

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BEING WITH GOD

SESSION 6: BEING WITH GOD IN SCRIPTURE 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 been able to watch the *Bible Project* videos on Overview of Old and New Testaments?
- 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 the Lectio Divina exercise?
- 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 unique nature of Scripture
- To be equipped to experience Scripture as a regular sustaining gift for discipleship.
- To understand why and how God speaks through Scripture.
- To understand the disciplines of study and meditation.
- To explore how to interpret Scripture well.
- To experience Lectio Divina as a way of reading with the heart.



FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 6
- Any prayer materials or visual focus. Jesus Prayer handout if you are using it for opening worship.
- Lectio Divina exercise. Background music and/or candle if using these.
- Identity in Jesus handout if using for closing prayer

6.30 PM PREPARING MYSELF

You might like to use the Identity in Jesus Scriptures, choosing a few of them to read slowly, alone or together, as a way of being reminded that discipleship is God's work through you.

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.

Remind the group of the Jesus Prayer from last session, using the handout. Invite them for 2-3 minutes to silently, slowly and repetitively pray, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner."

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.

7.10 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)

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- To experience Lectio Divina as a way of reading with the heart.



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: Which part of the Bible do you find it easiest to read and why?

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 do we hear from God and understand what He wants?

How is the Bible different from other books?

What is at the heart of the Bible?

What is in the Bible and how was it written?

How am I meant to read it?

How do I read with my mind?

How do I know I am reading it right?

How do I read with the heart?

How do I read the Bible with others?

Where do I start?

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 listen to God through the Bible?

What questions do you have?

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



8.40 PM LECTIO DIVINA EXERCISE

Rather than a DBS this week we are going to practise meditating on a passage from John. You can use the exercise provided.

Remind people that the focus of the exercise is to meet with God, using our imaginations to be present in the scene.

Lead people into a place of **rest** - focussing on their breathing. You may like to light a candle, or play quiet background music.

Read John 21:1-14 (or get someone else to read it) slowly, once or twice. (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)

Use the script (or adapt it) to lead people through reflection, response and finally to rest.

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.

N.B. You may wish to have a meal together as part of your final session. Take the opportunity to arrange timing and food. You will need to have the same amount of time to cover next week's session in addition to eating.

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.



9.15 PM CLOSING PRAYER

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

Use the Identity in Jesus Scriptures, choosing a few of them to read slowly, alone or together, as a way of being reminded that discipleship is God's work through you.

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?

