

# **Christian Resurgence Circle Manual - I**

## **A Suggested Order of Nurture for an Every-Week Circle of Christian Resurgence**

Light Three Candles while singing a verse of a song

### **Owning Up to Reality**

Five Minutes of Silence

Sing

Spirit-Question Go-Round

Absolution

### **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

Translate into contemporary metaphors a portion of the Bible  
and respond to some grounding questions.

### **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

Study appropriate selections of current ethical thought.

Intercessory Prayers.

Extinguish the Candles while singing a verse of song

*Do appropriate business and catching up with each other following  
rather than preceding the order of nurture.*

## **Suggestions for the Biblical Dialogue**

Read from the Gospel of Mark followed by the paragraphs of commentary in *The Metaphorical Translation of Mark*.  
Ask the grounding questions in the Mark commentary.

Read a Psalm or part of a Psalm doing an appropriate metaphorical translation.  
(Use *Speaking Back to the Infinite Silence as a Guide*.)  
Ask grounding questions.

Read a selection from the Gospel of John as translated in the study book *The Infinite Silence Walks Among Us*.  
Ask grounding questions.

Do something similar with the stories of Genesis or the letters of Paul

**Reconnecting with Scripture is essential,  
but instead of direct contact with Scripture, a group might**

Read short, key passages from Contemporary Christian Theologians  
and lead a life-grounding discussion.

Select a topic or paper from the CR-21 Course Dynamics  
and lead a life-grounding discussion.

Select essays or chapters from the theological resources of Realistic Living Press  
and lead a life-grounding discussion.

## **Suggestions for the Study of Ethical Thought**

We are recommending that we start with Thomas Berry's book *The Great Work* using the twelve-week study outline.

Other appropriate books are listed in the bibliography published on the [RealisticLiving.org](http://RealisticLiving.org) web site.

**Here is another suggestion that might work for ethical reflection:**

Read one of the 12 Master Social Strategies paragraphs.  
and ask these three questions:

What news have we heard on this topic?

How are our current actions carrying out this strategy?

How does this master strategy challenge us to deepen our action?

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
**of Christian Resurgence**  
Week 1

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: Take Time in Life p. 54 (verse one)*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context: The most fundamental relationship of your life is your relationship with the Infinite. In the ground of this relationship are planted all your human relationships, even your relationship with yourself. This fundamental relationship is nurtured as we sit in silence. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)*

*Songs: Living True p. 19  
God p. 21*

*Spirit-Question Go-Round: What pains, pleasures, joys, sorrows have you experienced this week?*

*Absolution: Our pleasures, pains, joys, sorrows are God loving us and our responses to them are accepted.*

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding: Book of Mark, context, overview of the Gospels*

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study: The Great Work by Thomas Berry, Introduction and Chapter 1 -The Great Work*

*Intercessory Prayers: Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----*

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 2

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: Take Time in Life p. 54 (verse 2)*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context: The stillness of our body helps us to come to a stillness of mind which enlarges into the stillness of the spirit. A true love of ourselves and others arises out of the experience of stillness. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)*

*Songs: Responsibility p. 21*

*Morning of Freedom p. 21*

*Spirit-Question Go-Round: When this week have you faced an ambiguous decision?*

*Absolution: The difficult decisions we face are our good life.*

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding: Mark 1: 1-15 - Mark's introduction*

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study: The Great Work by Thomas Berry, chapters 2 & 3, The Meadow Across the Creek & The Earth Story.*

*Intercessory Prayers: Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----*

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 3

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: Take Time in Life p. 54 (verse 3)*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context: What is happening is not good, not bad, but just what is. You need not depend on the situation changing. You have the capacity in your heart and mind to be with reality as it is. Feel the vitality of loving attention to this moment. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)*

*Songs: Give Thanks p.26*

*Finish Our Work p. 28*

*Spirit-Question Go-Round: What work of humanity are you engaged in completing?*

*Absolution: Our works, however complete or incomplete, those works not yet begun and only dreamed, are accepted, received, approved.*

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding: Mark 1: 16-22 - Fishing for People & The Authority of Authenticity*

