**Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry Schedule**

**April 21, 2024**

**Searching For… Guidance**

15 Minutes **Gathering, Hospitality, Check-in with Each Other…**

How did you celebrate Easter throughout this week?

Describe a time you searched for guidance.

Opening Prayer O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (ELW p33)

45 Minutes **Discussion Questions:**

Read again John 10: 11-18

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What Easter themes do you hear in this ‘I am’ story?

How does the season of Easter influence your hearing and consideration of Jesus teaching?

How does a shepherd offer guidance?

What guidance does Jesus – the good shepherd – offer here?

In what ways does the image of the good shepherd laying down their life not make sense?

How does the story of the resurrection of Jesus give that meaning?

What does it mean for you/the church/the world?

How might this pericope be the ‘take up your cross and follow’ of the Gospel of John?

Why is it important to be held in mutual knowledge and love with God?

Read again 1 John 3:16-24

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

In faith, what does it look like to lay down your live for another?

What does it mean to abide in God!?

Read again Psalm 23

What do you notice about this psalm as you read/hear it this time?

How has this psalm marked your journey?

How are metaphors and images powerful tools in proclaiming the gospel?

20 Minutes **Prayer Requests and Prayer**

10 Minutes **Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session:** Conversation about details for the next session…place, day, time, and volunteer Host. Remember…bring a Bible, watch the Sunday worship and sermon in preparation for the group session.

Maximum amount of time…90 minutes. Time used for each component is

flexible depending on the agreed upon needs of the group for that session.