

1. Gather & Share Food / Drink 25 MINS

2. Worship Music 10 MINS

3. Read the Sunday Gospel 5 MINS

MARK 9:30-37

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

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. The desire to be known and to be seen is powerful. We all have this human need and Jesus' apostles were no different. Quite often, it's discovering how God sees us that allows us to finally rest and accept that how others see us is out of our control. Have you ever experienced this in your life?
- b. "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all." We describe this attitude as servant leadership and Jesus as the ultimate servant leader. Have you encountered someone who is this kind of leader? What did it teach you about who Jesus is? How are you growing in your servant leadership?

5. Smaller Group Discussion 20 MINS

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

- a. What really struck you from the personal sharing? Have you had a similar experience?
- b. Respond to the sharing prompts in section 4, to break open the Gospel.
- c. 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.

- a. Conscious of what has just been shared, briefly name/describe your 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. 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.
- e. 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.