

# FAITH CIRCLES *connect*

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER • YEAR B

1. Welcome your Guests
2. Share Food & Drink
3. Worship Song
4. Read the Sunday Gospel

**LUKE 24:35-48**

They were still talking about this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

**5. Personal Sharing**

*In the weeks before meeting today, a member of the group was invited to prepare a short, 5-7min, sharing on how this Gospel reading connects with their life and relationship with Jesus. The reflection questions below may assist in preparing for the sharing:*

1. The scriptures are a source of evidence affirming all that Jesus said and did, including his death and resurrection? Describe how you feel Jesus guiding you through the words of the scriptures – how has reading the scriptures strengthened your experience of the risen Jesus?
2. Like all the apostles in today's reading we are invited to personally experience and recognise the risen Jesus really and truly present in our lives. Share with the group a time when you have experienced Jesus' presence in your life? What has it meant for your faith in his resurrection and ongoing presence in your life.

**6. Share in Smaller groups**

*Once your nominated speaker has shared their story, break into smaller sharing groups to reflect on the above questions. Each person shares their experience of God since last gathering in light of the Gospel message.*

1. How is everyone going? (Consider "high/low")
2. What jumped out/touched/resonated with you from the personal sharing?

3. Have you experienced that in your life?
4. Was there another point from the Gospel that really struck you?

**7. Worship & Prayer****Worship**

*Singing together as a group is a vital part of each connect group gathering. Our worship draws our focus to God and all that God has done for us. As St Augustine reflected 'the one who sings prays twice'.*

*Play a song or hymn as a way of entering into a time of prayer. You may like to use some of the resources provided in our music guide.*

**Pray for Each Other**

*Remain in your smaller discussion groupings of 3-5 people. Invite the Holy Spirit to be present and invite group members to pray aloud for each others' needs. Enable time for people to share their prayer intentions. Individuals might like to pray for themselves or ask someone else to pray for them.*

**Closing Prayer**

*After people have had time to pray for one another in their smaller groups close the evening with a final prayer in the large group. A suggestion might be:*

Loving Father, we thank you for the love and care you have for each of us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may continue to draw strength from you and follow your will in all we do. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen