

Theme & Passages	Resurrection to Ascension – Confirm, Restore, Orientate Acts 1 v 1-8, John Chapter 20 v 19 to Chapter 21 v 19	Notes prepared by Neil Casey & Steve Elmes
Welcome (10 mins)	Other than Jesus, who would be your ideal dinner party guest and why?	
Worship (20 mins)	Go around the group and list some of the qualities and characteristics of Jesus. Share your ideas and then enjoy the song 'Lamb of God – access HERE	
Working with God (20 mins): Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care	<p><i>This week's morning service included a look at the work of our Anna Chaplain (Anne Milton-Worssell) and the commissioning of Martin Slatter as an 'Anna friend'.</i></p> <p><i>It was great to hear about the 'holiday at home' event that runs in the summer, the 'living well in older age' courses and various events that bring people together to combat loneliness and isolation and to build community.</i></p> <p>If you were at the morning service, share your thoughts about what you heard. If you have experienced the work of the Anna Chaplaincy ministry, tell others in the group about this. Then move into prayer for the ministry with older folk in our area.</p> <p><i>I (Steve) found the prayer offered for Martin as he steps into this role particularly powerful. I have adapted it to be used by a group to pray for one another and the ministries we are called to:</i></p> <p>Heavenly Father, send down your Holy Spirit on your servants whom you have called to serve your kingdom. Help us to listen patiently, respond wisely and pray faithfully. Give us courage to speak up for those whose voice may not be otherwise heard. May our hands be ready to do your work. May our eyes be open to recognise those in need. May our ears hear soft-spoken words of pain and sorrow. May our voices speak of healing and peace. May our feet walk the extra mile with those who falter, and may we always be aware of your presence guiding us and your loving protection around us in all we do. Amen.</p>	
Word (20-25 mins)	<p>Read Acts Chapter 1 v 1 to 8</p> <p>Read around the group - John Chapter 20 v 19 to Chapter 21 v 19</p> <p><i>These verses describe some of the events that took place in the 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and his ascension into heaven. In his sermon Neil outlined three things that Jesus was seeking to achieve during this time: to confirm that He is alive, to restore relationships affected by His death and to orientate His disciples towards mission and the coming of the Holy Spirit.</i></p> <p>Put yourself in the disciples' shoes. How do you think they would have been feeling after Jesus had died?</p> <p><i>Jesus wanted His disciples to see that He was alive so that they could relate to Him as both physical and spiritual.</i></p> <p>How do you relate to Jesus? Do you see Him as being physical and/or spiritual?</p>	

In the upheaval of Jesus' death, the disciples' faith had been severely tested, and their sense of mission and purpose had faltered. Jesus restored the relationships with his disciples and then orientated them towards their mission and calling. Mission flows from relationship

Ask people in the group to share what their mission, purpose or calling is and how they know that to be the case.

Neil talked about the reality of the resurrection being experienced in the everyday activities of life: like going for a walk, having a meal, in our living rooms and at our work place.

Take time praying for each other that you would meet Jesus afresh, and have a renewed sense of mission and purpose flowing from our relationship with Him.