Facilitator moves

THE MAIN MOVE

"Whose good does that aim include?" Invite the speaker to name an overlooked interest and examine any return they are beginning to require.

Then ask: **"Who sees it differently?"**

When the room needs help

- **Silence.** Wait ten seconds. Ask, "What might someone absent from the decision reasonably need?"
- **Dominating.** "Let's hear from someone who hasn't spoken and wants to."
- **Self-erasure.** "What legitimate need of yours still belongs in the aim?"
- **Demanding gratitude.** "What would make the concern worthwhile without that return?"
- **Solving the schedule.** "Before choosing a time, what are we trying to achieve for the people affected?"
- **Personal conflict.** Thank them; offer the shared case or passing. Do not press for details.

PROTECT THE TIME

Discuss from minute 10 to 60, including the reading at question 2. Apply until minute 80. Shorten follow-ups or omit the reveal if needed; close at minute 80 and finish at 90.

When asked for your view

Offer it briefly: "Here's my tentative view. What would make you doubt it?" Keep the question open.

Notes and follow-up

Fuller explanations, sample responses, and the readings are in the May expanded guide and Meeting Primer. Key texts: Seneca, *Letters* 48.1–3; Epictetus, *Discourses* 3.24.22–24; Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations* 5.6. *On Stoic Living*, Weeks 18–21.

Making Room for Other People

Whose good is missing from what I want?

Today we examine whose good our aims include and what concern becomes when we expect a return.

THE MEETING

Date: _____ **Place:** _____

90 minutes of discussion · Justice · Discipline of Desire

Before you begin

Silence your phone, set a quiet timer, and keep this guide open. Have the reading ready on a phone or printout, and a pen for your own notes.

Open (10 minutes)

Welcome. Challenge ideas, give reasons, and share the floor. Passing is always fine. The shared case gives everyone a starting point; no experience with the weekly lessons is needed.

THE SHARED CASE · READ IT ALOUD

You're choosing a time for your team's weekly meeting. Four o'clock protects your mornings for focused work. Two colleagues need to leave then to pick up their children.

Ask the whole group: **"Whose interests belong in what you want this meeting time to make possible?"** Read the shared case aloud before asking the opening question. Hear two or three initial interpretations without settling them, then carry them into the discussion.

Discuss

1. Whose interests are easiest to leave out when a plan suits you?

Probe: What makes the colleagues' needs easy to overlook here?

READ ALOUD · SENECA, LETTERS 48.1–3

Read the passage aloud from the linked text or the QR code. Seneca connects concern for a friend's advantage with the wider fellowship of human beings.

Letters 48

Introduce this passage during question 2, where it helps examine the issue already under discussion. Read it aloud and return to that question; avoid adding a separate preliminary round.

2. How could your aim include others without erasing your own needs?

Probe: What would a wider aim sound like before choosing a time?

3. What return might you expect for considering someone else?

Probe: If nobody thanked you, what would still make that concern worthwhile?

4. Can goodwill remain when someone rejects the help you offer?

Probe: What wish for their good could survive a different choice?

5. What would show that you wanted the shared good differently?

Probe: Could the time stay unresolved while your aim became more inclusive?

GOING DEEPER · IF THE ROOM IS READY

When does "I know what is best for them" turn a wish for their good into a demand for their agreement?

Application: compare the aims

Work through the steps aloud. Take two or three answers at each step.

1. **Notice.** What do I want, and whose good is missing? Give your own need a fair hearing too.
2. **Include.** I want this, while taking their legitimate interests seriously. Name a real interest; leave guesses open.
3. **Loosen.** If they respond differently, what goodwill can I keep? Notice any demand for approval, thanks, or agreement.

IF TIME ALLOWS · THE REVEAL

You offer another time, but a colleague says it will not work either and asks you to reconsider.

Probe: What do you now want from the colleague? Can concern remain while agreement is still missing?

A wider aim can be understood while the schedule remains unresolved. Generous words and another person's gratitude do not establish that desire has changed.

Close

Return to the opening: **"Whose good is missing from what I want?"** Ask what became clearer or what remains unsettled. Hear brief answers and reasons for a changed view; passing is welcome.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

Notice whose good an ordinary wish includes, and what response you start to require.

Thank members, confirm the next meeting, and finish on time. Next month we turn to the Discipline of Action: **How can I contribute to our common life through just action?**

After the meeting: send a short recap through your group's usual channel with one or two insights or open questions and the take-home invitation.