



FACILITATOR'S COMPANION FOR THE *STATEMENT FROM THE HEART* STUDY GUIDE

This document is a separate handout for facilitators running either the Six Session Format or the One Day Workshop Format for the *Statement from the Heart* Study Guide.

Preparation

Prior to commencing either the one day workshop or six session format for this study on the *Statement from the Heart*, encourage all participants to read **Luke 4:16-19**, and either **Luke 10:25-37**, or **Matthew 25:31-46**. Doing so will help provide a theological lens while working through this study guide and as you engage with the *Statement*. These readings are also used for the theological conversation in Part 5 of this document.

Roles

Consider allocating people to the following roles;

- ▶ **Facilitator:** someone to make the day run smoothly and keep everyone on time, ideally this person is not presenting content during a session.
- ▶ **Projection Coordinator:** someone to collect and display any digital content.
- ▶ **Hospitality:** Volunteers to organise refreshments and to coordinate the meal break.
- ▶ **Speakers:** Present content for each session to the main group in whatever way best suits your community.

References are included in this study guide to help resource speakers if they desire to go deeper into the content of this study guide and expand upon it. You may need to increase the time allocated to speakers if more content is added.

Both formats below can be amended for online use by using the breakout rooms feature on Zoom during the small group discussions.

If possible, please send digital copies of the study guide to all participations instead of printing physical copies.

The study guide and additional resources are available online at:

- ▶ <https://justact.org.au/first-people/actions/>

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Six Session Study Group Format

Following this format will provide content for six study group sessions, please amend it to suit the needs of your community. For example: 6 nightly sessions within a week, or 6 sessions over 6 or more weeks. A group of up to 36 people is recommended. Each session is between 1.5 and 2 hours long.

FIRST SESSION

25 minutes

Open and Introduction

5 minutes

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country¹

10 minutes

Facilitator outlines the 6 session study format

5 minutes

Introduce all speakers and state which parts of the study they will be covering

5 minutes

Everyone reads the *Statement from the Heart* aloud together **[p. 3]**

1hr 10 minutes

Introducing the *Statement from the Heart*

10 minutes

Speaker for this topic presents content **[part 1, p. 7]**

30 minutes

Questions for reflection in groups of up to 4

5 minutes

Conclude discussion and everyone regathers

20 minutes

Open discussion, or invite one person from each group to report back

5 minutes

Closing Prayer²

SECOND SESSION

1hr 25 minutes

First Nations Voice **[part 2, p. 10]**

5 minutes

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

10 minutes

Speaker for this topic presents content

10 minutes

Facilitator recaps previous session, and gives space for people to share any personal reflections since the group last gathered

30 minutes

Questions for reflection in groups of up to 4

5 minutes

Conclude discussion and everyone regathers

20 minutes

Open discussion, or invite one person from each group to report back

5 minutes

Closing Prayer

1 [Uniting Church Acknowledgement of Country](#)

2 [Prayer Resources](#)

THIRD SESSION PART 1

25 minutes	Makarrata Commission Introduction [part 3, p. 13]
5 minutes	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
10 minutes	Facilitator recaps previous session, and gives space for people to share any personal reflections since the group last gathered
5 minutes	Facilitator reads the <i>Statement from the Heart</i> aloud, or try having one person read one paragraph each.
5 minutes	Explain the Makarrata Commission and introduce the two sessions; 1. Treaty or Agreement Making and 2. Truth Telling, leaving most of the content to be introduced by the following two speakers.

THIRD SESSION PART 2

1hr 25 minutes	Treaty or Agreement Making [part 3a, p. 14]
10 minutes	Speaker for this topic presents content
45 minutes	Questions for reflection in groups of up to 4
5 minutes	Conclude discussion and everyone regathers
20 minutes	Open discussion, or invite one person from each group to report back
5 minutes	Closing Prayer

FOURTH SESSION

1hr 45 minutes	Truth-Telling [part 3b, p. 16]
5 minutes	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
10 minutes	Facilitator recaps previous session, and gives space for people to share any personal reflections since the group last gathered Speaker for this topic presents content
50 minutes	Questions for reflection in groups of up to 4
5 minutes	Conclude discussion and everyone regathers
20 minutes	Open discussion, or invite one person from each group to report back
5 minutes	Closing Prayer

FIFTH SESSION

1hr 40 minutes	Referendum Council and its Report [part 4, p. 19]
5 minutes	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
10 minutes	Facilitator recaps previous session, and gives space for people to share any personal reflections since the group last gathered
10 minutes	Speaker for this topic presents content
50 minutes	Questions for reflection while staying in the main group
20 minutes	Open discussion, or invite one person from each group to report back
5 minutes	Closing Prayer

