

OUTLINE FOR LEADING OR USING 'DISCIPLESHIP AND GOD' 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 'Discipleship and God' 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 THREE: DISCIPLESHIP AND GOD

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:

What is at the heart of a disciple's relationship with God?

Who loves first?

What is God's love like?

What kind of relationship does God want with me?

Why do we love God?

How is this love relationship mostly described in the Bible?

How does this shape who I am as a disciple?

Can I really know God? How is that possible? Isn't God beyond us?

How much can we know?

How does this help me to be a disciple?



MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show part of the video, covering the question: How do you experience God's love?

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 FOUR: MY PICTURE OF GOD

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:

- Why is my "picture of God" so important?
- Why is God "Father, Son, Spirit"?
- Where is the Trinity in Jesus' life and the New Testament?
- Where did the word "Trinity" come from and what does it protect us from?
- How does the Trinity help me be a disciple today?
- Why do we call God "Father"?
- What kind of father?
- What will help me experience God's love?



MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show part of the video, covering the questions: What is your picture of God? How do you experience God as Father?

Discuss these questions 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.

