

1. Gather & Share Food / Drink 25 MINS

2. Worship Music 10 MINS

3. Read the Sunday Gospel 5 MINS

MARK 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

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 tells us we should have no tolerance for sin in our lives. Have you ever battled with sin in your life and overcome it? What did you do? What part did the Sacrament of Reconciliation play? Did anyone support you in it?

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.