



Civil Conversation Volunteer Facilitator of Conversation Group (Gwynedd Mercy 4/16/24)

Responsibilities

- 1) Keep Time—Invite shared time of participants
- 2) Return attention to Guidelines as needed.
- 3) Encourage participants to share from their experience and/or the shared content (text/podcast)--not introducing new data points.
- 4) Offer discussion prompts as helpful

Guidelines

Respect: listen to, and respect, all points of view

Curiosity: seek to understand, not persuade or convince; look for new insights & common ground

Sincerity: speak authentically about what has personal meaning

Brevity: share time, listen more

Messiness: expect honest conversation and sharing to be messy at times

Listening: bring your whole attention to the time together

Respecting: personal stories stay with the group

Discussion Prompts

1. Responses to the listening—what stood out to you?
 - i. What do you notice?
 - ii. What feelings rise up?
 - iii. What meaning do you make of it?
2. Select one of the following quotes to respond to.
 - a. Ripley says, "**In high conflict, any intuitive thing you do to get out of the conflict will almost certainly make things worse.**"
 - i. Have you experienced this to be true? Describe a time when you have.
 - b. In the podcast, Ripley describes Gary Friedman's listening strategy "Looping," "1) Listen for the thing that seems most important to the other person, 2) try to play it back to them, not robotically repeating the words, but distilling it into the most elegant language. And then, 3) check to see, "Is that right?"
 - i. How might this strategy of looping be helpful to you in communication? Are there any of these three steps that come easily to you? Where would you like to grow?
 - c. Ripley shares an old saying, "**the only mistake in communication is thinking it happened.**"
 - i. Describe a time you thought there was clear communication and there was not.
 - d. When have you felt really heard in a conversation? How can you tell when people are really listening to you?
 - e. What are some of the most powerful questions you've been asked?

- f. Think of a challenging situation you are navigating, one that is difficult to talk about and has led to divisiveness, might any of these questions be helpful?
- i. What is oversimplified about this issue?
 - ii. How has this conflict affected your life?
 - iii. What do you think the other side wants?
 - iv. What's the question nobody is asking?
 - v. What do you and your supporters need to learn about the other side in order to understand them better?
 - vi. What do you want the other community to know about you?
 - vii. What do you want to know about the other community?
 - viii. 'What are the hopes and fears you bring to this?'
 - ix. What in my own position or group causes me discomfort?
 - x. And what do I admire in the position of the other?