

WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP JOINING IN WITH THE SPIRIT

SESSION 5: JOINING IN WITH THE SPIRIT IN THE BATTLE 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 be motivated to join in with the 4th and 5th Marks of mission.
- To understand why this involves battle and have a framework for Christian involvement in the world.
- To understand why persistence is necessary in intercession, the role of faith, and be equipped to intensify this kind of prayer.
- To understand the authority a disciple is given to join in with God's mission.
- To reflect on how to pursue peace and justice in a Christlike manner.
- To dismantle the psychological challenges we face in engaging with caring for the earth.

FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 5
- 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 Micah 6:8 remembering that this session is an opportunity for you to be inspired others to join in with God's transforming work: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your 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:

Living God, deliver us from a world without justice and a future without mercy. In your mercy, establish justice, and in your justice, remember the mercy revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice? With the help of God I will.

Creator God, breathing your own life into being, you gave us the gift of life: you placed us on this earth with its minerals and waters, flowers and fruits, living creatures of grace and beauty. You gave us the care of the earth.

Teach us, creator God of love, that the earth and all its fullness are yours, the world and all who dwell in it. Call us yet again, to safeguard the gift of life. 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)

A prayer of Pope Francis:

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature.

As we journey towards your infinite light, we thank you for being with us each day

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

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 be motivated to join in with the 4th and 5th Marks of mission.
- To understand why this involves battle and have a framework for Christian involvement in the world.
- To understand why persistence is necessary in intercession, the role of faith, and be equipped to intensify this kind of prayer.
- To understand the authority a disciple is given to join in with God's mission.
- To reflect on how to pursue peace and justice in a Christlike manner.
- To dismantle the psychological challenges we face in engaging with caring for the earth.

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 do you think God wants to change in the world?

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.

In what ways is it helpful to think God's mission as a "battle"?

How involved can Christians be in the world?

How important is it to pray for others?

Does God always get what He wants? If not, why not?

Can faith affect prayer?

When we pray for others what do we need to know?

What right do we have to act on God's behalf, and where do we get any power to do it?

How do we seek peace and justice in a Christlike way?

Why is caring for the environment a mark of mission and why is it a battle?



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 use some or all of the following tools: "How involved can Christians be in the world?" "Tricky questions about prayer." "Why we might struggle to care about climate change."

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 can I have God's heart for justice? How can I grow in seeking it? What questions do you have?

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

8.40 PM DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah 58: 6-12; Luke 11: 5-13. (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. 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.



9.10 PM SIGNPOSTING

Make sure the participants know about the next module - "Way of Discipleship: "Bible Confidence and Knowing the Story" and how to book on. You may want to point them towards the eight session monthly course "Way of Servant-Leadership".

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.

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.

9.15 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?

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.

