

# FAITH CIRCLES *connect*

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B

## HEALING & GUIDING OUR LIVES

### SUNDAY GOSPEL

MARK 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

### SHARING OUR JOURNEY

*In the week before your gathering invite a member of the group to prepare a short, 5-7min, sharing on how this Gospel reading connects with their life and relationship with Jesus. They may like to use the one of the following sharing points:*

1. When have you felt the healing touch of Jesus, either in your own life or that of someone else? Share what happened and what affect it had upon you?
2. Jesus spent with his Father in prayer, seeking guidance and direction. Share about an occasion when you have spent time with God praying and seeking his guidance on something important to you? What happened and how did you experience God's guidance.

*Once the nominated speaker has shared their story, break into smaller sharing groups of 3-5 people. Ask them to reflect upon how this Gospel and sharing has touched their lives.*

### WORSHIP & PRAYER

#### **Sing Together**

*Whilst remaining seated in your smaller groups, play and sing a song of praise and worship as a way of entering into a time of prayer.*

#### **Pray for Each Other**

*Ask about and pray for the needs of group members, inviting the Holy Spirit to be present as you do so. 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