

AUM SAI RAM



INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

"Study Circle does not mean only just reading, discussing and taking information into the head, but also putting into practice what is learnt. If knowledge is stored in the mind it causes confusion. Confusion leads to blowing of the fuse. You should listen in the study circle and put into practice what you have learnt.

Then, only, it becomes real Study Circle." **Baba**

"Hislop asked the question: "What is a Study Circle?" "Circle, Study Circle", means taking a point and each person discussing what is the meaning of that point to them - like a round table conference. Each person gives his view point and finally, values are derived from this. If there is just reading, there is doubt. But if each person gives his views, doubts will be answered. The topic is viewed: The Study Circle looks at different facets. It is like a diamond with its different facets, but there is one facet which is flat. The top facet, and from this all can be viewed. To discover the top facet is the job of the Study Circle" **Baba**

PROCESS OF WORKSHOP:

1. An appropriate venue to be sourced with a central hall/ large room to accommodate all attendees and separate rooms/demarcated areas within hall for breakaway sessions.
2. The hall should have a podium, projector and projector screen.
3. Chairs in a circle will suffice for the breakaway session area.
4. Possible sequence of workshop :
 - Three Aums
 - Three Gayathri Manthra
 - One /two bhajans (preferably unity of faith)
 - Introduction of interfaith workshop (10 minutes)
 - Introduction of workshop process (5 minutes)
 - Breakaway sessions/mini workshops (two to two and a half hours)
 - One bhajan (to precede feedback session)
 - Feedback session (5-10 minutes per group – dependent on number of groups - of one hour overall duration)
 - Concluding remarks (10 minutes)
 - Bhajan and closing prayers
 - Light meal

SEQUENCE IN ACTUAL BREAKAWAY/ MINI WORKSHOPS:

1. There will be three to nine groups in total (between 09 to 21 participants per group and the number of groups dependent on the number of the participating attendees.) Each facilitator will decide which of the below questions/topics they would like to be discussed by their group (can decide between some or all of the topics / questions), taking into account the time allocation.
2. Each group will have a moderator/facilitator and one recorder. Each centre in participating region(s) to provide one/ two such teams.
3. Sequence of interactive discussion:
 - Aumkaar (x3)
 - Facilitator to introduce topic (5 minutes)

- Silent contemplation on topic (3 minutes)
 - Om Shanthi (x3)
 - Facilitator to commence interactive discussion
 - All the breakaway sessions/ mini workshop attendees, together with the core team of facilitator/moderator/recorder are to condense discussion into between three to nine points for feedback (utilize last ten/fifteen minutes of allocated time - before end .)
 - This condensation to be put onto a memory stick and handed to person in charge of main laptop/projector.
4. Each group to have a laptop and a memory flashdrive
 5. Feedback to be delivered by the facilitator/ moderator to the entire workshop within time allocated for feedback and with the discipline expected of us by our ever present master.

PLEASE CONTACT BROTHER LEON GREENBERG IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE WORKSOP PROCESS, FACILITATION PROCESS OR THE BREAKAWAY SESSIONS.

EXPLANATION OF DUTIES:

FACILITATOR:

- Present discussion topics / questions to group (5 min)
- Responsible for overall functioning of interactive discussion
- Keep flow and momentum of interactive discussion positive
- Lovingly prevent people from talking too much or too little (i.e. good participation from all) and keep environment of interactive discussion non-argumentative
- Summarize the interactive discussion into three to nine recommendations
- Present these to entire conference (**5 min only**)

MODERATOR:

- Assist facilitator with topic and flow of discussion
- **KEEP TIME** (very important)
- Assist recorder
- Summarize into three to nine points

RECORDER:

- To keep notes of interactive discussion on **LAPTOP**
- Assist with summary
- Put three to nine recommendations on a **FLASHDRIVE** for facilitator (please procure own flashsticks)

QUESTIONS / TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What would be considered the best format for holding Interfaith/Unity of Faiths/Universalism discussion or programme within the Sai Organization?
2. Does our Shrine and the content of our Satsang reflect the Unity of faiths basis of the organization?
3. How can universalism be harmonized into our daily workings as an organization?
4. How do we go about integrating the Wings and Interfaith?
5. What comprises a “Universal Thinker”? How do we address the challenges around religious tolerance?
6. From a superficial level all religions appear to be very diverse, how can we look beyond these to practically understand that the tenets on which these religions exist are the same across all religions?
7. With regard to Public meetings and Interfaith – what are some of the practical implementation processes?
8. How best do we bring an “Awareness” of the Sai Organisation being a “Universal Organisation”?
9. Working with Outside Religious and Spiritual Organizations; how best can we practically integrate this as part of the Interfaith dialogue?
10. How do we go about addressing the concept of “One God” as many religions have their own representation of Godhead?
11. Where do you see the dictum “Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man” fit into the Interfaith model?

WE AS FACILITATORS/MODERATORS/RECORDERS/ATTENDEES NEED TO BE READY IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO PRESENT TO OUR OMNIPRESENT BHAGAWAN.

GOD BLESS AND JAI SAI RAM