

Restorative Dialogue Circles



INNER FRAMEWORK

Values: love, respect, honesty, humility, sharing, trust, compassion

Guiding Principles:

- ✓ Offer everyone equal opportunity to participate
- ✓ Circle calls us to act on our personal values
- ✓ Involvement is and participation is direct and active
- ✓ Flexible, accommodating unique needs and interests
- ✓ Maintain respect for all by being fully present, mentally and physically
- ✓ Invite a spiritual presence with opening/closing ritual

OUTER FRAMEWORK

(PROCESS)

Circle Keeping: Facilitator who will hold circle accountable

The Talking Piece: Meaningful object (ex: cross, stone, book)

Ground rules: Help establish a safe space

Ceremonies: Opening and closing prayer/affirmation/story that applies to the topic or your audience

GROUND RULES:

Inclusion, respect, honesty, no interruptions, one speaker at a time, active listening, confidentiality, voluntary, no cell phones.

CIRCLE FACILITATOR CHECKLIST:

1. Read and explain the ground rules, and ask for questions. Invite participants to add other ground rules they think are necessary to create a safe space.
2. Read opening inspiration/prayer together.
3. Explain the talking piece and give a personal story about why you chose to use it.
4. Explain that when the talking piece is passed to the participant, he or she has three options:
 - a. Speak about the issues presented in the question;
 - b. Sit quietly and hold the talking piece to reflect upon what has been said; or
 - c. Simply pass the piece to the next participant.
5. Explain the purpose of the circle and that each participant may share as much or as little as he or she desires, but in deference to the other participants, please keep sharing to three minutes.
6. Take a moment for everyone to quietly focus on the task at hand.
7. Pose the first question...and provide answers to set an example and give participants time to think.
8. After the talking piece has gone around one time, ask if anyone would like to comment on what has been said. If so, pass the talking piece to that participant.
9. Take a moment to briefly summarize points made, then pose second question, same procedure.
10. At conclusion of all the questions, another moment of silent reflection.
11. Close with a summary and prayer.