

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE CONFIDENCE AND KNOWING THE STORY

SESSION 5: JESUS AND GOSPELS 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 how and why Jesus is the focus for the whole biblical story.
- To understand the meaning and nature of the Kingdom and begin to apply that in my lived experience.
- To apply the mission of Christ to my lived experience.
- To welcome different perspectives in understanding the Bible well, particularly reflecting on whose voice is missing.
- To understand through meditation the Bible as God's personal word.

FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 5
- 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 this prayer from Richard of Chichester remembering that Christ is in you this evening.

I thank you, Lord God, for all the benefits you have given me in your Son Jesus Christ, my most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother, and for all the pains and insults he has borne for me; and I pray that I may see Christ more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

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)

You might like to listen to the song "Give me Jesus". A four minute contemporary version with lyrics is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XASEss7ySgw>

Alternatively you might read the words as a prayer:

In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise, give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus
And when I am alone
Oh, and when I am alone
And when I am alone, give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus
And when I come to die
Oh, and when I come to die
And when I come to die, give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
You can have all this world
You can have all this world
But give me Jesus

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 how and why Jesus is the focus for the whole biblical story.
- To understand the meaning and nature of the Kingdom and begin to apply that in my lived experience.
- To apply the mission of Christ to my lived experience.
- To welcome different perspectives in understanding the Bible well, particularly reflecting on whose voice is missing.
- To understand through meditation the Bible as God's personal word.

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: What is your favourite story about or from Jesus 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, 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: Why is Jesus the centre of God's story?

Understanding key themes: What is the Story of the Kingdom and its King?

Understanding key themes: How does Jesus show what the Kingdom of God on earth looks like?

Understanding key themes: In what ways is Jesus an unexpected kind of Messiah?

Understanding key themes: How does Jesus establish God's Kingdom through His death and resurrection?

Reading it well: How can different perspectives help us understand the Bible?

Practical starting points: Why and how might I meditate on 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, you could watch and discuss the five and a half Minute Bible Project video on the Gospel of the Kingdom <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmFPS0f-kzs&t=4s> and then use the tool, "How can different perspectives help us understand 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 or groups: Why is Jesus a King and what difference does that make in my daily life? How do I feel about discovering different perspectives on the Bible? What questions do you have?

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

8.40 PM BIBLE MEDITATION

Rather than Discovery Bible Study, the aim this session is to experience the four stages of Lectio Divina.

Read and listen. Pray for God to speak to each person in the group through His word. Then read John 15: 5-9 slowly, three times, perhaps emphasising different words as you do so:

Jesus said: 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

Meditate and explore. Invite the group to see whether one phrase from the passage particularly speaks to them. They may want to share.

Pray and respond. Invite the group to individually respond to that phrase in prayer, either quietly or out loud, and ask, "How is God calling you to respond?"

Rest. Give some silence in order to rest together in God's presence and allow this word to take root.



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.

If they wish, there is a booklet which outlines all the books in the New Testament (apart from the gospels) available to read as preparation for the final session, with a bit of missing word fun! We will be introducing it briefly next time, but it would be useful to be familiar with it.

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?

