

EcoFaith Recovery Movie Discussion Session Script

*This document contains a script for an EcoFaith Recovery meeting with a program to discuss the movie *The Human Element*. You are welcome to use this script as-is or customize it to your needs. The entire session will run about 90 minutes. This program assumes that participants have watched the movie prior to this session.*

We recommend four leadership roles for this session. Additional leadership opportunities are possible by having multiple practice leaders or multiple discussion facilitators. Roles can also be combined, though it is highly recommended that the discussion facilitator and the technology manager be separate individuals.

- *The practice leader leads the 15 minute opening practices and the 10 minute closing practices.*
- *A storyteller will share a personal story (3 to 5 minutes) connecting to climate justice as part of the opening practices.*
- *A discussion facilitator leads the movie discussion program, which is about an hour long.*
- *A Zoom technology manager is recommended to create and manage the breakout sessions, post the prayers and prompts to the chat box and help resolve any Zoom platform issues.*

Opening (15 minutes)

Practice Leader (PL): Welcome to this gathering of the EcoFaith Recovery Metro-Portland cohort. Today we invite you into a discussion of *The Human Element*, which we were able to view thanks to the generosity of Earth Vision Institute and Interfaith Power & Light.

PL: EcoFaith Recovery is a volunteer movement in which we are lifting one another up through EcoFaith's "Practices for Awakening Leadership" to support our communities in taking courageous action for climate and environmental justice. Join us in engaging in the EcoFaith practices in preparation for today's program.

Practice 1: Access Spiritual Power

PL: We are an EcoFaith Recovery cohort seeking to bring healing and justice to human communities and all of creation. We seek to ground all of our work in a first practice of *accessing spiritual power*. Whether this is your first time participating in this gathering or you have been coming for a very long time, we are glad you are here.

PL: If you have felt overwhelmed, angry or afraid in response to news of increasing climate disruptions and escalating environmental injustice, you are not alone. **You have a place among us here.**

PL: If you have found yourself "burned out" by one action after another done for a good cause, you are not alone. **You have a place among us here.**

PL: If you have been seduced into believing that you have no story that is valid, no wisdom to offer, no gifts that matter, no power to make a difference, you are not alone. **You have a place among us here.**

PL: If you have found that your spiritual practices are not sufficiently rooting you to weather the storms of climate disruptions and environmental injustice, you are not alone. **You have a place among us here.**

PL: As we trust that God can bring us out of isolation and despair into authentic communities willing to act together, our spiritual and relational resources expand. We remember that we can organize with our communities to facilitate the diverse flourishing of life in a world embodying love for all and justice for the dispossessed. To do this, we will take a moment for silent prayer followed by the EcoFaith version of the Serenity Prayer. [Silence]

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All: God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we cannot accept, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Practice 2: Develop Relationships

PL: EcoFaith's Practice #2 engages us in Developing Relationships. To help facilitate a relational culture, we will now introduce ourselves by our first names, the name of our faith community (or other community) and one human or other-than-human community which has been silenced or is currently experiencing harm due to climate disruptions or environmental injustice. After introducing yourself, please use the names on the screen to invite somebody to introduce themselves next.

PL: I will begin.

All, in turn: "My name is _____. My faith community is _____. I lift up the community of _____ that is being silenced or marginalized. I now welcome _____ to introduce yourself."

[*Note to practice leader: Track who gets called. Offer the next name if someone loses track. Check that everyone had an opportunity to introduce themselves.*]

Practice 3: Discover our Story

PL: EcoFaith Recovery Practice #3 invites us to discover our stories. We consciously recognize the power of God's presence at work within our lived experience, the lives of others, and the stories of the places we live. In the public dimension, we discover our collective power by sharing our stories in the public arena to develop as community leaders and advance human and environmental justice.

PL: I now invite (*our storyteller*) to share his/her story with us.

Storyteller's story here.

PL: Thank you for your story, *storyteller*.

