

# WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BEING WITH GOD

## SESSION 4: BEING WITH GOD IN WORSHIP FACILITATOR'S NOTES

### CHECKLIST

- Have I got a good sense of the signposted resources? Which would be good to highlight with my group? **N.B. You will be asking the group to try and do the Connecting with God Survey from session 5 in preparation for the next session, so make sure they have access to this, and you are aware of its contents.**
- 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?
- (There is a lot of content tonight – you may want to split this over two sessions (if you are able) or point people towards certain sections in their own time)
- 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 role of practices in living the life of a disciple.
- To be able to celebrate and rejoice, offering hospitality.
- To grow in offering praise and adoration to God.
- To worship God in every circumstance.
- To experience the Eucharist as a place of encounter and appreciate the different perspectives Christians have of it in my lived experience.
- To experience the whole of life as sacramental.
- To explore and reflect upon a wide variety of worship.



## FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 4
- Any prayer materials or visual focus. DBS guide.

## 6.30 PM PREPARING MYSELF

You might like to reflect on Philippians 4:4. Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say: Rejoice! What can you give thanks for about your group?

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

Commit yourself to the Lord this evening. You may like to use the words of this hymn:

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; To His feet thy tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Who like thee His praise should sing Praise Him ! Praise Him! Praise the everlasting King.

## 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) Read a Psalm of praise out loud as a group - as a whole, or responsively: "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:1-5

Give some time for thanksgiving. This may be in open prayer, or people sharing in pairs what they are grateful for, or by passing something round to facilitate prayer/sharing.

## 7.05 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 role of practices in living the life of a disciple.
- To be able to celebrate and rejoice, offering hospitality.
- To grow in offering praise and adoration to God.
- To worship God in every circumstance.
- To experience the Eucharist as a place of encounter and appreciate the different perspectives Christians have of it 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 3 minutes: How do people express worship outside of church?

## 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.*

I want to grow in being with God and becoming like Christ...how does this happen?

What are practices?

How does this change happen?

What is worship and why do we do it?

Why do we worship God?

How do I worship God on my own?

Why do I worship God with others?

What is important in worshipping with others?

What will worshipping together always involve?

Why are sacraments important in worship and being with God?

Where does breaking bread and wine come from?

What was Jesus doing at the Last Supper?

Why is remembering so important?

What are the meanings of breaking bread and sharing wine?

How is this presence known?

**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 the handouts, "Character change" and "Useful quotes on worship" as the basis for the content.



## 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 practices of worship and celebration are currently part of my life?

What might help you rejoice in the Lord *always*?

What questions do you have?

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

## 8.40 PM DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Luke 7: 36-50 (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 week, for those who want to prepare, doing the Connecting with God Survey, or at least being aware of its contents, would be really beneficial.**

## 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 Philippians 4:4. You may like to give time for open prayer, finishing by praying together: Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; To His feet thy tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Who like thee His praise should sing Praise Him ! Praise Him! Praise the everlasting King.

## 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?

