

*Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life*

## Welcome

- Tell us about a friendship that means a lot to you.

## Worship

- Read Psalm 46 together.
- What does this Psalm say about God?
- In what ways does God call us to 'be still'?
- Have some moments of silent reflection, then read the Psalm again.

## Word

### **Read John 15: 9 - 12**

- How has the Father loved Jesus, do you think? That's how he loves the disciples - and, by extension, us.
- What is Jesus asking the disciples to do in these verses?
- What is the benefit of doing this? (Verse 11)

### **Read John 15: 13**

- Who or what does this verse make you think of?
- In what ways do people 'lay down their lives' for others?
- Do you know anyone who has laid down their life for someone else?

### **Read John 15: 14 - 15**

- We often call Jesus 'Lord' or 'Saviour'. How do you respond to calling him 'friend', as he might call you 'friend'?
- Bearing in mind our *welcome sharing* about friendships, how does human friendship illuminate our relationship with God?

### **Read John 15: 16 - 17**

- Jesus chose the disciples for loving friendship, a friendship that leads to a fruitful life. What fruit is ripening in your life at the moment?
- To ask in Jesus name must mean to be in tune with what Jesus is doing in the world - at least in line with his general way of working. What are you asking for in his name at the moment?
- Jesus' command comes down to three words - or only one: LOVE. How hard or how easy is that?

## Response

- Take steps to build up friendships in your group. Maybe have a cinema trip or go for a bike ride or go bowling or meet for breakfast or whatever... Enjoy one another's company!
- Offer friendship to someone outside your group.
- Write a prayer to Jesus, your friend.