

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE CONFIDENCE AND KNOWING THE STORY

SESSION 6: CHURCH AND FUTURE HOPE 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!
- 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 have a clear overview of the main content and themes from Acts to Revelation.
- To understand the New Testament as a resource for discipleship.
- To be equipped to apply the Bible and seek God's revelation for new questions.
- To have confidence in listening to God in Scripture and in helping others to do so.

FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 6
- The New Testament Summary and Quiz booklet.
- 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 Ephesians 2, remembering, as we come to the end of this module and the course, that you can trust in God's grace and continuing work in yourself, and in all those who have participated:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

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 use these responses which summarize in prayer the "Way of Discipleship" journey:

God our Father,

On our journey you long for us to be with you, to rest in you and to hear your voice.

You have made us for covenant love - Our hearts are restless until we find ourselves in you.

We praise and adore you.

Lord Jesus,

We become more ourselves the more we grow like you.

Shape us as your disciples, growing in kindness, faithfulness and above-all self-giving love.

We praise and adore you.

Holy Spirit,

You are at work in our lives, closer to us that we can imagine.

You are at work in the world, releasing the life of God's healing reign.

In every part of our lives we join in with you, living each day for your purpose and glory as disciples.

We praise and adore you.



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 have a clear overview of the main content and themes from Acts to Revelation.
- To understand the New Testament as a resource for discipleship.
- To be equipped to apply the Bible and seek God's revelation for new questions.
- To have confidence in listening to God in Scripture and in helping others to do so.

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: Why do you think all the letters in the New Testament were included?

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.

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.

Briefly review the first page and a half of the New Testament Summary booklet.

What does the New Testament emphasise about the relationship God wants with us?
(Being with God)

What does the New Testament emphasise about who we are as human beings? (Becoming like Christ)

What does the New Testament emphasise about our calling as human beings? (Joining in with the Spirit)

Reading it well: How do we apply the Bible well to the questions we wrestle with today?

Practical suggestions: How do we read the Bible well together?

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 read the first two pages of the New Testament summary book, and/or look at the Bible Project poster overview of the New Testament, asking people to reflect on where it highlights Being with God, Becoming like Christ and Joining in with the Spirit. and/or then use the tool, "How do we apply the Bible well to the questions we wrestle with today?"

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: What are the most significant New Testament themes for you at the moment? Why? What questions do you have?

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

8.40 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. As this is the last session of this module they may want to meet up at some time they arrange independently.

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.

8.50 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.

Particular things to highlight may be:

The Discovery Bible Study app and resources.

The bookmark summary of the content on applying the Bible today.

Please point them to the online evaluation form: www.dio.org.uk/wodf If you have time and capacity they may like to complete it in the meeting, or in their own time.

We would be very grateful for the feedback.



9 PM CLOSING PRAYER

Use the suggested prayer or pray in whatever way is helpful. (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint).

Use the verses from Ephesians in the "Preparing Myself" section. Give time for thanksgiving.

You might like to commission one another with the words of this prayer from St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem:

Gracious Father, your love knows no limits. Fill our heart with your compassion, open our eyes to your presence in the world, enlarge our minds to understand your will. Take our hands and minister through them. Speak through our words and direct our feet in the path of peace, that Christ may be revealed in us And the world may believe. Amen.

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?

Please pass on the names of those who have participated, and the number of sessions they have completed, to the Learning for Discipleship and Mission team - this will be helpful in encouraging future facilitators, and also knowing who has completed Way of Discipleship should they want to explore any licensed ministries.

Thank you so much for your commitment in discipling people through this course! Please continue to pray for your participants and if you have any feedback on the module Guy Donegan-Cross would love to hear from you.