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study: The Great Work by Thomas Berry, chapters 4 & 5 - The North American Continent & The Wild and the Sacred*

*Intercessory Prayers: Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----*

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 4

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: Those Who Wait On The Lord p. 26 (verse 1)*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context: We tend to be unaware that we are thinking all the time, leaving us little respite for inner quiet. Just watch this moment: What do you hear? What do you feel? Become aware of your breathing. It is as if you died and the world continued on. By “dying” in this way, you actually become more alive. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)*

*Songs: Simple Gifts p. 37*

*I Wonder As I Wander p. 37*

*Spirit-Question Go-Round: What simplicity do you long for?*

*Absolution: Our yearnings for simplicity are good. Our ability to attain or not the simplicity we long for is accepted. The future is open for us.*

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding: Mark 1: 23-28 - Healing an unclean spirit*

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study: The Great Work by Thomas Berry, Chapter 6 - The Viable Human*

*Intercessory Prayers: Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----*

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 5

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: Those Who Wait On The Lord p. 26 (verse 1)*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context: We don't have to strive to make beauty in our lives, or look far to find it. When the mind is still, we can see a magnificence in even the most ordinary things. Each thing is different from all others, each moment is unique. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)*

*Songs: Come Thou Fount p. 2*

*Oh, What a Beautiful Morning p. 38*

*Spirit-Question Go-Round: How have you felt particularly blessed recently?*

*Absolution: If you look all over the world you won't find anyone more deserving of your love than yourself.*

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding: Mark 1: 29-34 - Healing a fevered woman; A secret identity*

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study: The Great Work by Thomas Berry, Chapters 7 & 8 - The University & Ecological Geography*

*Intercessory Prayers: Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----*

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 6

*Candle Lighting*

Song: Those Who Wait On The Lord p. 26 (verse 1)

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context:* Compassion and appreciation grow from the silence and sensitivity of our minds and hearts. All things teach us if we are sensitive. Each moment is teaching us about impermanence and emptiness. All situations can be used to deepen our understanding and the sense of magic and beauty in our experience. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)

Songs: How Firm a Foundation p. 2  
Just In Time p. 43

*Spirit-Question Go-Round:* What fiery trials have you experienced recently?

*Absolution:* Every day is a fortunate day, is an expression of love toward us.

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding:* Mark 1: 35-45 - Very early, very dark, very alone & Healing an unclean outcast

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study:* *The Great Work* by Thomas Berry, Chapters 9 & 10 - Ethics and Ecology & The New Political Alignment

*Intercessory Prayers:* Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*



Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 7

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: Ascription p. 20 (verse 2)*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context: It is only by being fully in the moment that the fundamental questions of the heart can be answered: it is only in the timeless moment that we can come to that intuitive, silent knowing of the truth. It is the intuitive wisdom that liberates us. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)*

*Songs: He Leadeth Me p. 7  
It Had to Be You p. 43*

*Spirit-Question Go-Round: When have you recently experienced yourself being somehow led?*

*Absolution: Our deepest nature is love, compassion, and freedom.*

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding: Mark 2: 1-14 - Healing a man paralyzed; calling a despised tax collector to be a disciple*

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study: The Great Work by Thomas Berry, Chapter 11 - The Corporation Story*

*Intercessory Prayers: Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----*

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
**of Christian Resurgence**  
Week 8

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: Ascription p. 20 (verse 2)*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context: In our silence we are learning to listen to our bodies, hearts, and minds. We attain wisdom not by creating ideals but by learning to see things clearly, as they are. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)*

*Songs: Lonesome Valley p. 15  
We Shall Not Be Moved p. 19*

*Spirit-Question Go-Round: What lonesome valley have you walked recently?*

*Absolution: There is always refuge in the knowledge that the Infinite is your Friend.*

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding: Mark 2: 15-20 - Who needs a doctor; feasting and fasting*

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study: The Great Work by Thomas Berry, Chapters 12 & 13 - The Extractive Economy & The Petroleum Interval*

*Intercessory Prayers: Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----*

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 9

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: Ascription p. 20 (verse 2)*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context: One reality of mind is its habit of always wandering in the past or the future whereas life can be lived only in the present. The first step to learn to live in the present moment is by keeping the mind on a present reality. The breath is an ever-present reality of this moment. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)*

