

OUTLINE FOR LEADING OR USING 'BECOMING LIKE CHRIST IN DIFFICULT TIMES: CHOOSING HOPE AND HONESTY IN THE BATTLES OF LIFE – PART TWO' AS TWO UNITS

These notes are designed to be used alongside the Facilitator's notes. They will give you the content focus in a full or simplified form and an outline for running 'Becoming like Christ in difficult times: choosing hope and honesty in the battles of life – part two' in two parts.

The facilitator notes and worship powerpoints give you instructions on anything you will need beforehand, preparation checklist and prayers for leaders, the outcomes of the two units, possible opening and reflection discussion questions, signposting suggestions to extra materials, closing prayer suggestions, and review questions for leaders.

One way of dividing the session this may be to use the content of the first unit in a Sunday service, and the second in a group.

However you do it, making sure you include feedback to one another, modelling and the opportunity to respond remains central to the approach of the course.

UNIT NINE: CHRIST'S RETURN: JUDGMENT AND SUFFERING

Begin with worship (you can use the suggested activity and powerpoint).

FEEDBACK AND OPENING QUESTION

In their pairs from the end of the last session, ask people to feedback to each other how their experience of their response action(s) from last week has been - the emphasis is on mutual encouragement in accountability, not guilt!

Then in pairs ask people to discuss an opening question for 3 minutes. You can use the suggestion in the facilitator's notes or devise your own.

CORE TEACHING CONTENT

Use the powerpoint to present, or read/discuss these questions in the booklet:

- How should I feel about God judging me and others?
- What might judgment mean?
- What do we need to know most about God in this?
- If Jesus has overcome evil, why is there still so much suffering?
- How do we become like Christ in suffering?
- How can God really suffer and how does this help me?



MODELLING/REFLECTION

The video works better in the next session.

Discuss the question together: how have I experienced, or how am I experiencing God's discipline?

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

John 11: 17-44 (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)

See the facilitator's notes and instruction sheet for how to do DBS.

PERSONAL RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR COMING WEEK.

Give each person time to reflect privately on the questions: "What is God saying to me and what is my response?" Any actions they take will be self-generated. But the following week they will be encouraged at the beginning to report back to one other person.

Explain that there is no requirement for a response, it is not a test, but an opportunity. We have set aside this time in the expectation that God will draw close to us. Ask people to share their responses in pairs. 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.

SIGNPOSTING, CLOSING PRAYER AND REVIEW.

See facilitator's notes.

UNIT TEN: CHRIST'S RETURN: HOPE; DOUBT AND HONESTY

Begin with worship (you can use the suggested activity and powerpoint).

FEEDBACK AND OPENING QUESTION

In their pairs from the end of the last session, ask people to feedback to each other how their experience of their response action(s) from last week has been - the emphasis is on mutual encouragement in accountability, not guilt!

Then in pairs ask people to discuss an opening question for 3 minutes. You can use the suggestion in the facilitator's notes or devise your own.



CORE TEACHING CONTENT

Use the powerpoint to present, or read/discuss these questions in the booklet:

Does everything happen for a reason and is doubt a bad thing?
How honest can I be about my pain to God?
Do I pray to the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?
What does "God's discipline" mean and how do I resist temptation?
How can I live with hope as a disciple?
Why is Jesus' ascension essential for disciples?

MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show all of the video, covering the question: What helps you when life is hard?
Discuss this question together, offering your own experience as much as possible.

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Luke 22: 39-53 (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)
See the facilitator's notes and instruction sheet for how to do DBS.

PERSONAL RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR COMING WEEK.

Give each person time to reflect privately on 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. Explain that there is no requirement for a response, it is not a test, but an opportunity. We have set aside this time in the expectation that God will draw close to us. If they wish to help one another by meeting up outside of the group to do this they can arrange to do so.

Please point them to the online evaluation form: www.dio.org.uk/wodf If you have time and capacity they may like to complete it in the meeting, or in their own time. We would be very grateful for the feedback.

SIGNPOSTING, CLOSING PRAYER AND REVIEW.

See facilitator's notes.

Make sure the participants know about the next module - "Way of Discipleship: Joining in with the Spirit" and how to book on.

Please pass on the names of those who have participated, and the number of sessions they have completed, to the Learning for Discipleship and Mission team - this will be helpful in encouraging future facilitators, and also knowing who has completed Way of Discipleship should they want to explore any licensed ministries.

Thank you so much for your commitment in discipling people through this course! Please continue to pray for your participants and if you have any feedback on the module Guy Donegan-Cross would love to hear from you.

