

FAITH CIRCLES *connect*

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT • YEAR B

1. Welcome your Guests

2. Share Food & Drink

3. Worship Song

4. Read the Sunday Gospel

JOHN 2:13-24

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there.

Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.'

Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.'

The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

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. "Zeal for your house will devour me". Have there been times in your life when you have responded passionately, even forcefully and courageously, because of some injustice or wrong in the world?
 - a. What was the desire or passionate belief that stirred your emotions and moved you to action?
 - b. What actions did you take and what was the effect upon and response of those around you? How did you 'justify' your action?
 - c. In what ways did you recognise that God was behind your desire and action? Where did you feel God's presence and how did you experience God's protection or support?

6. Share in Smaller groups

Once your nominated speaker has shared their story, break into smaller sharing groups to reflect on the questions below. 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