

OUTLINE FOR LEADING OR USING 'STARTING ON THE WAY' 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 'Starting on the Way' 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: STARTING ON THE WAY

Begin with worship (you can use the suggested activity and powerpoint) and the introduction suggestions from the facilitator's notes.

CORE TEACHING CONTENT

See the practicalities you may need to draw attention to in the facilitator's notes.

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

What is a "disciple" and where do we see discipleship today?

Why is being a disciple a good way of life?

What was the life of a disciple in Christ's day? What's the aim of discipleship?

How are these aims reflected in the Way of Discipleship?

MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show part of the session video, covering the questions: What is a disciple? What are the benefits of being a disciple?

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.

UNIT TWO: BEING A DISCIPLE

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:

I understand becoming like Christ, and joining in doing the things God does, but how do I grow in being "with God"?

How do disciples grow?

How is that reflected in the Way of Discipleship? How does it "work"?

Can I really be a disciple?

Can we really disciple each other?

What will this mean for my life?

MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show part of the video, covering the questions: What helps you grow? What helps you disciple others?

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.

