

1. Gather & Share Food / Drink 25 MINS

2. Worship Music 10 MINS

3. Read the Sunday Gospel 5 MINS

MARK 3:20-35

Jesus went home, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying: 'Beelzebul is in him' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out!' So Jesus called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom can not last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either - it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.

The mother and brothers of Jesus arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you!' He replied, 'Who are my mother and brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother!'

4. Personal Sharing based on the Gospel 5-10 MINS

In the weeks before meeting today, a member of the group was invited to prepare a short, 5-10 minute sharing on how this Gospel reading connects with their life and relationship with Jesus. They have considered the questions below in the process of preparing their sharing:

- Jesus tells us that "if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand". Have you ever felt divided in yourself? Have you ever experienced the struggle between knowing God's will for you and what you wanted to do? What happened? How did you resolve this tension?
- Following God can sometimes mean that we choose to walk a different path to others – our co-workers, friends and family. Have you ever had to say "no" to people because you want to follow God? What happened?

5. Smaller Group Discussion 20 MINS

Break into smaller sharing groups of 3-5 people and discuss the following questions.

- What really struck you from the personal sharing? Have you had a similar experience?
- Respond to the sharing prompts in section 4, to break open the Gospel.
- What has been one high point and one challenge in your faith Journey since we last met?

6. Prayer in Small Groups 15 MINS

Remain in your smaller discussion groups for a time of prayer.

- Conscious of what has just been shared, briefly name/describe your prayer needs.
- Intentionally call on the Holy Spirit to be present (e.g. "Come Holy Spirit, please be present as we pray")
- Move to prayers of thanks and praise to God
- Pray for each other's prayer needs. Where appropriate, you may like to encourage the group to place a hand on the shoulder of the individual that you are currently praying for.
- Conclude your prayer time with another prayer of praise, perhaps reciting the 'Glory Be' or similar prayer.

7. Closing Prayer 5 MINS

After you have had time to pray for one another in your smaller groups, a leader closes the evening with a final prayer in the large group.