

Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry

July 7, 2024

Surprising Grace

15 Minutes

Gathering, Hospitality, Check-in with Each Other...

Where did you see or experience God's wisdom and power this week?
Where any other these from a person or place you didn't expect?

Opening Prayer

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p41)

45 Minutes

Discussion Questions:

Read again Mark 6: 1-13

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?
Describe the *surprise* you hear in this story.
What does this story teach us about faith?
Why do you think the people of his hometown took offense at Jesus?
 How does taking offense keep us from self-reflection and possible growth?
How does the sending of his disciples relate to the first part of today's story?
What does this 2nd part of the story teach us about God's word?
 And the journey of faith?
When has God called you to a place you didn't expect?
How did God provide for you as you went?
Where do you see God's surprising grace in today's gospel?
 Where do you see God's surprising grace today?

Read again Ezekiel 2: 1-5

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
What is the role of the prophet?
Where do you hear the prophetic word of God spoken today?

Read again 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
What do you make of the challenging verse 9?
How is it that when I am weak, then I am strong?

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.