

FAITH CIRCLES *connect*

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • YEAR B

ENCOUNTERS THAT TRANSFORM

SUNDAY GOSPEL

MARK 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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. The encounter between Jesus and the leper changed both their lives. Share some of your experiences of encounters, with God or others, that have changed or had an impact on your life or the lives of those around you. What was the experience, what happened and what have been the results?
2. Jesus was moved with compassion out of a deep love for the leper. What have been some moments in your life where you have known in a deeply personal way Jesus' depth of love for you individually, in who you are as a person. Share some of this story with the group.

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