**Everyday Gifts – Small Group session**

**Welcome and prayer**

**Opening question**

* What superpower would you most like?
* What talent do you have that others might not know about?

**Bible reading - Isaiah 61:1-4**

*Read the passage out loud and then allow some time for people to read it through for themselves in silence.*

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+61%3A1-5&version=NIV#fen-NIV-18845a)]

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LorD  for the display of his splendour. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations

**Conversation questions**

*You might like to use the following questions to guide your conversation, leaving plenty of time in between for people to think and respond.*

* What word or phrase do you notice in this passage?

Jesus uses this passage at the beginning of his ministry (Luke 14-21), it is his manifesto.

* What might this passage mean for followers of Jesus?

As followers of Jesus, we are called to live out our faith in the whole of our lives.

* Think about the different spheres of your life – what might this passage be saying to you?

**Reflection**

*Choose from the different reflective exercises below:*

1. Spheres of life – give everyone a piece of paper and pen, they can draw circles to represent the various spheres of life they inhabit such as family, work, friendships, church. Give them some time to think and pray about these spheres and write in the different circles anything God might be saying to them.
2. How does God guide? – God might lead us in a variety of ways and the following questions can be helpful as we try to hear from him. You could print them out and allow people time to consider them.
	1. What does my heart say?
		1. What gives you energy?
		2. What do you enjoy?
		3. Who are you drawn to?
	2. What does my mind say?
		1. What are you good at?
		2. What opportunities are coming your way?
		3. How much time and energy do you have?
		4. What makes sense?
	3. What does my spirit say?
		1. What is happening when you pray and worship?
		2. Is there a bible passage that is worming your heart?
	4. What do others say?
		1. What do the people closest to you say about you?
		2. What do other people see in you that you don’t see in yourself?
		3. Who might you need to speak to?

**Prayer**

*Allow people to settle and tell them the 3 questions they will be asked below. Read each question in turn allowing time for people to think for themselves, then each person can be invited to share one thought after each, then join in the response before moving to the next one.*

* Where have we seen glimpses of Glory?

Lord, we thank you, **Amen**

* What is troubling us?

Lord, bring us peace, **Amen**

* What are we hoping for?

Lord, bring blessing and fruitfulness, **Amen**