

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP JOINING IN WITH THE SPIRIT

SESSION 4: BEING A BLESSING AS A COMMUNITY 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 understand gathered mission as being a blessing and reflect on its implications (and the calling of the CofE)
- To be confident in receiving the Holy Spirit and the meaning of being baptized in/filled with the Spirit in my lived experience.
- To be resourced to discern mission focus and discern the gifts I bring.
- To be equipped to explore how church can be mission-shaped in practical ways.
- To grow in the practice of hospitality.
- To have vision for how to join with other churches in mission.



FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 4
- You will need to make sure everyone has access to the questions on the Holy Spirit bookmark.
- 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 Matthew 5: 13-16 remembering that this session is an opportunity for you to be a blessing.

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

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

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

Living God, draw us deeper into your love; Jesus our Lord, sent us to care and serve; Holy Spirit, make us heralds of the good news with the authority to announce healing. Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us to live your love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage. May we daily live out the life of Christ in the world today. Would we follow and copy the life of Christ Jesus. Amen

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)

Responsive prayer: (New Patterns for Worship p.206)

We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy hear us.**

You have called us into the family of those who are the children of God.

May our love for our brothers and sisters be strengthened by your grace.

Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy hear us.**



You have called us to be a temple where the Holy Spirit can dwell.
Give us clean hands and pure hearts,
so that our lives will reflect your holiness.
Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy hear us.**

You have called us to be a light to the world,
so that those in darkness come to you.
May our lives shine as a witness to the saving grace
you have given for all.
Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy hear us.**

You have called us to be members of your body,
so that when one suffers, all suffer together.
We ask for your comfort and healing power
to bring hope to those in distress.
Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy hear us.**

You have called us to be the Bride,
where you, Lord, are the Bridegroom.
Prepare us for the wedding feast,
where we will be united with you for ever.
Jesus, Lord of the Church, **in your mercy hear us. Amen.**

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 gathered mission as being a blessing and reflect on its implications (and the calling of the CofE)
- To be confident in receiving the Holy Spirit and the meaning of being baptized in/filled with the Spirit in my lived experience.
- To be resourced to discern mission focus and discern the gifts I bring.
- To be equipped to explore how church can be mission-shaped in practical ways.
- To grow in the practice of hospitality.
- To have vision for how to join with other churches in mission.

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: "How is your church a blessing to its community?"



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 halfway through.***

What is the joint calling of God's people?

What does it mean to be a blessing and how is it helpful in mission?

How does the Holy Spirit help me to be a blessing?

How do we receive the Holy Spirit in our lived experience?

How can our life together be a form of blessing?

In what particular ways could being part of the "Church of England" help us be a blessing?

How might we start to discover where we can be a blessing together in our communities?

How might we go to others?

How might we grow in the practice of hospitality?

How might we work with other church communities to be a blessing?

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 three minute video on the mission of the church https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_4u8TRorUw and read through the bookmark "Different forms of mission-shaped church" .

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!

Look at the questions together in the speech bubble on the Holy Spirit bookmark. Which question do you want to respond to most? In what way?

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



8.40 PM DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Matthew 25: 31-46 and/or Acts 2: 42-47. (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.

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?

Looking ahead to next month, what might I (or the co-facilitator) share from our lived experience in the “Modelling” section?

