

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE CONFIDENCE AND KNOWING THE STORY

SESSION 3: COVENANT AND WORSHIP 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!
- 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 difference that the key themes of covenant, worship and idolatry, temple and presence make in my lived experience.
- To understand what it means that Scripture is God-breathed.

FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 3
- Any prayer materials or visual focus.
- There is one video in this session - check it is working.



6.30 PM PREPARING MYSELF

You might like to reflect on these words 2 Chronicles 7 remembering that you are God's Temple.

7 When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. 2 The priests could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it. 3 When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshipped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, "He is good; his love endures forever."

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. (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)

To God, the father of mercies,
Light and source of all good,
Lord of history and of the universe,
Goal of the entire human journey,
We lift our praise.
To you, Father, be praise in the church and in the world,
in earthly history and in heaven.
May Mary mother of Jesus praise you;
May the angels praise you;
Made the thrones and dominions praise you;
may the Saints praise you;
May our deceased praise you;
May everyone we meet praise you,
that we may all be able to unite
in a hymn acknowledging the fullness of glory
which your Son communicates to us
in the grace of the Spirit who animates our hearts.
Amen.

Carlo Maria Martini SJ. From "Hearts on Fire – Praying with Jesuits"

Thank God for His presence and His word given to you this evening.



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)

The aims for this session are:

To understand the difference that the key themes of covenant, worship and idolatry, temple and presence make in my lived experience.

To understand what it means that Scripture is God-breathed.

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 read through the events column of the Abraham to Jesus booklet and fill in the missing words.

7.40 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, or adapt the bullet points, using your own material or approaches to reflect your context and teaching style.

*The whole of the content is produced in a booklet for each session - and there is much more content in the booklet than in the powerpoint, so you may want to encourage people to read it before or after. **It is a good idea to have a break half way through.***

Understanding key themes: Covenant: How is the relationship God wants with us described?

Understanding key themes: how is worship at the centre of the Bible's story, and our lives?

Understanding key themes: What does the Temple show about God's presence and His continuing plan for a recreated world?

Tackling tricky questions: What does it mean that the Bible is human and divine?

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 tools, "From Abraham to Jesus", "What does the Bible say about what kind of relationship God wants with us?" and/or "How can the Bible be human and divine?"



8.30 PM MODELLING/REFLECTION

Watch the video of people sharing their understanding of covenant and kingdom - as facilitator, can you share something about your own experience of God's covenant relationship with you?

Discuss in pairs, and then together: What is significant to you about God's covenant with us? What difference does it make that you/we are now God's temple? 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 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. See handout "Extra Reading or Listening Suggestions" as follow up material for this week, and point people towards the Session booklet for this session.

9.15 PM CLOSING PRAYER

Use the suggested prayer or pray in whatever way is helpful. (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint). You might like to use the suggestion under "Preparing Myself"

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?

