Opening Prayer Exercise:

Leader: God, thank you.
People: I thank you, God, for always being with me, but especially I am grateful that you are with me right now.
Leader: God, send your Holy Spirit upon me.
People: God, let the Holy Spirit enlighten my mind and warm my heart that I may know where and how we have been together this day.
Leader: God, let me look at my day.
People: God, where have I felt your presence, seen your face, heard your word this day? God, where have I ignored you, run from you, perhaps even rejected you this day?
Silence for reflection (1-2 minutes)
Leader: God, let me be grateful and ask forgiveness.
People: God, I thank you for the times this day we have been together and we have worked together. God, I am sorry for the ways that I have offended you by what I have done or what I did not do.
Leader: God, stay close.
People: God, I ask that you draw me ever closer to you this day and tomorrow. God, you are the God of my life—thank you. Amen.

Review Key Points from Chapter 1-3
Introduction: “Crisis” - opportunity and danger; Metrics of understanding growth and success
Chapter 1: Fundamentals of Anglican identity vs. American values; history of Anglican church; Via Media
Chapter 2: The history of scripture, the Episcopal way of looking at scripture; the 3 (or 4) legged stool.
Chapter 3: Spiritual vs. Religious; Communal aspect of worship; Liturgy: the best of what we do

Discussion Questions (30 minutes at each grouping)
1. How are we connected to one another rather than individuals standing alone? What does it mean to be in Christian community? How is it different from other communities? Is Ascension is good at being community – connecting to one another? What do we do well, what could we do better?
2. Have you ever been changed by a worship experience? Have you ever felt left out of a worship experience? How do we become community through worship?

Report back to group highlights

Closing Prayer
All: Lord, send me your light and your love.
That I might be a blessing to someone who needs you today. Amen.

HOMEWORK: Read Chapter 4 & questions in book – come up with your own question for your group