

# Belfrey Group Leaders Notes Template

*Celebrating Jesus Together - week beginning Monday 20th May 2019*

## **Welcome:**

*As we consider 'togetherness' - what's your favourite thing you like to do together with others? Talk about it and why it's good to do it together.*

## **Worship:**

*As we think about our corporate life in this session, sing one or more songs, trying to sing songs with 'we', 'us' or 'our' in them - (eg. 'From heaven you came, helpless babe'; 'We are here to praise you'; 'We bring a sacrifice of praise'; 'We rest on Thee.')* End by declaring the Nicene Creed together (you will need to print this out, see below)

*We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory  
to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.*

## **Word:**

Read Luke 22:7-30

*Luke describes here the Passover Meal, which Jesus shared with his disciples. Jews had been doing this for many hundreds of years, remembering how God watched over them during the Exodus. Jesus however transforms it, giving it new meaning.*

1. Communion: Talk about the 2 main 'elements' and what Jesus did with them (in vv17-19). Talk about what Jesus says each stands for. And what, according to Jesus, should be the focus of the mind of his followers, as they eat and drink?
2. Personal: In his sermon at the two Sunday morning services Matthew said that for most Christians Holy Communion is highly personal. We remember that Jesus died for me. Talk about this. What do you think about at Communion, and as you receive the bread and wine.
3. Contemplative: Matthew also said that most Christians in the west tend to take Communion in a quiet, contemplative way. The service is normally fairly reflective and gentle. Why do you think the service has developed in this way?
4. Corporate: Matthew suggested that there was also another side to Communion that many of us miss - a corporate side. This is the meal of disciples. Of **all** the baptised. We share it **together**. We **all** experience forgiveness and grace and **together** experience the same risen Christ. As the liturgy says: 'we who are many are one body, because we all share in one bread.' Spend some time talking about how we might better value this corporate dimension of Communion. Should this change our focus sometimes, when we're taking Communion?
5. Celebratory: Many Roman Catholics call Communion 'the eucharist' - meaning 'joyful celebration'. Has anyone been to a Communion service in a different culture, where they are less contemplative, and more celebratory? Talk about it. The leader may wish to show a YouTube video clip of such a service - eg. <https://youtu.be/4ivQ8tQdysE> What could we do, to help make our Communion services more joyful?

#### Going Deeper:

1. Sharing the bread and wine is not supposed to be something we do in church, that then has no impact on the rest of our lives. It's supposed to help us live in the light of the cross and empty tomb - lives that reflect that we have been forgiven, welcomed and given new life. Talk about this, and what it means to live daily in the light of the death and resurrection of Jesus. For example, what should our reaction be to those who hurt us, or do us wrong (see, eg Ephesians 4:32)? What should our perspective be, when we come into situations that seem hopeless?
2. As we consider the corporate, celebratory aspects of Holy Communion, talk about what it means to be a corporate, celebratory people. What are you doing in your Belfrey Group to model corporate celebration? Is there anything you could do differently? Is there something your Group could do to help the rest of our church in this?

#### Witness:

Before the summer is out, make sure you have organised a time to

- a) eat together as a group, and enjoy each other's company; and
- b) done the same as a group, inviting friends and neighbours, to simply eat with you, and enjoy hospitality.

If you've not planned either of these, fix a date for both and get it in your diaries. You could have a BBQ, a bring'n'share, or something else!

#### Wind:

End in prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit's help in all this. Take a few minutes, maybe in groups of 3 to pray for any specific needs. End by giving thanks for the death and resurrection of Jesus, that has changed, and is changing our lives.