

# FAITH CIRCLES *connect*

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT • YEAR B

## 1. Welcome your Guests

## 2. Share Food & Drink

## 3. Worship Song

## 4. Read the Sunday Gospel

### JOHN 12:20-30

Jesus said: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

## 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. Jesus describes the process of letting go of our own desires, and even life, so much that such letting go becomes the path of new life and transformation. Describe an experience where you have 'let go' of your own desires or preferences, in order, like Jesus, to serve a greater good. Why did you 'let go', what happened before and after this event? In what ways did it bring you 'new life'.

## 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