

1. Gather & Share Food / Drink 25 MINS

2. Worship Music 10 MINS

3. Read the Sunday Gospel 5 MINS

JOHN 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.

Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask in my name. What I command you is to love one another.

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 invites us to share deeply in an intimate relationship of love with him and our neighbour, bearing fruit and goodness. Describe how you experience and remain in his love and the good things that this relationship has borne.
- At the heart of this love is an act of ultimate service and sacrifice – laying one's life down for one's friends. Share some experiences of how this has been a fruitful reality in your life.

5. Smaller Group Discussion 20 MINS

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

- In a sentence or two, what has been a high point and a challenge since we last met?
- What from the personal sharing spoke to your heart and what you've experienced in your life?
- What else from the Gospel resonated with you?

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, members briefly name/describe their 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
- Prayer 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 people have had time to pray for one another in their smaller groups, a leader closes the evening with a final prayer in the large group.