

## *Let your life speak of God*

***When we are in control and 'together' in ourselves, we may find it harder to hear and recognise the voice of God. Our own voice is too strong. It is humble souls, who know how easy it is to get lost, make mistakes, and get it wrong that recognise, listen to and obey God's voice and find 'the way' to let their lives speak.***

**Group facilitator welcomes everyone. Each person introduces themselves. Leader reminds people of the guidelines. Leader begins by reading out the session title and two sentence explanation.**



### **Connect (10 minutes)**

Share experiences of giving/receiving to and from others as you lived with attention to God this week. Did you make any mistakes and did you try and hold them lightly remembering the story of Peter and Jesus last week?

Share your thoughts about intentionally doing something risky and personally different and hands-on for you in the community.



### **Contemplate (5–10 minutes)**

In your mind's eye, think back over the week that you have just lived through. Let a few things that happened spring up in your mind. What do you think God was saying to you in the experiences?

Notice the loud and the quiet peaceful feelings. The moments of joy, and of confusion. The moments of a sense of freedom, and the moments of a sense of guilt. Talk to God silently about these feelings; can you sense what God may be saying to you? End by saying the Lord's prayer together.



### **Consider (15 minutes)**

***John 10:22-30*** or the Gospel passage just used in worship.

Someone reads the setting. Two people read the passage slowly one after the other.

#### *Setting*

Jesus is in Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of Dedication. The religious authorities ask him directly whether he really is the Messiah. They want a definite answer. Jesus answers that the evidence of who he is can be seen in the effect of his actions. They see his actions, but cannot believe. Very often we would like God to spell things out in black and white. But hearing God's voice is a process of strange recognition.

#### **John 10:22-30 (NRSV)**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

*Three minutes' silence to think about the passage individually. Guard this time of silence for personal reflection. Each person has the opportunity to share a word, phrase or idea which lights up for them or a question raised for them. You may want to do this in twos or threes, rather than as a whole group. Listen carefully without comment to each person's contribution.*

Only when everyone has had the opportunity to share, let a conversation develop. The conversation may develop from the contributions or a focus for the conversation might be:

*How have you learnt how to recognise the voice of God?*



**Commit (5 minutes)**

Think of one word which sums up what God has been saying to you this week.

How are you going to pay more attention to God so that you live with generous intention to others this week?

Share the next step you intend to take this week in your personal risky venture into your community.

**Close with the series prayer.**

*God of amazing grace,  
you entrust to us the gift of your life.  
You invite us to notice and treasure you.  
May the threads of our lives,  
mundane and spectacular,  
speak of you, that your love may overflow to others  
and the whole world.  
Amen.*