



California Interfaith Power & Light

A Guide for Common Home: An Interfaith Study of Pope Francis' Encyclical

September 2015

In June of 2015 just after Pope Francis' encyclical *LAUDATO SI'* was released, members of CIPL congregations in Alameda County put together an interfaith encyclical reading group. Over nine weeks more 30 people (from a wide variety of religious traditions) met regularly (in different houses of worship) to read and reflect together on Pope Francis's message addressed to "all people of good will."

Thank you to those who hosted us:

First Unitarian Church of Oakland, 685 14th St. Oakland

St. Ambrose Catholic Church 1145 Gilman St, Albany

Christ Episcopal Church 1700 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda

Temple Sinai, 2808 Summit St, Oakland

Church by the Side of the Road, 2108 Russell St. Berkeley

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. Berkeley

Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St, Berkeley

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland

Skyline United Church of Christ, 12540 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland

Many who have heard about the series have asked for guidance in starting their own. We hope these materials will help those who are considering setting up similar discussion groups.

You may also find the following materials helpful in your planning:

National Interfaith Power & Light:

http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50836/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=15418

National Catholic Reporter:

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/faith-and-justice/readers-guide-laudato-si>

Catholic Climate Covenant:

<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

Catholic Relief Services:

<http://www.crs.org/pope-francis-climate/>

*The Alameda Working Group of
California Interfaith Power & Light*





Our Common Home: an interfaith study group of the Pope's Climate Encyclical

6:30 p.m.

Welcome & Brief Introduction to the Host Site

led by host congregation

6:40 p.m.

Opening Prayer

led by host congregation or convener

6:45 p.m.

Encyclical Overview

Shared each week

6:55 p.m.

Introduction Tonight's Theme

Different each week

7:00-7:10 p.m.

Reading

See next page for suggested list

7:10-7:30 p.m.

Small Group Discussions (count off)

See discussion guidelines

7:30-7:40 pm.

Break

7:40-8:20 p.m.

What came up in the small group discussions?

8:20 p.m.

Closing Prayer

led by host congregation or convener



Suggested Encyclical Weekly Discussion Themes & Readings:

Each week a different section of the encyclical will be explored, with a portion of the letter being read aloud and then discussed in small groups

WEEK ONE: the poor and the fragility of the planet

Suggested Reading: paragraphs 1-26, 27-31, 48-52

WEEK TWO: everything in the world is connected

Suggested Reading: paragraphs 15, 62, 63, 65, 66, 68

for additional consideration 70, 215, 111, 117, 125, 142, 197, 47

WEEK THREE: the critique of new paradigms/power/technology

Suggested Reading: paragraphs 101-117

WEEK FOUR: the economy and progress

Suggested Reading: paragraphs 67 and 68, 93, 104-106, and 112-113

WEEK FIVE: the value proper to each creature

Suggested Reading: paragraphs 65, 76-79, 81, 82, 84, 85, and 221.

WEEK SIX: the human meaning of ecology

Suggested Reading: paragraphs 5, 44, 147, 149-155, 202, 205, 209, 215-219.

WEEK SEVEN: the need for forthright and honest debate

Suggested Reading: paragraphs 59 - 61, 134 - 138, 169, 182, 183, & 188 - 190.

WEEK EIGHT: the serious responsibility of international and local policy

Suggested Reading: paragraphs 15, 16, 183, 163-198 and 228-232.

WEEK NINE: the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle

Suggested Reading: paragraphs 21, 22, 108, 203-208, 222-232.



Interfaith Discussion Guidelines from United Religions Initiative

1. Speak from your heart. Use “I” statements. This conversation is a sharing from our hearts, not a debate, so we invite you to own what you say with your language. Speak from your own experience, not from or for anyone else. Watch for “everyone knows,” “we all know,” “of course,” or use of the word “you.”
2. Listen with respect. Listen for understanding, not necessarily for agreement or belief. You don’t have to agree with or believe what someone is saying to listen with respect. **This also means no cross-talk and one person speaks at a time.**
3. Discover and explore. Listen for patterns, themes, new questions. Notice what’s being said instead of rehearsing what you are going to say. Keep an open mind. Be curious about the others. Appreciate the differences.

Taken from: https://www.uri.org/files/resource_files/Interfaith%20Cafe%20Outline%20-%20adaptation%20of%20World%20Cafe.doc.pdf

