

5 Cups of Coffee

Conversations around discipleship and call

Group Conversation Facilitator Guide (90 minutes)

Objective: To practice having conversations with one another about our spiritual lives and our call to ministry, as well as learning how to invite others to consider in what ways God might calling them.

Instructions: This session is designed for a small or medium-sized group to engage in the 5 Cups of Coffee resource. You will need to create groups of 2-5 people depending on the size of the group. The below time stamps give you an idea of pacing for an evening session.

Supplies: Bibles, copies of the 5 Cups of Coffee questions (downloadable at: https://www.moumethodist.org/files/pastoral+excellence/5cups_flier.pdf), large Post-It sheet, markers, nametags (if necessary)

[6:00 p.m.] **Allow everyone to get settled. Open with prayer and do some sort of ice-breaker, get-to-know you activity.** (*See suggested activity below or choose your own.*)

[6:10 p.m.] **Introduce yourself, share where to find more information about missional leadership** (website's resource library: <https://www.moumethodist.org/missionalleaders>).

[6:15 p.m.] **Share that one of our priorities as laity is leadership development. Say,** “*We’re going to talk a little about leadership development and what that looks like in your life and at our church. I’m excited to have so many leaders in this room – I know you may not always feel qualified to be a leader, but I also know that God calls each of us to lead in some area of our lives and provides opportunities for us to lead others in their relationship with God. Take a moment to circle up with a couple people around you and share about someone in your life who has served as a mentor to you or encouraged you in your relationship with God.*”

[6:20 p.m.] **Say,** “*Now, as you think about that person in your life, what qualities or characteristics did they have that enabled them to be a leader or mentor for you?*” **Allow people to respond with characteristics. Consider making a list on a large post-it.**

[6:35 p.m.] **Say**, “*One of the initiatives related to our conference priority to support our development of missional leaders is something called 5 Cups of Coffee. It’s an encouragement for church leaders to be looking for how people might be called into ministry (as baptized members we are all called to ministry) and then inviting them into five conversations about their call and their spiritual life. They’ve created a handout that outlines what those five conversations might look like, and you might notice that the questions they ask actually apply to anyone seeking a deeper relationship with God, not just people considering entering vocational ministry. So tonight, I’d like us to go over some of these questions together, to reflect on our own spiritual life and calling and then to think about ways we might use this resource. Let’s begin with the God Conversation.*” **Ask someone to read Exodus 3:1-15. Say**, “*This was the story of Moses’ encounter with God at the burning bush. Look through the questions found in the first conversation: The God Conversation and choose one or two to talk about in your small group or with a partner.*” **Continue with any of the other four cups of coffee sessions in the same manner (as many as you feel you have time for), reading the scripture and then taking a few minutes to discuss.**

[7:00 p.m.] **Say**, “*Now that you’ve had a chance to practice with a few of these spiritual conversations with each other, let’s talk in our small groups or with our partners about how we might use this resource, or another like it to help develop leaders in our churches. One idea might be to have each member of your nominations group commit to have one or two of these “5 Cups of Coffee” conversations throughout the year – people that they think might have some potential for leadership in the church. Share with each other, what other ideas *do* you have for leadership development in your church?*”

[7:15 p.m.] **Say**, “*Now let’s share with the whole group: what other ideas are you already doing to develop leaders, or have thought you might do with this resource or another like it?*”

[7:25 p.m.] **Say**, “*Thank you so much for coming tonight. Hopefully this conversation has been encouraging for you. Let me pray for us as we head home for the evening.*” **Pray for their ministries at home, that they might be refreshed and that they might continue to hear God’s voice in their lives. Conclude the prayer asking for courage to engage in a conversation with someone in the coming days.**

Suggested Ice Breaker: True or False?

Depending on the mobility and energy of your folks, you can either ask them to stand if the answer is true for them, or raise their hand.

Say, “*Let’s take a moment to get to know each other a little bit. I’m going to read a few statements and if the statement is true for you, please stand.*” **(Feel free to make up your own statements – just try to avoid statements that might be viewed as preferential or judgmental).**

1. *I’ve lived in this city/town my whole life.*
2. *I’m new to Missouri.*
3. *I’m a first-generation Methodist.*
4. *I like to travel.*
5. *I enjoy cooking.*
6. *I have never been to an amusement park.*
7. *I’m a military veteran (or their spouse).*
8. *I’m a teacher.*
9. *My family comes to church with me.*
10. *My favorite color is blue.*