

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

## Welcome

- Share about an object that is precious to you. If possible, bring it to the group. Explain why it matters to you.

## Worship

- Read **Genesis 22:1 - 14**
- Consider quietly whether there is anything that you are withholding from God.
- If anyone wishes, they could share what makes it difficult to trust God with something that is very precious to them.
- Write an honest prayer about offering all that is precious to God in worship, or spend some time praying freely about the challenge of this story.

## Word

### **Read Romans 6: 12 - 23**

Discuss the idea that Christian faith is a kind of dying.

- Paul could have used other metaphors (eg we are now like a business under new kindly management). What is it about death and rising again that draws Paul to speak so dramatically?
- How do you respond to this language? To what extent does it reflect your own experience of Christian faith?

Discuss the idea that Christian faith is about slavery and freedom.

- What is about slavery and freedom that draws Paul to this metaphor?
- Did you ever feel that you were, to some degree, enslaved by sin?
- What kind of freedom do Christians enjoy if they are now slaves to righteousness?

## Response

- What image or metaphor best describes the way you see God? Do some writing, praying or drawing that reflects this.
- Which image or metaphor for God do you find most difficult. Pray with this, asking God to broaden your understanding.