

Tips for leading a small group discussion or adult forum using the Virtual Preaching Monks' Advent sermons. Please allow for 40-50 minutes at a minimum for a healthy discussion.

You can print out the discussion questions for each participant or write them on a white board or type them onto a slide or into the chat box of your online platform. However you share them, please allow all participants to both hear *and* read the questions!

Start your time together with a moment of silence.

Ask someone to read the day's scripture.

Listen again to the sermon.

Read the summary statement out loud.

Allow a few minutes for participants to read all of the questions.

You might decide as a group to start with one question.

Or participants might be invited to answer whichever one they would like (just ask everyone to state which question they are responding to!)

Whatever you do, allow plenty of time for reflection for the specific question before you proceed with sharing.

One good rule of thumb is to ask those who are normally quick to speak to "step back" and those who are more hesitant to "step in." Good group facilitation is an act of radical welcome!

When the conversation around one question dies down, move on to another question. If it is close to the end of your time together, it is better to wrap up than to cut off conversation due to time constraints. Encourage your group to continue thinking about the questions as they go through their week.

A good way to finish your time together is to ask everyone for a one-word summary of your time together. Provide space for people to speak or to pass on the invitation to share.

Close your time together by reading the Collect for Sunday, found p. 211 of the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer or [online](#).