

Topic 8 2012: What's Your Opinion? NOTE: TWO PAGES – August 2012
Ingathering and housekeeping: such as next meeting place day and time.
[Facilitator's Note: This plan contains a second page of topics. Please cut them apart, each one on its own individual slip of paper, and place them in a hat or bowl before you start.]

Light the Chalice

Check-in

Opening Words:

*I had the blues because I had no shoes,
until upon the street, I saw a man who had no feet.*

Modern rewording of an ancient Persian saying

Topic Introduction:

According to **Webster's Concise Dictionary**, "attitude" may be defined as a "state of mind, behavior, or conduct as indicating one's feelings, opinion, or purpose." So "attitude" may mean our thoughts, point of view, stance, or position. Attitudes create foundations of our personal truths, belief systems, and what we consider acceptable behavior toward others, and they direct where we choose to put our energy. Attitudes, along with values and beliefs, form the basis of spirituality. Before today's group, the Facilitator prepared a set of slips of paper, each containing the name of a subject about which we hold attitudes. These topic names have been mixed up and placed in a container.

Beginning with the Facilitator, each person picks out one slip and describes his or her honest attitudes toward that item. You might want to share what attitudes your parents taught you, how you came to adopt your own opinion, who or what the greatest influences on you have been, and, of course, your current feelings about each subject. There are no right or wrong answers; we agree to listen and allow each of us to have our own outlook without judgment. Others may ask questions for clarity.

Continue to pass around the container until time is up.

Likes and Wishes

Closing Words:

*People seem not to see that their opinion of the world
is also a confession of character.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson, **The Conduct of Life***

Extinguish the Chalice

Topics about Attitude

[To be cut into individual slips of paper]

Inherent worth and dignity

Dreams

Acting with compassion

Secrets

Responsible search for meaning

Fighting wars

Conscience/democratic process

Capital punishment

Peace, liberty, justice for all

Legalizing pot

Respect for the web of existence

Sex education

Watching TV

Smoking

Surfing the Web

Hitchhiking

Having children

Spanking children

Racism

Importance of money

Abortion rights

Universal health care