

OUTLINE FOR LEADING OR USING 'WHAT IS THE BIBLE AND HOW TO READ IT' 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 'What is the Bible and how to read it' 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 ONE: WHAT IS THE BIBLE AND HOW TO READ IT

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

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING QUESTION

See facilitator's notes

CORE TEACHING CONTENT

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

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

How and why does God communicate with people?

What is at the heart of reading the Bible well?

What is important to know about what is in it?

How do we enter the story of the Bible?

The Story of the Bible with highlighted themes handout.



MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show part of the video, covering the question: What gives you confidence in the Bible?

Discuss this question together, offering your own experience as much as possible.

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 TWO: TRUSTING THE BIBLE

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:

Can we trust how it was put together?

What version should I use?

What resources are out there to get me started reading the Bible regularly?

MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show part of the video, covering the question: What parts of the Bible are you drawn to and why?

Discuss this question together, offering your own experience as much as possible.



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.

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