

Sent on Mission

ASCENSION SUNDAY . YEAR B

1. Gather & Share Food / Drink

25 MINS

2. Worship Music 10 MINS

3. Read the Sunday Gospel 5 MINS

MARK 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

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:

- a. What is your experience of being sent by Jesus? In what ways have you felt affirmed in this mission and empowered to speak about Jesus?
- b. What signs have you seen Jesus work in your life as you've lived more deeply your relationship with him?

5. Smaller Group Discussion

20 MINS

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

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

- a. Conscious of what has just been shared, members briefly name/describe their prayer needs.
- b. Intentionally call on the Holy Spirit to be present (e.g. "Come Holy Spirit, please be present as we pray")
- c. Move to prayers of thanks and praise to God
- d. 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.
- e. Conclude your prayer time with another prayer of praise, perhaps reciting the 'Glory Be' or similar prayer.

7. Closing Prayer

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.