

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE CONFIDENCE AND KNOWING THE STORY

SESSION 1: WHAT IS THE BIBLE AND HOW TO READ IT FACILITATOR'S NOTES

CHECKLIST

- Have I got a good sense of the signposted resources? Which would be good to highlight with my group?
- Have I got the technology set up, and does it work(!)?
- Is there a visual focus I want to offer for worship this or next week – image, candle, video?
- Who is doing tea/coffee?
- Are there any notices I need to share?
- Is there anyone in my group who has pastoral needs we should be aware of at the moment?

WITH YOUR CO-FACILITATOR

- Are we using our different gifts well tonight?
- If we are running out of time, what shall we miss out or postpone?
- Who is doing what in the session? Clarity about who is leading which section really helps!
- Who among the participants can we encourage to use their gifts in leading, praying, or facilitating tonight or next week? How much preparation will they need?
- What and who do we particularly want to pray for at the moment?
- How are we offering a good variety in our worship and prayer styles?

REVIEW THE OUTCOMES FOR THIS SESSION

- To understand how God communicates with human beings including through the Bible.
- To unpack some key principles of listening to God through the Bible.
- To unpack some key principles in interpreting the different genres of the Bible.
- To explore key themes of the big story of Scripture.
- To have confidence in how the Bible was put together.
- To be equipped in finding a good version and how to begin reading regularly with understanding.

FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 1
- Any prayer materials or visual focus.
- Everyone needs the handout *The Story of the Bible with highlighted themes*.
- There is one short video in this session – check it is working.



6.30 PM PREPARING MYSELF

You might like to reflect on John 10: 27-30 remembering that God promises to speak His living word to us when we listen. "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[c]; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Take a moment to pray for each person in your group.

Commit yourself to the Lord this evening. You may reflect on these words:

"The Bible is the book of my life. It's the book I live with, the book I live by, the book I want to die by." N. T. Wright

7 PM OPENING WORSHIP

Feel free to use the suggested activity, which aims to draw on different styles, or approaches, or to do something which reflects your own context or tradition if that is more helpful. (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)

Psalm 19 reveals how God's word can come to us in many ways, including through the Scriptures.

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.
7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Thank God for His presence and His word given to you this evening.

7.10 PM INTRODUCTION - AIMS FOR THE EVENING

(You may want to miss this out if your group is less formal, or you are using the material one to one). (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)

If you have new people in your group you may want to take time to introduce yourselves. Ideally, Way of Discipleship works best if modules are done in order, but there is a four-minute video available for those who haven't done module 1 which explains the approach we take.

You may like to send this to people beforehand or watch it at the beginning of the session;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tbXK-ikPec>



The aims for this session are:

To understand how God communicates with human beings including through the Bible.

To unpack some key principles of listening to God through the Bible.

To unpack some key principles in interpreting the different genres of the Bible.

To explore key themes of the big story of Scripture.

To have confidence in how the Bible was put together.

To be equipped in finding a good version and how to begin reading regularly with understanding.

7.20 PM OPENING QUESTION

In pairs ask people to discuss this question: In what ways do you need to grow in Bible confidence?

7.30 PM FIRST TEACHING CONTENT SECTION AND VIDEO

The core content is designed to be as user-friendly, and as flexible/context-friendly, as possible. You can use the script and powerpoint provided, using your own material or approaches to reflect your context and teaching style.

The whole of the content is produced in a booklet for each session – and there is much more content in the booklet than in the powerpoint, so you may want to encourage people to read it before or after.

Why might we lack confidence when it comes to the Bible?

How and why does God communicate with people?

Reading it well: What is at the heart of reading the Bible well?

Show the first video in which people share what gives them confidence in the Bible and which parts they are drawn to.

7.55 PM DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

Reflect on the teaching and video by discussing these questions, either as a whole group, or in pairs:

How in a nutshell would you describe the purpose of the Bible?

Why is it important that Jesus is at the centre of how we read the Bible?

Is there anything I need to change about the way I read the Bible, in order to read it well?

8.10 PM SECOND TEACHING CONTENT SECTION

Reading it well: What is important to know about what is in it?

Understanding key themes: how do we enter the story of the Bible?



8.25 PM ACTIVITY

As a whole group, in pairs or small groups invite people to read through the handout "The Story of the Bible with highlighted themes" and fill in the missing words. Go through it together.

8.45 PM THIRD TEACHING CONTENT SECTION

Tackling tricky questions: Can we trust how it was put together?

Practical starting points: What version should I use? What resources are out there to get me started reading the Bible regularly?

9 PM PERSONAL RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR COMING WEEK.

Having learnt content, seen it modelled, reflected and heard each other, and listened to God in Scripture, each disciple will end with the questions, "What is God saying to me and what is my response?" Any actions they take will be self-generated. As this is the last session of this module they may want to meet up at some time they arrange independently.

Ask people to reflect on this in pairs – they will never have to report back to the whole group. If they wish to help one another by writing down any actions and praying for each other then encourage them to do so. There is no group feedback, but as facilitator you can share what you feel able in order to model gentle accountability and trust.

9.10 PM SIGNPOSTING

Look at the suggested follow on materials described in terms of quality and length. You may like to highlight one or two, depending on the make up of your group. See handout "Extra Reading or Listening Suggestions" as follow up material for this week, and point people towards the Session booklet for this session.

In preparation for next session, people might like to watch these two short videos: (15 minutes in total)

Seven and a half minute Bible Project video on Genesis 1-11.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQI72THyO5I&t=2s>

Eight minute Bible Project video on Genesis 12-50. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4isSyennFo&t=2s>

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9.15 PM CLOSING PRAYER

Use the suggested prayer or pray in whatever way is helpful. (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)

Return to the verses from the Psalm 19 we read at the beginning, but this time from a paraphrase version:

1-2 God's glory is on tour in the skies, God-craft on exhibit across the horizon.

Madame Day holds classes every morning, Professor Night lectures each evening.

3-4 Their words aren't heard, their voices aren't recorded, But their silence fills the earth: unspoken truth is spoken everywhere.

7-9 The revelation of God is whole and pulls our lives together.

The signposts of God are clear and point out the right road.

The life-maps of God are right, showing the way to joy.

The directions of God are plain and easy on the eyes.

10 God's Word is better than a diamond,

better than a diamond set between emeralds.

You'll like it better than strawberries in spring, better than red, ripe strawberries.

REVIEW AFTER GROUP HAS LEFT

What went well?

Where did I sense God's presence?

What can I do better?

Was anyone absent that I need to follow up on?

Is there anyone we want to follow up on after the module?

Is there anyone we could develop by supporting them in facilitating the next module?

