



Leader Guide – Weekly Gathering

John 20 • for the week of April 23 • by Kathy Schlittenhart

Opening (5 minutes)

Take time as leaders to welcome people and set a tone of joy and openness in community.

Check-in Time (15 minutes)

Say: Let's share experiences we've had sharing Christ with others, experiences that have gone well and the ones that haven't gone so well. Is it easy or difficult for you to talk about your faith in Jesus Christ?

Centering Worship (10 minutes)

Light the candle as a reminder of Christ, who is always present.

Invite people to get comfortable as we shift gears from talking to reflection.

Read John 20 reflectively, followed by a time of quiet for people to listen and pray.

Pray that the group would grow in faith and belief in Jesus.

Sharing (15 minutes)

Questions you might use during this time:

Where have you experienced God this week?

What stood out to you as you used the exercises this week?

What exercise or section of Scripture caught your attention and why?

Ask group members to look back over their journals and share some things that catch their attention.

Ask group members to look back at the last worship gathering on Sunday. Where did they experience God?

What did you notice (sense, feel, think, learn) this week as we gathered for worship?

How did God show up in your life this week?

How have you been intentional in creating space to listen to Christ this week?

Stepping Stones (10 minutes)

Encourage whoever is on for this week to share. Remind the group to listen well and pray for this person. You may or may not want to take some time to pray as a group for the individual who shares.

Group Listening Practice (40 minutes)

Say: For our group listening practice today we are going to focus on resurrection. I have a handout to guide us as we listen to what God wants us to hear as we consider this topic. (You may do this as a group or divide up into small groups of two or three.)

Closing (5 minutes)

Close with prayer. Remind people to get their materials off the Web site (www.listeninglife.org). Check to make sure this is working for everyone. Give announcements as needed.

Encourage the group to pray for each other this coming week.