

OUTLINE FOR LEADING OR USING 'THE BIG PICTURE OF GOD'S MISSION AND THE SPIRIT' 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 'The big picture of God's mission and the Spirit' 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: MISSION AND GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

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:

What does the five weeks on "Joining in with the Spirit" cover?

What is the ultimate purpose of being a disciple (and life)?

What is God's mission?

What is the purpose and priority of the church?

What is the mission of the church?

Is mission about who we are or what we do?

OR

You can cover this material in a simplified way by watching the Bible Project video "The Story of the Bible" and discussing what this shows about God's mission.



MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show part of the video, covering the question: What is your experience of God's mission?

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

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Luke 4: 14-21 (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 TWO: THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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 does the Holy Spirit do? How does the Holy Spirit relate to the Spirit of Christ or God? Why is Spirit “holy”?

How does the Holy Spirit create and sustain life?

How does the Holy Spirit re-create a broken world?

How does the Holy Spirit restore disciples?

How does the Holy Spirit make God’s love and presence real?

How does the Holy Spirit commission and strengthen disciples?

Why is mission “joining in with the Spirit”?

What will help me want to “join in with the Spirit”?

OR

You can cover this material in a simplified way using the ‘Being filled with the Holy Spirit’ handout.

MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show part of the video, covering the question: When have you depended on God's Spirit?

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.

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See facilitator's notes.

