

Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry

October 13, 2024

Getting Our Bearings

Who is Holding Us Back?

- 15 Minutes **Gathering, Hospitality, Check-in with Each Other...**
Share about an obstacle you've faced in life.
 What was that experience like?
No really, why are hot air balloons so amazing?
- Opening Prayer Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p50)
- 45 Minutes **Discussion Questions:**
Read first Mark 10: 17-31
 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 invite us to reflect on the question 'Who is holding us back'? From what is one being held back?
 Why is this an important question(s) to reflect on? What is at stake?
 What is the difference between 'who' and 'what' in this question?
 How does Jesus address both?
 What does this mean for my life of faith?
 What is my role in this reflection as we seek to get our bearings following Jesus?
 Why do you think Jesus' answer 'shocked and grieved' the questioner?
 How does this passage inform and shape a relationship to money? Possessions?
 How is money and possessions about relationships?
 Where do you see grace in this passage?
- Read again Amos 5:6-7,10-15
 What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
 How do the words of the prophet similarly illustrate the way of God that Jesus is teaching in today's gospel?
- Read again Hebrews 4:12-16
 What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
 How do you experience the word of God as living and active?
- 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.