

### 1. Gather & Share Food / Drink 25 MINS

### 2. Worship Music 10 MINS

### 3. Read the Sunday Gospel 5 MINS

#### JOHN 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

### 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:

- We see in this passage the presence of the Spirit bringing peace, joy, forgiveness, healing and sending. Describe your experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit. What effects has it had on your life?
- Forgiveness and the ability to forgive is closely connected with the presence of God's Spirit? Share with the group how this has been a reality in your own 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.