SIXTH SESSION PART 1

1hr 25 minutes	Theological Conversation [part 5, p. 22]
5 minutes	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
10 minutes	Facilitator recaps previous session, and gives space for people to share any personal reflections since the group last gathered
10 minutes	Speaker for this topic presents content
40 minutes	Theological questions for reflection in groups of up to 4
20 minutes	Open discussion, or invite one person from each group to report back

SIXTH SESSION PART 2

30 minutes	Closing Circle and Prayer* [part 6, p. 25]
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One Day Workshop Format with an Additional Theological reflection Session

Below is a recommended format to use with a group of up to 36 people. Please amend it to suit the needs of your community. Following this format should take five and a half hours. A further follow up session after one week is recommended before or after a church service. Alternatively, this format could be adapted to a group of seven people by allocating six people to each session to lead the others in, and 1 person to facilitate and keep time.

INTRODUCTION TO THE STATEMENT

20 minutes	Open and Introduction
5 minutes	Acknowledgement of Country ³
5 minutes	Facilitator outlines the day's format
5 minutes	Introduce all speakers and state which parts of the study they will be covering
5 minutes	Everyone reads the <i>Statement from the Heart</i> aloud together
30 minutes	Introducing the <i>Statement from the Heart</i> [part 1, p. 7]
10 minutes	First speaker presenting content
15 minutes	Questions for reflection in pairs
5 minutes	Conclude discussion and everyone regathers

FIRST NATION VOICE

30 minutes	First Nations Voice [part 2, p. 10]
10 minutes	Chosen speaker presents content
15 minutes	Questions for reflection in pairs
5 minutes	Conclude discussion and everyone regathers

20 Minutes Refreshment Break

³ [Uniting Church Acknowledgement of Country](#)

MAKARRATA COMMISSION INTRODUCTION

These sessions before the meal break are the most content intensive. They involve organising small groups of up to four people each.

15 minutes	Makarrata Commission Introduction [part 3, p. 13]
5 minutes	Facilitator reads the <i>Statement from the Heart</i> aloud, or try having one person read one paragraph each.
5 minutes	Explain the Makarrata Commission and introduce the two sessions; 1. Treaty or Agreement Making and 2. Truth Telling, leaving most of the content to be introduced by the following two speakers
5 minutes	Get into small groups of up to four people

TREATY OR AGREEMENT MAKING

60 minutes	Treaty or Agreement Making [part 3a, p. 14]
10 minutes	Speaker for this topic presents content
45 minutes	Questions for reflection in groups of up to 4
5 minutes	Conclude discussion and everyone regathers
65 minutes	Truth-Telling [part 3b, p. 16]
10 minutes	Speaker for this topic presents content
50 minutes	Questions for reflection in groups of up to 4
5 minutes	Conclude discussion and everyone regathers

45 minute meal break

REFERENDUM COUNCIL AND ITS REPORT

30 minutes	Referendum Council and its Report [part 4, p. 19]
10 minutes	Speaker for this topic presents content
20 minutes	Questions for reflection while staying in the main group

Skip part 5 as it is intended as a follow up session, continue with part 6 on page 25

CLOSING CIRCLE AND PRAYER

30 minutes	Closing Circle and Prayer [part 6, p. 25]
5 minutes	Facilitator explains personal theological reflection activity as a separate follow up session and when it will be
20 minutes	Closing Circle
5 minutes	Closing Prayer ⁴

FOLLOW-UP SESSION – THEOLOGICAL CONVERSATION

If you are holding the theological conversation as a follow-up session as part of the one day workshop format, begin by re-reading the *Statement from the Heart* aloud to one another. Report back to the group what people took from the bible readings and begin to engage with questions below, while reflecting on message of 'Voice, Treaty and Truth' in the *Statement from the Heart*. This session is especially relevant if you are left with any questions unanswered after working through this study guide and will give you an opportunity to raise them in a safe and exploratory context.

After one week from the main study session hold a 1 hour session at a convenient time, perhaps before or after a church service.

1hr 55 minutes	Follow-up Session [part 5, p. 22]
5 minutes	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
5 minutes	Read the <i>Statement from the Heart</i> aloud
20 Minutes	Discuss bible readings in general and how they related to the <i>Statement's</i> call for 'Voice, Treaty and Truth'
50 minutes	Questions for reflection in groups of up to 4
20 minutes	Open Discussion sharing any comments or questions
10 minutes	Discuss following up on any of the activities listed throughout the document
5 minutes	Closing Prayer

4 [Prayer Resources](#)