

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

SESSION 6: CHOOSING HOPE AND HONESTY IN DIFFICULTY : PART TWO 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 nature of judgement and how to live in the light of it in my lived experience.
- To have a balanced view of suffering. Understand the meaning of the Lord's discipline in my lived experience.
- To learn how to offer lamenting prayers in my lived experience.
- To understand the nature of Christian hope and the difference it makes to my everyday life.

FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 6
- Any prayer materials or visual focus. DBS guide.
- There is one short video in this session – check it is working.



6.30 PM PREPARING MYSELF

You might like to reflect on Hebrews 12: 1-3: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.
Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

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)

Look at picture of Corona Jesus. Give people an opportunity to say thank you.

These prayers are put together from the Lent collects:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:

give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;

and, as you know our weakness,

so may we know your power to save.

May we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,

and by following in his Way come to share in his glory;

whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,

and entered not into glory before he was crucified:

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,

may find it none other than the way of life and peace.

God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **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 understand the nature of judgement and how to live in the light of it in my lived experience.
- To have a balanced view of suffering. Understand the meaning of the Lord's discipline in my lived experience.
- To learn how to offer lamenting prayers in my lived experience.
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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 this question for 5 minutes: When has something difficult in your life helped you grow?

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 halfway through.

How should I feel about God judging me and others?

If Jesus has overcome evil, why is there still so much suffering?

How do we become like Christ in suffering?

How can God really suffer and how does this help me?

Does everything happen for a reason and is doubt a bad thing?

How honest can I be about my pain to God?

Do I pray to the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?

What does "God's discipline" mean and how do I resist temptation?

How can I live with hope as a disciple?

Why is Jesus' ascension essential for disciples?

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.



8.20 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 might help you be able to express your true feelings to God when life is tough? How can you fix your attention on our hope in Christ on a Monday morning? What questions do you have?

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

8.40 PM DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Luke 22: 39-53. (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. As this is the last session of this module they may want to meet up at some time they arrange independently.

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

Make sure the participants know about the next module - "Way of Discipleship: "Joining in with the Spirit" and how to book on. You may want to point them towards the eight session monthly course "Way of Servant-Leadership".

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. See handout "Extra Reading or Listening Suggestions" as follow up material for this week, and point people towards the Session booklets for this session.

Please point them to the online evaluation form: www.dio.org.uk/wodf If you have time and capacity they may like to complete it in the meeting, or in their own time.

We would be very grateful for the feedback.



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?

Is there anyone we want to follow up on after the module?

Is there anyone we could develop by supporting them in facilitating the next module?

Please pass on the names of those who have participated, and the number of sessions they have completed, to the Learning for Discipleship and Mission team - this will be helpful in encouraging future facilitators, and also knowing who has completed Way of Discipleship should they want to explore any licensed ministries.

Thank you so much for your commitment in discipling people through this course! Please continue to pray for your participants and if you have any feedback on the module Guy Donegan-Cross would love to hear from you.

