

# WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP BEING WITH GOD

## SESSION 2: DISCIPLESHIP AND GOD 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?
- (There is a lot of content tonight – you may want to split this over two sessions (if you are able) or point people towards certain sections in their own time)
- 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 the theme of covenant in the Bible.
- To have an image of God as Father which is life-giving.
- To understand how God is transcendent and immanent.
- To be encouraged in loving God and knowing I am beloved in my lived experience.
- Extra: To know God as Trinity in my lived experience



## FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 2
- Any prayer materials or visual focus.
- Bibles for those who don't have theirs – as similar versions as possible.

## 6.30 PM PREPARING MYSELF

You might like to reflect on 1 John 4: 16a-19, remembering that God –Father, Son and Spirit is at work in you and through you: God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 19 We love because he first loved us.

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

Commit yourself to the Lord this evening. You may like to use this covenant prayer of commitment:

Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all that I have and possess.

You have given all to me.

To You, O lord, I return it.

All is Yours, dispose of it wholly according to your will.

Give me your love and your grace, for this is sufficient for me.

## 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. If you are using responses you will want them printed out or available for participants to use. (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)

Start with some quiet, inviting people to set aside this time for God. They may want to turn off phones, take off watches, as a way of doing this. Use this verse as a focus.

Psalms 103:8: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Finish with this prayer from the Iona community:

O Christ, kindle in our hearts within  
A flame of love to our neighbour,  
To our foes, to our friends, to our kindred all.

**O Christ of the poor and yearning,  
From the humblest thing that lives  
To the name that is highest of all,  
Kindle in our hearts within  
A flame of love.  
Amen.**



## 7.05 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)

- To understand the theme of covenant in the Bible.
- To have an image of God as Father which is life-giving.
- To understand how God is transcendent and immanent.
- To be encouraged in loving God and knowing I am beloved in my lived experience.
- Extra: To know God as Trinity in my lived experience

N.B. There is a lot of overview content in the first three sessions, as we begin the journey – throughout the modules different areas will be returned to in more detail.

## 7.10 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 give them five minutes to discuss this question: What words best describe God's character to me?

## 7.20 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 – if you are not covering all the material, you may want to point participants to reading the booklet between sessions. **It is a good idea to have a break half way through.***

*Cover as much of the content as is helpful for your group/person:*

What is at the heart of a disciple's relationship with God?

Who loves first?

What is God's love like?

What kind of relationship does God want with me?



Why do we love God?  
How is this love relationship mostly described in the Bible?  
How does this shape who I am as a disciple?  
Can I really know God? How is that possible?  
Isn't God beyond us?  
How much can we know?  
How does this help me to be a disciple?  
Why is my "picture of God" so important?  
Why do we call God "Father"?  
What kind of father?  
What will help me experience God's love?

**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**

You could offer the material on the Trinity as an "extra" 15 minutes at the end of this session, covering

- Why is God, "Father, Son, Spirit"?
- Where is the Trinity in Jesus' life and the New Testament?
- Where did the word "Trinity" come from and what does it protect us from?
- How does the Trinity help me be a disciple today?

## **8.05 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:

- What is your "picture of God"? Does it need to develop? Why?
- What questions do you have?

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



## 8.25 PM PERSONAL RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR COMING WEEK.

Having learnt content, seen it modelled, reflected and heard each other, 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.

## 8.35 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. Ask people to bring Bibles with them if they have them to following sessions.

See handout "Extra Reading or Listening Suggestions" as follow up material for this week, and point people towards the Session booklets for this session and next week - - you might agree on sections they read beforehand in order to free up more discussion time in the following session.

For next week, for those who want to prepare, good suggestions would be:  
Five pages on Being Attentive Disciples by Rowan Williams.

## 8.40 PM CLOSING PRAYER

*Use the suggested prayer or pray in whatever way is helpful.*

*(Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)*

Read out 1 John 4: 16a-19 to the group and pray the Lord's Prayer together (same version!)

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

