

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP JOINING IN WITH THE SPIRIT

SESSION 1: THE BIG PICTURE OF GOD'S MISSION AND THE SPIRIT 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!
- Are we confident using DBS?
- 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 have confidence in mission as the outworking of discipleship.
- To reflect on the content of mission.
- To see God's mission in the context of the big story of Scripture.
- To understand the nature and work of the Holy Spirit.
- To have confidence in trusting in the work of the Spirit.
- To be energised for mission.

FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 1
- Any prayer materials or visual focus. DBS guide.
- There is one short video in this session – check it is working.



6.30 PM PREPARING MYSELF

You might like to reflect on Romans 8: 26-27, remembering that what matters most in this session is not what you do, but how you make space for God's Spirit to work: In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Take a moment to pray for each person in your group.

Commit yourself to the Lord this evening. You may reflect on these words:

All that I am, Lord I place into your hands. All that I do, Lord, I place into your hands. Everything I work for I place into your hands. Everything I hope for I place into your hands. The gifts you have given me I place into your hands. All the time before me I place into your hands. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. (Adapted from 'Prayers For Committing Our Work to God', in the Northumbria Community Trust, Celtic Daily Prayer: Book One The Journey Begins (London: HarperCollins, 2000), p.278)

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)

Meditate on this prayer from Cardinal Newman:

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught.

I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.



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)

If you have new people in your group you may want to take time to introduce yourselves. Ideally, Way of Discipleship works best if modules are done in order, but there is a four-minute video available for those who haven't done module 1 which explains the approach we take. You may like to send this to people beforehand or watch it at the beginning of the session: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tbXK-ikPec>

The aims for this session are:

To have confidence in mission as the outworking of discipleship.

To reflect on the content of mission.

To see God's mission in the context of the big story of Scripture.

To understand the nature and work of the Holy Spirit.

To have confidence in trusting in the work of the Spirit.

To be energised for mission.

7.15 PM OPENING QUESTION

In pairs ask people to discuss these questions for 5 minutes:

Why is having purpose important for you? What purposes do you think God has for what you do?

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 – 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.

What does "Joining in with the Spirit" cover?

What is the ultimate purpose of being a disciple (and life)?

What is God's mission?

What is the purpose and priority of the church?

What is the mission of the church?

Is mission about who we are or what we do?

What does the Holy Spirit do? How does the Holy Spirit relate to the Spirit of Christ or God?

Why is Spirit "holy"?



How does the Holy Spirit create and sustain life?
How does the Holy Spirit re-create a broken world?
How does the Holy Spirit restore disciples?
How does the Holy Spirit make God's love and presence real?
How does the Holy Spirit commission and strengthen disciples?
Why is mission "joining in with the Spirit"?
What will help me want to "join in with the Spirit"?

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 the Bible Project video "The Story of the Bible" and then go through the two-sided handout on Being filled with the Holy Spirit.

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: How do I feel about joining in with God's mission?

Why? How do I feel about the Holy Spirit? Why? What questions do you have?

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

8.40 PM DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Luke 4: 14-21. (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 booklets for this session.

Ahead of next week's session ask the participants to read the stories in the Content Booklet for Session 2 of George Cadbury (page 2), Shona (page 3), Samuel (page 15), John (page 17), Walgreen's (page 18), Manchester United football club (page 19) and Ruth (page 20).

9.15 PM CLOSING PRAYER

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

Without the Holy Spirit: God is far away,
Christ stays in the past, the Gospel is a dead letter,
the Church is simply an organisation,
authority a matter of domination,
mission a matter of propaganda ...
Christian living a slave morality.

But with the Holy Spirit:
the cosmos is resurrected and groans with the birth-pangs of the
Kingdom, the risen Christ is there, the Gospel is the power of life,
the Church shows forth the life of the Trinity,
authority is a liberating service, mission is a Pentecost,
the liturgy is both memorial and anticipation,
human action is deified.
Ignatius of Latakia, 1968 (bishop of an Eastern rite)

You may like to give time for open prayer.



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 month, what might I (or the co-facilitator) share from our lived experience in the "Modelling" section?

