

## Being a Disciple at Work

### Session 3 : Moving forward

#### Leaders' Notes

#### 7.30 Welcome and Prayer

##### Review of reflection work from previous session

#### 7.45 Opening activity

Read out loud to the group the passage by Martin Wallace (Session 3 handout).  
*Invite the group (in pairs) to share a work / world issue they have had a conversation with God about in the past week – or a conversation they would have liked to have had.*

How can we chat with God, bouncing ideas together with him, between the truths of the Bible and the truths of everyday life?

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#### 8.00 Our calling

'It takes a whole world to know Jesus.'

By his grace :

- we have a worshipping life with God
- we are a unique expression of humanity and divinity
- we have a mission purpose in this world and beyond (Ephesians 3:10-11)

Quite simply, God loves us. He reveals himself to us and accompanies us through life; rejoices in our individuality; allows the light of his glory to be seen in us; brings us home to himself.

Heaven starts here and now - it's less about getting us into heaven and more about getting heaven into us! Heaven is about life in its fullness, colour, creativity, justice, mercy, forgiveness, love, passion. It is life-affirming, not life-denying, as we discover and are liberated into becoming the people God created us to be. As the book of Amos reminds us, a constant theme in the Bible is "seek me and live".

With these things in mind, let's think about how we can witness in the workplace:

#### 8.10 Witnessing in the workplace

John Wyatt has suggested there are 6 types of witness in the workplace (see Session 3. Handout for fuller details):

1. through Christ's presence in us
2. through the work we do
3. through bringing a Biblical perspective on personal issues
4. through bringing a Biblical perspective on general issues
5. through bringing a Biblical perspective on business issues and work ethics
6. by sharing the Gospel

In small groups / pairs, discuss:

*Which of these ways is 'within our comfort zone'? You may wish to share examples.  
In which of these ways would you like to grow more confident?  
What would help this to happen?*

## 8.20 Taking things further . . .

In this part of the session, you can choose from a range of options for further study:

- **The Church in the World** – passages and questions for discussion on this Session's handout

Or from the 'Additional resources for study' in the Downloads section of the Diocesan website:

- **Old Testament Bible study** on work as blessing and curse, and the place of the Sabbath, Biblically, historically and in the present-day.
- **Meditation** on the inter-connectedness of existence and the place of work.
- **Two poems by D.H.Lawrence** on work, fulfilment and our sense of identity.
- **A Bible study** using one or more sections of Bible references on the **Bible Reference Sheet** to be found in the Downloads section of the website

Or you may wish to use something you have researched from the 'Further resources' download book list or websites or from elsewhere.

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## 8.50 Connecting Church and Work

An opportunity to share and explore ways in which our church life could be shaped and mobilized to address the needs of the workplace, community and world, through the working lives of its members.

See this Session's handout for some ideas to help in this discussion.

*In what ways can we help to interpret the world of work to the church?  
In what ways can the church support, nourish and equip its members for the workplace?*

Share ideas on a flipchart.

Or, using the Church Action diagram in this Session's handout, discuss and note down:

- in what ways could the Worship, Prayer, Teaching/Study, Celebration, Fellowship/Networking and Mission in our churches be developed to support our working discipleship? (inner square)
  - what work issues can we bring into the life of the church and how might we do this? (outer areas)
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## 9.10 My Action Plan

An opportunity for each person to reflect on what has been covered in the course, and to respond by identifying areas for prayer, witness and action in their own lives.

There is a photocopiable master for a set of Action cubes for the group – one for each person – in the support resources for this Session.

What are the opportunities/possibilities in my workplace for:  
\*witnessing \*prayer \*worship \*spiritual conversations \*offering

- *Prayer points may be written on one side of the template;*
- *Ways of witnessing may be written on 3 squares*
- *Action points may be written on the other 3 squares*

Then the cube may be constructed, with the prayer points on the inside.

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## **9.20 Worship**

(You may, if you wish, add a suitable hymn or song during the worship)

### **Opening Prayer : Psalm 105**

**Give thanks to the Lord,  
Call on his name  
Make known among the nations what he has done  
Sing to him, sing praise to him  
Tell of all his wonderful acts  
Glory in his holy name  
Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice  
Look to the Lord and his strength  
Seek his face always**

**Amen**

*A short time of quiet, to reflect on what we have shared and discussed in this session.*

*You may wish to hold your Action cube and pray for the things you have noted on it.*

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading: John 5: 16 – 20**

We commit ourselves to God's service, in the words of  
**The Lord's Prayer**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 2: 10**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ, Amen**