



**MERCY
GLOBAL
PRESENCE**

Facilitators' Guide

Guiding Group

The role of the Facilitator will necessarily include organising the group's access at the session to the resources on screen or in print.

A suggested structure for each Session is:

- 1. Preparation of the Focus Space*
- 2. Prayer*
- 3. Introduction*
- 4. Content Explored*
- 5. Reflection and Discussion*
- 6. Closing*

Groups may decide to meet for one session only to reflect and discuss one presentation, or for a number of sessions. At the first session it is likely that some or all group members will not have seen or explored the MGP microsite: www.mercyglobalpresence.org or be familiar with the concept of Mercy Global Presence. Time will therefore need to be spent in explanation/exploration.

Following are three of many possible approaches to using resources from the theme Cosmos/Cosmology implementing the suggested structure (nos. 1-7). The approach used will depend on the needs, interests and abilities of the group members. Facilitators may, of course, use their own approach with the resources, or choose elements from these three suggested approaches to create a different approach. At the conclusion of the Session the Facilitator or another group member is encouraged to send on 'what is too good for the group to keep to themselves' to mgpfeedback@mercyinternational.ie

Example Approach One:

Prepare the focus space with the Helix or "Eye of God" Nebula. Use the cover page of the Reflective prayer or recreate it. A larger version of the image can be downloaded here:

https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/image/0305/helix03_hst_big.jpg

Consider what other elements might be included in the space to emphasis the Segment (Global) and the theme (Cosmos/Cosmology).

Begin the session with the 'Reflective Prayer'. Focus silently on the cover page. Choose part of the reflective prayer, for example, the Welcome.

Invite sharing of a word or phrase from all members of the group in response to the silent focus or Welcome prayer.

Play the video or read the text of the Introduction by Elizabeth Davis rsm. The script addresses two points – the Mercy Global Presence process and the theme of the September resources.

Decide as a group which of the five presentations - *Theological Imaginings, Artistic Inspiration, Grassroots Ministry, Mercy Global Action, Distinct Voice* - you will read/see/listen and discuss

together. To help make the decision the Facilitator might give a 1 or 2 sentence overview of the contents of each presentation.

Following the exploration of the content, invite sharing. The focus of the sharing is to listen to each other's experience, not to respond or discuss. If appropriate, have three rounds of sharing using the Resonance, Resistance, Resilience questions from the 'Musings for the Journey'. Conclude the session with the Closing Reflection from the Reflective Prayer.

Example Approach Two:

The Facilitator chooses the Theological Presentation for the Session having prepared the focus space with elements to emphasis the Segment (Global), the theme (Cosmos/Cosmology) and the topic 'Out of Wonder'. These could be prints or artefacts of some of the images in the reading: onions, stars, rocks, water, plants...

Facilitator introduces the Session using one of the suggested Gathering Hymns from the Prayer (or another suitable one) then focusses on the second half of the Introduction by Elizabeth Davis– Cosmos, inviting responses from the participants.

The text of 'Out of Wonder' would be read aloud reflectively by one person, or different voices in turn or read silently by group members. Six illustrations accompany the article. These could be projected or printed and passed around as the reading is read and discussed.

These questions from the final two paragraphs of the 'Out of Wonder' text would be used as the basis for discussion:

- What are some of the changes being asked of us in light of the awesome story of the Universe?
- What shifts of mind-set and behaviour do we need to make?
- How might we live in a more mutually enhancing and sustaining way?

Before closing, the Facilitator invites the group to nominate the presentation they would like to reflect and share on next time they meet. To help make the decision the Facilitator might give a 1 or 2 sentence overview of the contents of each presentation.

The gathering ends with the Closing Prayer from the Prayer Reflection.

Example Approach Three:

The Facilitator organises a projector for the meeting place in order to screen (on a blank wall or screen) the Artistic Response: 'Cosmos/Cosmology-Global heart Global heartbeat'.

The Focus space would reflect the Segment (Global), the theme (Cosmos/Cosmology) and some of the imagery in the Artistic Response.

The Session commences with this screening as the prayer. One member of the group reads the texts aloud, slowly and prayerfully as the pages of this "book of life" are turned.

At the conclusion of the reading, following a period of silence, participants are invited to share with a neighbour or in a group of two or three (depending on the size of the whole group) their response to the material presented.

Each small group is then invited to share with the whole group something they heard that is 'too good to keep to themselves'.

The gathering comes to a close with a sharing in the large group of a word or phrase from the text of the Artistic Response.