

# WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE CONFIDENCE AND KNOWING THE STORY

## SESSION 4: FREEDOM AND LONGING 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 freedom and justice, exile and Messiah make in my lived experience.

To understand the significance of Passover.

To explore how to read the violent portrayals of God in the Bible through the lens of the cross.

### FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 4
- Any prayer materials or visual focus.
- There is one short video in this session – check it is working.



## 6.30 PM PREPARING MYSELF

You might like to reflect on these words from Philippians 3 remembering that you are helping disciples to be confident in being in the world, but not of it.

“20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

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)

From Eucharistic Prayer E.

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

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 freedom and justice, exile and Messiah make in my lived experience.

To understand the significance of Passover.

To explore how to read the violent portrayals of God in the Bible through the lens of the cross.



## 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: In what ways are you still waiting for God to bring freedom?

## 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, 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 halfway through.*

Understanding key themes: How are freedom and justice connected in the Bible?

Understanding key themes: How did the experience of being in exile shape the Bible story, and how does it shape us?

Tricky question: How might I understand the dark and violent pictures of God in the Bible?

**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, for the last section you could use the tool, "How might I understand the dark and violent pictures of God in the Bible?"

## 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: In what ways are we in exile today and how can we respond? How does the material shed light on the dark parts of the Old Testament?

What questions do you have?

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



## 8.40 PM DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Amos 5 - N.B. see introduction. (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. See handout “Extra Reading or Listening Suggestions” as follow up material for this week, and point people towards the Session booklet for this session.

Before next session watching these two short videos might be helpful:

Five and a half Minute Bible Project video on the Gospel of the Kingdom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmFPS0f-kzs&t=4s>

Six Minute Bible Project video on Gospel [https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrzq_X1NNaA&t=3s)

[v=xrzq\\_X1NNaA&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrzq_X1NNaA&t=3s)



## 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?

