

“CHANGING MINDS...CHANGING HEARTS”

Easter to Pentecost, 2019

Group Leader’s Guide



Thank you very much for offering to act as the leader of a small group for “*Changing Minds, Changing Hearts*”. Please don’t think you need any particular experience or knowledge to lead your group. The most important thing you do will be to create a welcoming atmosphere so that members of the group are happy to take part.

The steps involved in each week’s gathering and the material for reflection are set out in the “Participant’s Guide”.

Please make sure:

- That as facilitator you are the first to arrive for the gathering so that you can welcome the others
- The space for the gathering is suitable and comfortable
- Participants can have a “cuppa” when they arrive
- A brief “Acknowledgement of Country” (or “Welcome to Country” if appropriate) takes place before commencing the program
- Participants have whatever materials they need for the time together
- Participants have name-tags (especially for the first couple of gatherings)
- There is a candle to be lit at the beginning of the gathering each week
- Some other symbol of Christian faith is present; a crucifix and/or the opened Scriptures are recommended. One or two symbols is plenty.
- Paper and pens are available in case people wish to write something

Please note:

- The whole program should take place in an atmosphere of mutual support and acceptance. It is not a setting in which anyone should ever feel that their experience or contribution is less valuable than anyone else’s. It is not a setting for debate.
- There should be no sense of hurry. It is suggested groups give at least the following times to the different parts of the process. Of course groups are free to vary these.
 - 5 mins for silence and opening prayer
 - 5 mins for the questions about life at present
 - 10 mins to hear and/or read the gospel passage and then engage silently with it
 - 5 mins to read and consider the “some other thoughts” section
 - 15 mins discussion
 - 10 mins to engage silently again with the gospel passage
 - 5 mins for the questions about life in the future
 - 5 mins for the closing prayer and making any arrangements for the next gathering.

Thank you again and may God bless you as you lead your group in the Easter Season.