**Small Group Ministry**

**Group Session Plan**

**Shaky Skaters**

**Opening Words**

Roller World is a typical roller rink that rents foul-smelling skates with fragile laces, and then pounds your ears senseless with hard-driving rock music. Roller World caters to people with no standards, no taste, and no class. Like my family and me.

I love Roller World. No one was born to skate, but there we all are, a roomful of unlikely skaters, doing our best. A few of course are hotshots, whizzing around on one foot, backwards half the time, breezy as you please. And another bunch, sad to say, is hopeless -- their eight little wheels completely ignoring mission control. But round and round the rest of us go, steady and solid, one foot and then the next, in careful time to the Beastie Boys or Twisted Sister.

People look pretty darn good out here. I suppose I do too. No one knows that if even one word is spoken in my direction, I will lose my concentration and hit the floor hard. No one realizes that if they come up behind me too fast I will panic and crumble into the wall. No one can see that this steady skater is so precarious that the act of skating, just skating, takes everything.

As we roll around the rink, uncertain of our stride and rhythm, may we yet see the instability of those who surround us. May we help when we are steady, holding those who falter; may we calm the reckless and urge the timid forward; may we keep gentle company with the skaters at or side. Let us move with the spirit of love, and may some quiet presence help us with our laces at the end. Jane R. Rzepka

**Check-in/Sharing**

**Topic/Activity** James Fowler begins his book *Stages of Faith* with these questions:

1. What are you spending and being spent for? What commands and receives your best time, your best energy?
2. What causes, dreams, goals or institutions are you pouring out your life for?
3. As you live, what power or powers do you fear or dread? On what power or powers do you rely or trust?
4. To what or whom are you committed in life? In death?
5. With whom or what group do you share your most sacred and private hopes for your life and for the lives of those you love?
6. What are those most sacred hopes, those most compelling goals and purposes in your life?

**Likes and Wishes**

**Closing Words**

Be ours a religion which like sunshine, goes everywhere;

its temple, all space;

its shrine, the good heart;

its creed, all truth;

its ritual, works of love;

its profession of faith, divine living. Theodore Parker, *Singing the Living Tradition* #683

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