

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

SESSION 3: LETTING CHRIST BE LORD 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 understand the atonement as the defeat of evil and death.
- To understand how Jesus' death and resurrection establishes Him as Lord, and how discipleship involves obedience.
- To recognise the reality of other idols, particularly money, as a challenge to Jesus' Lordship in my life.
- To reflect on the practice of generosity and financial giving in my lived experience.

FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 3
- 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 2 Timothy 1:9-10, thanking Jesus that He is the Lord who has overcome: "He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

Take a moment to pray for each person in your group. Commit yourself to the Lord this evening. You might like to use these words:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong Name of the Trinity;
By invocation of the same.
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of Whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

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. (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)

This is an abridged version of St Patrick's breastplate prayer, which emphasises many of the themes we will look at today.

I bind unto myself today
The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.
I bind this day to me for ever.
By power of faith, Christ's incarnation;
His baptism in the Jordan river;
His death on Cross for my salvation;
His bursting from the spiced tomb;
His riding up the heavenly way;
His coming at the day of doom;
I bind unto myself today.



I bind unto myself today

The power of God to hold and lead,

His eye to watch, His might to stay,

His ear to hearken to my need.

The wisdom of my God to teach,

His hand to guide, His shield to ward,

The word of God to give me speech,

His heavenly host to be my guard.

Against all Satan's spells and wiles,

Against false words of heresy,

Against the knowledge that defiles,

Against the heart's idolatry,

Against the wizard's evil craft,

Against the death wound and the burning,

The choking wave and the poisoned shaft,

Protect me, Christ, till Thy returning.

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 understand the atonement as the defeat of evil and death.
- To understand how Jesus' death and resurrection establishes Him as Lord, and how discipleship involves obedience.
- To recognise the reality of other idols, particularly money, as a challenge to Jesus' Lordship in my life.
- To reflect on the practice of generosity and financial giving in my lived experience.

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: What would you most like to change in the world? Why do you think it is easier for a camel to get through a needle's eye than a rich person to make God's kingdom their centre?



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 much does Christ deserve to be at the centre of my life and why?

What is wrong with the world?

Is there an explanation for evil in the Bible?

Did Jesus claim to be defeating evil?

How does this help us understand what the atonement means?

What does Jesus' victory mean for us as disciples?

How does this make Jesus Lord?

What does this mean for my life and priorities?

Why does Jesus challenge people so much about money and material goods?

How do I have a heart like Christ's towards money?

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 use second half of the "Meaning of the Cross bookmark" to look at the way the cross overcomes evil and makes Jesus Lord. Then focus on the responses of the practices of generosity and simplicity in the presentation.

8.20 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 gets in the way of freeing me to able to "submit to Christ as Lord?" Looking at the ways of living simply at the end of the booklet, which one step might bring me most freedom?

What questions do you have?

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



8.40 PM DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Matthew 6: 19-34 (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)
See the instruction sheet for how to do DBS. After you have read the passage and retold, use whatever method will enable most people to participate – talking in pairs, splitting questions up between different pairs, splitting into smaller groups with group members asking the five questions (this will disciple people through putting leading DBS into practice).

N.B. Encourage giving enough focus on the personal response questions in 3 and 4. As your group grows in trust, hopefully people will become more confident in sharing their responses together – as facilitator(s) taking the lead in this models your own discipleship and helps create openness in others.

9 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.

For next session useful preparation would be watching two four minute videos from the Bible Project:

Bible Project agape video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slyevQ1LW7A>

Bible Project ahavah video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HV_LUs2InIQ



9.15 PM CLOSING PRAYER

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

(Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint) Use the verse and opening prayer from the "Preparing Myself" section.

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?

