

# **A Guide for Small Group Discussion and Journal Reflection**

For those who want to study scripture as a group this guide is for you. Make sure to read the passage at least once before you meet. This can be used to guide your personal journal reflections of last Sunday's scripture.

## **1. Pray**

- Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to the brilliance and depth of this passage.

## **2. Read the passage**

- Pause for a minute or two after reading to reflect
- Read it again (from a different translation if possible)

## **2. Observations and Questions**

- What stands out in this passage—something you haven't noticed before?
- What in this passage would you like to know more about?
- What is Jesus doing in this passage? (Who, what, where, when?)

## **3. Connections**

- Does this scripture remind you of other scriptures where similar events took place?
- Do any songs, quotations or works of art come to mind when reading this passage?

## **4. Jesus and God's character and mission**

- What is Jesus' main concern in this passage?
- How is Jesus surprising here?

- What does Jesus show us about God's character, mission, heart?

## **Jesus and the world today**

- Is the ascended Jesus doing today what he did in this passage?
- Do people respond to Jesus today as they responded in the scripture?

## **5. Joining Jesus today**

- How could we as believers join Jesus as he carries out this work in our world?
- Is this passage calling me to decisive action? Quiet adoration? Humble service? Repentance and confession?
- What work of the Holy Spirit would you need to follow the Jesus we see in this passage?
- Decide on one change you will make this week in response. Write it down.

## **6. Pray**

- Take time to pray through what you have read and discussed—focus your prayers especially for renewal. Ask for power from on high to help you as a believer and us as the church keep up with Jesus. Pray for the world—the global church, current news, issues in your neighbourhood in light of what Jesus is doing in the world.