*Songs: My Consummation p. 35*

*I Am The One p. 34*

*Spirit-Question Go-Round: What amazes you most about your life this week?*

*Absolution: We always live in wonder.*

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding: Mark 2: 21-28 - New wineskins; Lord of the rules*

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study: The Great Work by Thomas Berry, Chapter 14 - Reinventing the Human*

*Intercessory Prayers: Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----*

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 10

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: 117 Psalm p. 20*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context:* Mindfulness makes possible the growth of wisdom and compassion. Mindfulness moves us toward the state of sanity and away from madness. Mindfulness moves us toward non-clinging -- a mind unaffected by the ups and downs of life. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)

*Songs: I Am Dwelling p. 33*

*Winds of Change p. 32*

*Spirit-Question Go-Round:* What “way” is your life creating? Is it the “way” you want for the future?

*Absolution:* Our past is approved. Our future is open. These two teachings are connected. Trying to justify our past restricts our opening to the future. When we can say “goodbye” to the past, we can also say “hello” to the future.

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding:* Mark 3: 1-6 - Healing a crippled religious man

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study:* *The Great Work* by Thomas Berry, Chapter 15 - The Dynamics of the Future

*Intercessory Prayers:* Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 11

*Candle Lighting*  
Song: 117 Psalm p. 20

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context:* Be with the breathing. You will notice that you drift away. Gently come back. You may have to come back a thousand times in five minutes. It's not a problem. Each instance of seeing you've been away is, after all, a moment of mindfulness. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)

Songs: *The Vision* p. 27  
*On a Clear Day* p. 44

*Spirit-Question Go-Round:* How are you seeing your life more clearly these days?

*Absolution:* However clearly we see, we still see dimly. It is proper for our vision to be finite. We are finite creatures and finite creatures are accepted.

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding:* Mark 3: 7-19 - The Exodus of a New Israel

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study:* *The Great Work* by Thomas Berry, Chapter 16 - The Fourfold Wisdom

*Intercessory Prayers:* Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 12

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: 117 Psalm p. 20*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context:* Being mindful of this moment with: nonjudgmental watchfulness, non-conceptual awareness, bare attention, non-egotistic alertness--watching the universe within, noticing what comes up without getting involved. (Sit for 3-5 minutes.)

*Songs:* **Basic One Step p. 53**  
**The River p. 53**

*Spirit-Question Go-Round:* What do you sense is your next step on your spirit path?

*Absolution:* “The future is open” is not an idea to be simply held in the head. It is an action, an actual trusting leap into the unknown future.

## **Opening the Mouth of the Infinite Silence**

*Bible translation and grounding:* Mark 3:20-34 - Has he lost his mind? and The new family

## **Dedicating to Spirit Action on Planet Earth**

*Ethical study:* *The Great Work* by Thomas Berry, Chapter 17 - Moments of Grace & Reflection on entire book

*Intercessory Prayers:* Let us share our prayers for the world. Oh Infinite Silence, the Source of all our challenges -----

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*

Order for  
**Weekly Circle**  
of Christian Resurgence  
Week 13

*Candle Lighting*

*Song: Those Who Wait on the Lord p. 26 (verse 1)*

## **Owning Up to Reality**

*Silence - Context: We tend to associate calm with a certain relaxed dullness. We associate alertness with a crisis mode. But what is more intrinsic to human consciousness is utter calm that is also highly alert. Utter calm and highly alert.*

*Songs: Psalm 51 p. 36*

*Believe p. 25*

*Spirit-Question Go-Round: What inner chains bind you and inhibit your freedom?*

*Absolution: The actual concrete conditions of our lives are not chains. The chains are our cravings for a different life. Our actual lives are freedom.*

## **QUARTERLY REFLECTION**

*Charting the past quarter Context: The past is past. It no longer belongs to you. It belongs to God. The past is simply information for living the future.*

*(see attached charts)*

*Creating a montage expressing this juncture in time*

*(see attached instructions)*

*Extinguish the Candle while singing opening song*

*appropriate business and catching up with each other*