

Awakening to a New Consciousness

*Listening to the Cry of Earth
and the Cry of the Poor*

Mercy's Theological Reflection Process



Session One | Facilitator's Guide

September 2021

SESSION ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE PROCESS

Goal: To introduce the Mercy Theological Reflection Process and the definition of extractivism and the extractive development model.

PREPARATION FOR SESSION ONE

Using the Call to a New Consciousness: Listening to the Cry of Earth and the Cry of the Poor webpage ([click here](#)), participants will have viewed the following materials before the first session:

- The definition on extractivism ([click here](#))
- The Chapter 2017 Recommitment description ([click here](#))
- Overview of the Process ([click here](#))

SESSION ONE: FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Below you will find a brief overview for this session, followed by a more extensive description of the process. Each session will take place via Zoom and will start with a large group gathering. The large group gathering will last approximately 15 minutes and will consist of the following:

- Welcome
- An invitation to move into smaller assigned groups

Participants will not return to the large group. As facilitator, you will conclude the session when the session is complete, no longer than 90 minutes.

Things you will need for this session

- Prayerful space
- Journal
- PowerPoint for screen sharing

After the participants move into their smaller assigned groups, you will guide your group through the content outlined below. You will gauge when the energy of the group is ready to wrap-up the session, between 60 and 90 minutes. An overview of the facilitated part of this session consists of the following:

- Prayer
- Introduction of participants
- Presentation of content (videos, short readings, etc.)
- Engagement in reflection, journaling, and discussion
- Identifying what has emerged
- Preparation for the next session

The information needed for times when you will share your screen are all included in a PowerPoint which you can download by [clicking here](#).

The following explanations will help you navigate any materials for this session. Facilitators may, of course, use their own approach to the guide.

1. Begin by welcoming the participants to the session and opening with the prayer. The facilitator may choose to lead the prayer herself or ask someone in the group to lead the prayer. **Slides two-twelve.**
2. At the conclusion of the prayer, the facilitator invites the small group participants to introduce themselves. **Slide thirteen.**
 - a. **Facilitator:** Please share your name, where you live and what has drawn you here?
 - b. **Facilitator:** Now we are going to move into the content of this session.

FIRST CONTENT: DEFINING EXTRACTIVISM

The facilitator will now present the first content, “Defining Extractivism.” **Slide fourteen.** The slide will look like this.

Extractivism is a destructive and exploitative model of development that extracts natural resources on a massive scale, disrupts or destroys biodiversity, impacts global ecosystems, and devastates the health and well being of local communities, while creating significant economic profits for the privileged few.

Facilitator: We are going to explore what extractivism means and how it impacts us. [Ask for a volunteer] Would someone be willing to read this definition of extractivism. [Pause]

Facilitator: Let’s break open each phrase in this definition and listen to it. **Slide fifteen.** The slide will look like this.

Extractivism is...

- a destructive and exploitative model of development
- that extracts natural resources on a massive scale,
- disrupts or destroys biodiversity,
- impacts global ecosystems, and
- devastates the health and well being of local communities,
- while creating significant economic profits for the privileged few.

Facilitator: Read again and pay attention to the adjectives. Virtually circle them in your mind. [Pause] What feelings stir within you? Take a few moments to journal your thoughts and feelings. What questions are surfacing for you?

Facilitator: Now read again and pay attention to the verbs. And virtually circle them in your mind. [Pause] What feelings stir within you? Take a few moments to journal your thoughts and feelings. What questions are surfacing for you?

Facilitator: I invite you to share one feeling, thought, insight, or question from your reflection.

Stop screen sharing during sharing times.

SECOND CONTENT: THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

The facilitator will now present the second content, “The Story Behind the Story” (4.32 min)—a short video about Extractivism. **Slide seventeen.**

Facilitator: What did you see and what did you hear in this video about the experience of the people? Take a few moments to journal your responses. [Pause]

Facilitator: I invite you to share one way in which this story impacts your understanding of extractivism?

Stop screen sharing during sharing times.

IDENTIFYING WHAT HAS EMERGED - Following the conversations so far, the facilitator encourages group members to send on what has emerged as substantive within the group to the following email: extractivism@sistersofmercy.org. It is this feedback from the groups will allow the connections to be made between the groups and move to collective transformation.

THIRD CONTENT: DEFINING THE PROCESS

The facilitator will now present the third content, “Defining the Process.”

Facilitator: Here I want to explain a little about the process we will be using in the coming sessions. We will be moving through a three-stage reflection-analysis process. **Slides eighteen-twenty.**

We will “see” what extractivism is and how it impacts people, communities, and Earth. The word “see” here connotes “deep listening, a seeking to understand. Here we will de-center ourselves and listen carefully and attentively to the stories and experiences of those most impacted by extractivism. After deep reflection, we “judge”, that is, analyze what our response needs to be. Finally, we will determine how we might be transformed by what we have heard and learned. We discern how we might act in response to extractivism.

Facilitator: During each session of our theological reflection on extractivism, we will be using the “contemplative dialogue” process. **Slide twenty-one.**

Facilitator: We will also be using journaling to express insights we gain during this theological reflection process. During this process, we also encourage you to consider how you might share your insights through other creative expressions- song, art, dance, poetry, story...the opportunity to share these creative expressions can be emailed to extractivism@sistersofmercy.org. **Slide twenty-two.**

Facilitator: We will be encouraged to do preparatory work before each session to enrich our learnings, our discussions and sharings, and our insights. We will be viewing videos, interviews, and other materials to enrich our understanding of extractivism and its impacts. In addition, there will be other resources available for those of you who want to go deeper.

Facilitator: We will also be introducing you to several different lenses through which you will analyze extractivism, including our own Mercy lens. These lenses will help us “see” differently and at least help us “see” extractivism in a way that may be unfamiliar to us. The lens that will be available to us include ecofeminist theology, liberation theology, and Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ as well as our Mercy lens.

PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT SESSION

Facilitator will wrap up with preparation for the next session. Participants are being asked to do the following before the next session. **Slide twenty-three.**

- [read] Overview: Seeing—Deep Listening ([click here](#))
- [view] In Defence of Life (33 min.) ([click here](#))
- [read] Theological Lenses
 - Mercy Lens ([click here](#))
 - Eco-feminism Lens ([click here](#))
 - Laudato Si' Lens ([click here](#))
 - Eco Liberation Lens ([click here](#))