

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

**September 29, 2024**

**Getting Our Bearings**

**Who are They?**

15 Minutes

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

What makes someone or a group of people 'they'?

What is easier to name, similarities or differences? Why?

Opening Prayer      Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p48)

45 Minutes      **Discussion Questions:**

Read first Mark 9:38-50

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 does this passage help us reflect on the question 'Who are They'?

What are the barriers put up and by whom?

How does Jesus reorient our understanding?

    What does this mean for my life of faith?

How do vv. 38-41 inform an understanding of vv. 42-50

    Why are acts of service an important part of the Christian faith?

    How do acts of service help us understand 'who are they'?

        How do acts of service hinder this understanding?

    Why is learning to see God in everyone an important part of growing in faith?

    How has your faith changed over time in regard to life together?

Read again Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29

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

How does this passage help us reflect on the question 'Who are They'?

Why is it helpful to have stories of God working in unexpected ways?

How have you seen God working in unexpected ways?

Read again James 5: 13-20

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

What does a life of faith look like in the ending to James?

Where do we do that well? How can we do this better?

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.



FRIENDS ♦ FAITH ♦ EVERYDAY LIFE

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.