

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

SESSION 2: JESUS - HIS DEATH 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!
- Are we confident using DBS?
- 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 reflect on the meaning of God's holiness and the reality of sin.
- To understand the nature of salvation – personal and cosmic.
- To understand how I receive salvation in my lived experience.
- To understand how God is involved in the work of the cross.
- To grow in the practice of confession.

FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 2
- 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 Psalm 103: 10–12, thanking God for His forgiveness and grace towards you: “He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”

Take a moment to pray for each person in your group. Commit yourself to the Lord this evening.

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.

Read John 3:16-17: 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Watch a 2 minute video of Cardboard testimonies. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfClUno4Ko>

Join in with these opening responses:

We pray for strength to follow Jesus. Saviour, we hear your call. Help us to follow.

Jesus said: ‘Happy are the humble; they will receive what God has promised.’ Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: ‘Be merciful as your Father is merciful; love your enemies and do good to them.’ Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: ‘Love one another, as I love you; there is no greater love than this, to lay down your life for your friends.’ Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: ‘Go to people everywhere and make them my disciples, and I will be with you always, to the end of time.’ Saviour, we hear your call. **Help us to follow.**

God of mercy, you know us and love us and hear our prayer. Keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

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)

- To reflect on the meaning of God’s holiness and the reality of sin.
- To understand the nature of salvation – personal and cosmic.
- To understand how I receive salvation in my lived experience.
- To understand how God is involved in the work of the cross.
- To grow in the practice of confession.



7.15 PM 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 these questions for 5 minutes: In what ways does Jesus strike you as "holy"? How would you feel if Jesus was physically with you now?

7.25 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. It is a good idea to have a break half way through.

How is it possible that I can approach God?
Where do we see this in the New Testament?
Does thinking I need forgiveness lead to low self-esteem?
In what ways do we need to be realistic about approaching God?
In what ways do we need to be realistic about ourselves and the world?
What are the results of this Fall?
What did Jesus do for us on the cross?
What helps me understand Jesus' death?
How does Jesus' death reconcile us to God?
Did Jesus protect us from an angry Father?
How does Jesus' life and death help me to become like Christ in my lived experience?
How do I receive salvation in my lived experience?
How does the habit of confession help in this and change me?

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.

OPTIONS FOR SIMPLIFYING OR SHORTENING CONTENT

Instead of the powerpoint, you could watch the Bible Project video on the meaning of sin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNOZ7ocLD74> and then use the "Meaning of the Cross bookmark." To unpack repentance/faith/confession you could lead a discussion.



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:

What might help you be completely free from guilt or shame? In what ways has your experience of confession helped? Or in what ways might it help?

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.

9.10 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.

Two really helpful five minute videos to watch before next time would be

5.15 Introduction to Spiritual Beings: <https://youtu.be/cBxOZqtGTXE>

5.07 The new humanity: <https://youtu.be/takEeHtRrMw>



9.15 PM CLOSING PRAYER

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

(Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint) Read out Psalm 103: 10–12, thanking God for His forgiveness and grace towards you: “He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”

You may like to give time for open prayer.

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?

