

## **Social Sunday**

This is a wonderful opportunity to have a taster of what it must have felt like to gather in groups as an early church! When the church began to grow after Pentecost believers met in people's houses to share the word, encourage one another and enjoy fellowship. The idea is that we gather together this week and do the same!

It is not supposed to be a difficult or onerous time requiring lots of preparation. Rather this is a time to share in God's love and remind each other that the Kingdom of God is here. Please use the suggestions below as a guide not a rule!

### **Preparation in advance:**

Invite people!

Organise refreshments

You may wish to prepare prayer aids mention below if you are using them.

Assign someone to:

- Play the music
- Read the scripture Mark 4:26-34
- Share a Thought for the Day

### **Suggested running order:**

1. Gather over refreshments
2. Everyone shares one thing they are grateful for this week. You may wish to do this verbally in a group or write thanksgivings on paper and leave the paper around a cross/vase of flowers
3. Play or sing some music of your choice. If you have musicians in your gathering you may wish to ask them to play something. If you want to sing, please make sure you stay 2m apart and are outside. (No indoor singing for now!)
4. Someone reads suggested scripture: Mark 4:26-34
5. Ask someone in the gathering to share a short 5-minute thought for the day on the passage

OR

As a group consider as a group the following questions:

What does the image of the growing seeds mean?

How does that relate to kingdom of God?

Where have you seen the works of God grow in your own life or church life?

What are the branches that others can come to rest in at St Stephen's?

Where would you like to see more growth in your own life?

OR

Play Jenn's Thought for the Day on Facebook

6. Ask people to pray aloud for the world, community, group needs to see God's kingdom come.

OR cut out pieces of paper that resemble seeds and write areas of need on them lay around a cross.

OR have a tray of earth ready and invite people to plant a seed. Ask them to pray as they do this. Watch it grow over the next few weeks.

Finish with saying the Lord's prayer together.

Time for fellowship

Post your pictures on the St Stephen's Message Board!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/311510385635396>

For the most recent info on singing and Covid please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-suggested-principles-of-safer-singing/covid-19-suggested-principles-of-safer-singing#suggested-principles-of-safer-singing>