

Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry

September 1, 2024

Hearts on Fire

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

Where have you experienced the love of God lately?

What is your favorite way to share God's love?

Opening Prayer O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures.

Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus

Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen (ELW p45)

45 Minutes Discussion Questions

**Read again Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (or 1-23)**

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?

How is the table scene used to reveal the way of God?

What is the way of God revealed by Jesus in this gospel?

How does your faith life kindle a heart on fire for God?

How does a heart on fire in faith impact what comes out of you?

Why is the list of things that defile, a person's actions in relation to others?

Make a list of things that will come out of a person that build up with life & love.

What difference does Jesus make in a person's life?

What are some things that keep your heart on fire in faith?

In what way does tradition help this?

How does the community help this?

**Read again Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-9**

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

Why is it important to pass on the love and life of God?

What is a memorable way you received the gift of faith through story?

**Read again James 1:17-27**

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

How does this passage describe what it is to be 'doers of the word'?

How does the law of love we learn from Jesus set people free?

**20 Minutes Prayer Requests and Prayer**

10 Minutes Wrap Up & 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.