

Remembrance

Welcome (10 mins)

What would you like to be remembered for?

Worship (10 mins)

Read **psalm 46** out loud, taking a verse each if people are happy to read.

Ask people to repeat words or phrases that stuck them as words of worship. Don't discuss these, just speak them out loud as a way of declaring who God is.

Sung version here is you want to play it for quiet reflection:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LR43Xh7VzM>

(Bifrost arts, Psalm 46)

Word (30 mins)

Set the scene:

This is a one-off session around a general theme of remembrance. We are not simply remembering those who've died in war, but all those who've in some way made it possible for us to have the lives we now live. The tone should be one of thankfulness and honouring. It is deliberately study-light because the main aim is to remember and give thanks.

Way in

Start by asking people what connection they feel to remembrance day - do people have stories of relatives who have served or are still in active service now?

Q) Why is it important to remember those who've died in war?

Moving on from war

We are all a result of the time, sacrifice and love that others have put into us. We enjoy not only political freedom, but

personal freedom and life because of the people who have been significant to us and fought for us in some way. Hebrews describes some of these people as 'the cloud of witnesses'. So we're going to spend some time remembering them now too.

First **read Hebrews 12.1-3**. Pick from some of the Q's below:

Q) Who has been the greatest encouragement to you in your Christian life?

Q) Who first believed in you?

Q) Who has backed you when others didn't?

Q) Who or what helps you to keep running the race?

Q) Who do you go to (apart from Jesus!) when you are weary and losing heart?

Q) Who has brought you some form of freedom and how?

Q) Where do you still feel hindered in your journey with God? Is there someone who could help you with this?

Take a piece of paper and pen. Ask each person to write one name from the discussion above on it. This is your group's cloud of witnesses that you're remembering tonight. **Pause to pray** in thanks for them, acknowledging how their love reflects that of Christ.

Witness (10 mins)

The blessing of other people's sacrifice for us can also flow from us - we are blessed to be a blessing (Gen 12.2).

Q) Who is there in your life right now that you can offer this gift to? What do you want to do about it?

- a child, neighbour, elderly relative, member of congregation or staff team, colleague from work, dog walking friend etc.

Share these ideas and desires and then **finish by praying** for resolve and opportunity to bless as we've been blessed, to bring freedom and peace where it is needed.