for coming, for sharing, for being vulnerable. Let us close in prayer. This might be a time to pray a prayer which is reflective of your congregational practices, such as the Lord's prayer.