Fund Raising

PL: Now we take a moment to pass the virtual basket. EcoFaith Recovery is funded entirely by the contributions of individuals and faith communities. We recognize that many people and organizations are suffering financial hardship particularly at this time. If you have the means to be wondering what to do with your stimulus check, we invite you to consider making matching donations to a frontline community and EcoFaith Recovery today. Visit www.ecofaithrecovery.org/give make a contribution in whatever amount is right for you. Thank you so much.

PL: I now introduce *our program facilitator(s)* to kick off our movie discussion.

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Discussion Program - 65 minutes

Facilitator (3 mins): We now have about an hour to act together in a discussion of the film. Our discussion is organized into three sections around the model of self-us-now storytelling by Marshall Ganz. Each section contains a prompt question, followed by discussion in a one-to-one, small group and full group formats. Think about your story, your community and inspiring action as we go through our program together.

I will read EcoFaith Practice 5 in the community dimension before we get started.

ACT together: Consciously engage the power of collective action, in the service of God's healing and justice-seeking work for human communities and the whole creation. In the community dimension, We nurture relational cultures, identifying common interests and public issues affecting our communities, so that we are ready to act together to promote justice and healing for the whole community of creation.

(20 mins) Discussion question 1 - Self

- Facilitator (2 mins): Thinking about your story, what story from the film most resonated with you? Why? How does it relate to your story? (Post to chat & repeat aloud)
- (12 mins) One-to-one breakout sessions
- Facilitator (6 mins): I now invite Share one sentence with the group. What story resonated with you and why?

(15 mins) Discussion question 2 - Us

- Facilitator (2 mins): What teaching(s) of your faith did the film raise for you? What story(ies) in the film made the connections?
- (12 mins) Small group (3-4) breakout sessions
- (1 min) [regather only - no group share here unless time permits]

(25 mins) Discussion question 3 - Now

- Facilitator (3 mins): I will read the last quote from the film: "We depend on the stability of the fundamental forces of the world. An imbalance in one element leads to an imbalance in another. People are the only elements that can choose to restore balance... It's up to us to make the right choices." Refer to EcoFaith practice 7 (Restore Balance). Where does your community fit in with restoring a balance between humans and the earth?
- Facilitator: I now invite you to take 3 to 4 minutes to reflect on our prompt, writing down ideas as they come to you. We'll then discuss our thoughts as a full group. (Allow 4 mins for personal reflection)
- Facilitator (18 mins): (invite people to share their thoughts about the prompt. Manage time to try to give everyone an opportunity to speak.)

Facilitator: I now turn it back to *our practice leader* for our closing practices.

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Closing - 10 minutes

Practice Leader (PL): I will now read Practice #6 in the community dimension:

REFLECT on our Actions: Consciously reflect upon and evaluate our actions and the ways we use power in order to learn and grow into mature and courageous leaders. In the Community dimension, we create a culture of reflection and evaluation within our communities, regularly assessing power dynamics, and learning from our gatherings and actions, in order to mature as leaders and communities.

PL: In the interest of our mutual leadership growth and development, please share any of your reflections regarding this gathering now. We also invite you to send any additional feedback via email to (contact info here).

PL: As a reminder that the goals of Practice #7, Restore Balance, is the goal of all of the Practices, I will read Practice #7 and its Community dimension.

RESTORE Balance: Consciously realign our lives with the sacred and natural rhythms of life expressed through the whole of God's creation. In the Community dimension, we incorporate Sabbath practices into the culture of our communities, honoring the limits of both human and earth's capacity, and our need for restoration.

PL: As we go forth from this gathering to work for climate and environmental justice, may we always remember that God is with us and that we are called to be faithful, regardless of whether we are successful. I welcome you to please type an intention into the chat box as to how will work to restore balance during the coming week. [One minute of silence for people to type. Read the intentions, time permitting.]

PL: I now welcome you to join me in closing this meeting with a moment of silence followed by the EcoFaith version of the serenity prayer: [Silence]

All: God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we cannot accept, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

PL: Thank you all for your participation today.