

**Illinois
Masonic
Education
Themes
*March***

**Grand Lodge Committee
on Masonic Education**

March-Before You Knocked

This month is a concept that requires no review of ritual. Everything needed is in your own experience. Understanding your experience is critically important to your journey in Masonry.

Discussion Questions

1. What caused you to join? If it was a friend or family member, what about that person or their experience with Masonry interested you enough to ask to join?
2. What were you most curious about? Was it the Lodge room, the history, the rituals, or perhaps something else?
3. What do you remember about the night/day of your Initiation?
4. Think back to the moments you stood blindfolded in the preparation room. What was going through your mind? What were your hopes?
5. If today you were asked "Who comes here?", how would you answer?
6. What does 'accord' mean in the phrase "free will and accord"?

March Supplement

To effectively facilitate this month's theme, I recommend that you prepare to listen to each response and think about what else you might like to know about that response. I expect that you will need to pull some answers out of you participants. Your goal is to get them to think 3-4 responses deeper than their initial answers.

Example 1: If a Brother responds to the first question with “my father was a mason” I might follow up with ‘What about your father’s involvement in Masonry suggested that this was an organization you would like to participate in?’

Example 2: Follow up responses to the second question with ‘What about X interested you?’, ‘Did you find what you thought you would? How was it different from what you sought?’

Final thought: This month's theme is built on a contemplative practice which is addressed in a growing number of published works. Chief among these in the opinion of this Committee, is [Bro.: Chuck Dunning's *Contemplative Masonry*](#). In this spirit, Question 5 is important for each of us to consider. Question your own answers: is that true 100% of the time? Is that the best/most accurate/most descriptive way to answer? Remove that description of yourself, would you be fundamentally different?

