

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

**2. Worship Music** 10 MINS

**3. Read the  
Sunday Gospel** 5 MINS

**MARK 6:1-6**

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him.

And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

**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:

- Describe a time in your life when, because of your relationship with Jesus, you have faced opposition or disbelief from those closest to you, just because they 'knew you'. What feelings did you experience and how did your relationship with Jesus assist you to overcome this opposition?

**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.