

Retreat at Ilkley

# DISCUSSION

*on Saturday Morning*

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## Notes for Leaders

1. The idea of this is to get people sharing their thoughts and experience, particularly about their faith. This means we want to generate a welcoming, attentive and respectful atmosphere - encouraging people to be open and trustful.
  2. Without being confrontational, try to offer people the floor. They are likely to think what they have to say is of little interest to anyone else. In fact what sounds obvious and banal *in my mind* may sound impressive and powerful *in the ear of someone else*.
  3. Don't be too draconian about subject-matter, but try to prevent deterioration in the unity of the group (separate conversations starting, people descending into arguments about facts, irrelevant debates about happenings next term, &c).
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Here are a few topics to help start you off (unless there are already people who want to discuss things, which will be much the best).

- 1 What do people find has helped them to believe in God? (*Share faith*)
- 2 What makes believing in God difficult these days? (*Share pain/hardship*)
- 3 What experience do people have of prayer? What is it like to have prayer "answered"? (*Share religious or spiritual experience*)
- 4 What is it like to be a member of the Church? (*Reflect on being a Catholic Christian*)
- 5 What are we doing here? (*Reflect on what we want out of a/this retreat*)