

# WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

## SESSION 1: JESUS - HIS LIFE FACILITATOR'S NOTES

### CHECKLIST

- Have I got a good sense of the signposted resources? Which would be good to highlight with my group?
- Have I got the technology set up, and does it work(!)?
- Is there a visual focus I want to offer for worship this or next week – image, candle, video?
- Who is doing tea/coffee?
- Are there any notices I need to share?
- Is there anyone in my group who has pastoral needs we should be aware of at the moment?

### WITH YOUR CO-FACILITATOR

- Are we using our different gifts well tonight?
- If we are running out of time, what shall we miss out or postpone?
- Who is doing what in the session? Clarity about who is leading which section really helps!
- Who among the participants can we encourage to use their gifts in leading, praying, or facilitating tonight or next week? How much preparation will they need?
- What and who do we particularly want to pray for at the moment?
- How are we offering a good variety in our worship and prayer styles?

### REVIEW THE OUTCOMES FOR THIS SESSION

- To understand why imitating Christ is at the heart of discipleship.
- To have a sense of all four gospels and the different perspectives they offer.
- To understand how Jesus reveals the character of God, and the significance of Him being fully God and fully human.
- To understand how Jesus fulfils the story of the Old Testament.
- To understand the nature of God's kingdom and how that shapes us in becoming like Christ.
- To reflect on the pattern of Jesus' relationships and how that shapes a spiritually healthy life.



## FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 1
- Any prayer materials or visual focus. DBS guide.
- There is short video in this session – check it is working.

## 6.30 PM PREPARING MYSELF

You might like to reflect on Colossians 1: 15-17, remembering that God is present and wants to work through you: The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Take a moment to pray for each person in your group.

Commit yourself to the Lord this evening. You may reflect on these words:

If Christ is with me, whom shall I fear? Though the waves and the sea and the anger of princes are roused against me, they are less to me than a spider's web. For I always say "Lord, your will be done"; not what this fellow or that would have me do, but what you want me to do. That is my strong tower, my immovable rock, my staff that never gives way. John Chrysostom.

## 7 PM OPENING WORSHIP

Feel free to use the suggested activity, which aims to draw on different styles, or approaches, or to do something which reflects your own context or tradition if that is more helpful.

The suggestion this week is a video based on the Prayer of St Patrick's breastplate. (3 and a half minutes).

It's an meditative song and prayer for the presence of Christ. You can access it on the website or here:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/s2dbzyqsygy26kr/Christ Be With Me.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/s2dbzyqsygy26kr/Christ%20Be%20With%20Me.mp4?dl=0)

## 7.10 PM INTRODUCTION - AIMS FOR THE EVENING

(You may want to miss this out if your group is less formal, or you are using the material one to one). (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)  
Spend some time introducing yourselves and reminding people about how the Way of Discipleship works.

- To understand why imitating Christ is at the heart of discipleship.
- To have a sense of all four gospels and the different perspectives they offer.
- To understand how Jesus reveals the character of God, and the significance of Him being fully God and fully human.
- To understand how Jesus fulfils the story of the Old Testament.



- To understand the nature of God's kingdom and how that shapes us in becoming like Christ.
- To reflect on the pattern of Jesus' relationships and how that shapes a spiritually healthy life.

## 7.20 PM OPENING QUESTION

In pairs ask people to discuss this question for 3 minutes: Why and in what ways might a disciple want to become like Christ?

Feedback to the whole group.

## 7.30 PM CORE TEACHING CONTENT

*The core content is designed to be as user-friendly, and as flexible/context-friendly, as possible. You can use the script and powerpoint provided, using your own material or approaches to reflect your context and teaching style. Because truth in the Scripture is often perceived through metaphor and story, the content will include at least one story example (although other "stories" are found in the Modelling section), and at least one visual example.*

*The whole of the content is produced in a booklet for each session – if you are not covering all the material, you may want to point participants to reading the booklet between sessions.*

Why do disciples aim to "become like Christ"?

Why is knowing Jesus central to knowing God better?

Do we become like Christ just because He is a good example?

Is "becoming like Christ" really part of discipleship and in what ways might we expect this to happen?

How do we know about Him?

**Suggest break for 3 minutes.**

What is the background to Jesus' life?

What did Jesus show about the Kingdom of God and what does that reveal about becoming like Him?

What was Jesus' favourite title for Himself and how does this affect discipleship?

How can a human being be God?

**Suggest break for 3 minutes.**

How does this help us in becoming like Christ? How did Jesus demonstrate a spiritually healthy life?

**Following the content, you may like to give people a few minutes to think of any questions or reflections on the material, then facilitate a discussion based on any points raised for 5-10 minutes. They will have reflection time in smaller groups after the video, but this gives an opportunity for initial whole-group discussion. As facilitator you are not expected to have all the answers, but can help the group explore together.**



## 8.30 PM MODELLING/REFLECTION

Video and own experience. Show the video and, if time share from your own experience, remembering that real struggles can be as helpful as victories!

Discuss in pairs, and then together:

Which of the three relationships (up-in-out) is strongest and weakest in my life right now? What one thing might help make a difference in this?

What questions do you have?

Model a response as facilitator(s) by offering your reflection first.

## 8.50 PM PERSONAL RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR COMING WEEK.

Having learnt content, seen it modelled, reflected and heard each other, and listened to God in Scripture, each disciple will end with 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.

Ask people to reflect on this in pairs – they will never have to report back to the whole group. 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.

## 9 PM SIGNPOSTING

Look at the suggested follow on materials described in terms of quality and length. You may like to highlight one or two, depending on the make up of your group.

Ask people to bring Bibles with them if they have them to following sessions.

See handout "Extra Reading or Listening Suggestions" as follow up material for this week, and point people towards the Session booklets for this session and next week - - you might agree on sections they read beforehand in order to free up more discussion time in the following session.

For next week, for those who want to prepare, good suggestions would be: Watching the Bible Project videos on Holiness (6 and a half minutes) <https://youtu.be/I9vn5UvsHvM> and/or Sacrifice and Atonement (7 minutes) [https://youtu.be/G\\_OIRWGLdnw](https://youtu.be/G_OIRWGLdnw)



## 9.05 PM CLOSING PRAYER

*Use the suggested prayer or pray in whatever way is helpful.*

(Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint) Read out Colossians 1:15-17. You may like to give time for open prayer, finishing by reflecting together:

"If Christ is with me, whom shall I fear? Though the waves and the sea and the anger of princes are roused against me, they are less to me than a spider's web. For I always say "Lord, your will be done"; not what this fellow or that would have me do, but what you want me to do. That is my strong tower, my immovable rock, my staff that never gives way."

John Chrysostom.

## REVIEW AFTER GROUP HAS LEFT

What went well?

Where did I sense God's presence?

What can I do better?

Was anyone absent that I need to follow up on?

Looking ahead to next week, what might I (or the co-facilitator) share from our lived experience in the "Modelling" section?

