

# Small Group Gospel Reflection *outside the Paschal Season*

This is a suggested weekly discipline for nurturing discipleship in the way of Jesus that requires only a limited form of leadership. The default reading is the [gospel reading for the coming Sunday liturgy](#). Small groups of up to eight may **gather physically**, or if this is not possible, connect by **video-conference**. The leader should print these two pages of instruction plus the gospel reading appointed for the week.

## First Hearing of the Word:

### Gathering in a circle, or around a table:

*The BAS order for Home Prayers may be used as the setting for this reflection. A small cross may be used as a 'talking stick'.*

### Video-conferencing:

- ▶ After the essential shared greetings, the leader may provide a context for the selected reading, if necessary.
- ▶ The leader introduces the reading, saying, **"Listen for what catches your attention: a word, a phrase, or an image."** The leader then reads aloud the first version of the passage.
- ▶ SILENCE. The leader then asks, **"What caught your attention?"**

*The leader then passes the cross to the person on the right. The cross is passed around the circle until everyone has had a chance to respond.*

*All respond in turn: the leader invites one person to begin, and each who responds then invites another person, until all have spoken*

## Second Hearing:

- ▶ The leader introduces the reading, saying, **"Ask yourself: Where does this reading touch on my life, my community, our nation, our world?"** The leader then invites someone else to read the passage aloud a second time.
- ▶ SILENCE. The leader then asks, **"What in your experience did this touch on?"**

*The cross is again passed around the circle until everyone has had a chance to respond.*

*The leader again invites participants to respond in turn, in the same order as before.*

## Third Hearing:

- ▶ The leader introduces the reading saying, **"Listen for what God is saying to you through this reading. Ask yourself: What are we being called to be or to do? How is God inviting us to change?"** The leader then invites someone else to read the passage aloud a third time.
- ▶ SILENCE. The leader then asks, **"What are we being called to be or to do?"**

*The cross is again passed around the circle until everyone has had a chance to respond.*

*The leader invites participants to respond in turn, in the same order.*

## Open Discussion:

*The leader places the cross in the centre of the group.*

- ▶ The leader invites people to name and discuss the issues arising from hearing the reading. The leader closes the discussion when the agreed time limit has been reached and initiates the prayers.

## Closing Act of Prayer:

*The leader invites each person in turn to offer a prayer for the person on their right.*

*The leader invites all to offer prayer in turn for the one each of them had named to respond to questions.*

- ▶ All may say together The Lord's Prayer.