

Weekly Needs at a Glance

To help you in your weekly preparation, here is a complete list of items needed for each of the weekly meetings.

ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR ALL MEETINGS

- Christ candle (large white pillar candle) or other central candle and cloth for worship table
- Hymnals, songbooks, or other arrangements for music
- Extra Bibles
- Group ground rules developed during your Preparatory Meeting and/or Covenant created in Part 1, Week 5
- Candle Prayer printed on newsprint
- Newsprint and markers
- *Optional:* Symbol on worship table for link with a partner group

PREPARATORY MEETING

- Participant's Book for each member
- Scripture text for opening worship (such as, Isaiah 40:3-5 or Mark 1:1-3)
- Paper and pencil for each participant
- *Optional:* A list of suggested study Bibles (page 233)
- Blank nametags and markers

Weekly Needs at a Glance

PART 1 EMBRACING THE JOURNEY: THE WAY OF CHRIST

Week 1: The Christian Life As Journey

- Blank nametags and markers
- Handout for each participant on Ephesians 4 (page 37)

Week 2: The Nature of the Christian Spiritual Life

- Blank nametags and markers
- A bowl of water
- Handout for each participant on Mark 1:9-11 (page 45)
- Newsprint with the following, “ _____, you are beloved, precious child of God and beautiful to behold!”

Week 3: The Flow and the Means of Grace

- Newsprint divided into three columns labeled “Prevenient,” “Justifying,” and “Sanctifying Grace”

Week 4: Sharing Journeys of Faith

- No additional materials required

Week 5: Living As Covenant Community

- Card from back of Leader’s Guide, “Prayers for Our Companions in Christ Group”

PART 2 FEEDING ON THE WORD: THE MIND OF CHRIST

- List of churches taking *Companions in Christ* as found on the CIC Web site
- A card to sign or write personal greetings

Week 1: Why Do We Call the Bible God’s Word?

- Handout for each participant, The Spirit of the Lord reflection sheets (pages 65–66)

Week 2: Studying Scripture As a Spiritual Discipline

- No additional materials needed

Week 3: Meditating on the Word

- Songbooks with Amy Grant’s song, “Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet” or an audiocassette or CD with the music or another hymn selection

Week 4: Directing Imagination

- Large, edged cookie sheet filled with sand or dirt
- CD player and Taizé song, “Lord Jesus Christ,” from the CD titled *Sing to God*, or another hymn

Week 5 : Group Meditation with Scripture

- Several votive candles, matches or lighter

PART 3 DEEPENING OUR PRAYER: THE HEART OF CHRIST

Week 1: Prayer and the Character of God

- Art material, including modeling clay or play dough
- Recorded meditative music for background
- Printout of groups from the *Companions* Web site, if choosing to be a partner group

Week 2: Dealing with Impediments to Prayer

- Handouts or newsprint with Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s *Life Together* quote (page 95)

Week 3: Prayers of Petition and Intercession

- No additional materials required

Week 4: Praying As We Are

- Pictures or art that depict people in human situations for option #1
- Arrangements made for field trip (option #2)

Week 5: Psalms, the Prayer Book of the Bible

- No additional materials required

Week 6: Exploring Contemplative Prayer

- Play dough or modeling clay and art materials
- Small bell or chime, or CD or audiocassette player with meditative music selection
- Handouts of Reflection Sheet (page 119)
- Handouts or newsprint with words to the song, “Spirit of the Living God”
- *Optional:* Communion elements if doing the Lord’s Supper
- Music to “Here I Am, Lord”

Weekly Needs at a Glance

PART 4 RESPONDING TO OUR CALL: THE WORK OF CHRIST

Week 1: Radical Availability

- Handouts on burning bush (page 127)

Week 2: Living Reliance

- A small candle or votive for each person, matches or lighter
- A small amount of play dough or modeling clay for each person
- *Optional:* CD or audiocassette player and quiet background music
- Newsprint or cards with words from Isaiah 60:1 (pages 133)
- Words of 2 Corinthians 12:9 on newsprint (page 133)
- A small amount of olive oil and a plate

Week 3: Bearing the Fruit of the Vine

- Handouts of Solitary Reflection (pages 141–42)
- Pitcher of water, two basins, and two towels
- CD or audiocassette player with meditative music
- Hand towel or washcloth for each participant

Week 4: Gifts of the Spirit

- No additional materials required

Week 5: The Body of Christ Given for the World

- *Optional:* Communion elements

PART 5 EXPLORING SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

Week 1: How Do I Know God's Will for My Life

- Handout of the "Holy Listening Exercise" (pages 159–60)
- Bell or chime
- Newsprint with three columns with headings (page 161)

Week 2: Spiritual Companions

- A copy of the Leader's Notes for the facilitator or clerk of the Clearness Committee (pages 167–68)

Week 3: Small Groups for Spiritual Guidance

- Newsprint with a rough, unfinished sketch of the church as a garden based on Catherine of Siena (Participant's Book, page 259; Part 5, p. 41)

- Colored pencils or colored markers
- Tacks or tape to hang drawings

Week 4: Re-Visioning Our Life As Companions in Christ

- Option 1: Handouts or newsprint with an issue of concern in your congregation
- Option 2: Handouts or newsprint with two alternative proposals (page 176)

Week 5: Re-Visioning Our Need for Guidance

- Sticky notes in two colors

CLOSING RETREAT FOR 28-WEEK COMPANIONS IN CHRIST

- Appropriate retreat site
- Handouts of a common liturgy or use one in the hymnals
- Handouts of “Solitary Reflection Questions” (page 194)
- Blank paper for writing testimonies
- Appropriate meal arrangements
- Items for worship center/table
- Newsprint and markers
- Communion elements