

Reading Plan for *The Cloud of Unknowing* Book Group

You will gain the most from the sessions if you have read and considered the sections suggested ahead of our meeting together.

All sessions facilitated by Joy Adams, Chris Ellis, and Malcolm Peet. Each will be experiential as well as informative, beginning and ending with periods of silent prayer, including a brief introduction to the theme followed by group discussion.

Date	Preparatory Reading	Themes	Questions whilst Reading
9 th Sept	Prologue & chapters 1-7	What is Contemplative Prayer and How to Approach it	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Try and write down (in brief note form) your understanding of the method of contemplative prayer which the chapters propose</i> 2. <i>What is your understanding of 'the cloud of unknowing' (and the 'cloud of forgetting')?</i>
23 rd Sept	Chapters 8-23	Sin, Humility and seeking Silence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Do you identify more with Mary or with Martha?</i> 2. <i>What do you learn about humility from reading The Cloud?</i>
7 th Oct	Chapters 24-34	Love, Grace and Practicalities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What do we learn about love here?</i> 2. <i>What does it mean to be called to a contemplative life?</i>
14 th Oct	Chapters 35-50	Developing the Practice: Reading, Meditating, Praying – and Self-Denial	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Make a note of what you think these key terms mean for the author: reading, meditating, praying, discernment</i> 2. <i>What do you make of the author's suggestion in chapter 46 to play a game with God and discover 'the joy of God's playfulness'?</i>
4 th Nov	Chapters 51-61	Talking (and <i>not</i> Talking) about God	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What do you think the author means when he warns about understanding bodily what is said spiritually?</i> 2. <i>What do you learn about silence and theology from these chapters?</i>
25 th Nov	Chapters 62-75	Further Reflections about Us, God and the Practice of Contemplative Prayer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What do you find strange and/or helpful in the author's account of human nature?</i> 2. <i>What do the closing chapters teach us about the grace of God?</i>