

THE BLESSINGS COURSE

Units in this series

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Diocese of Durham



UNIT 1

BEING DISCIPLES

THE BLESSING COURSE

LIVING AS DISCIPLES OF
THE GOD OF BLESSING

Blessing our communities in Jesus' name



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Foreword

God is in the business of blessing. He blesses in creation (Genesis 1.22, 28). He blesses in the covenants he makes with humanity (e.g. Abraham Gen 12.1-4). He blesses supremely in our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1.3-14).

We are blessed people. So in response we bless God in praise and worship.

Then we are also called to be a people of blessing. God chooses to use us to bless others, as individuals and communities, and to bless the whole of creation. So we need to grow in our experience and understanding of this blessedness. Hence *The Blessing Course*.

The aim of the whole series is to help us grow as followers of Jesus so that we can be a people of blessing. We bless by our presence, by our prayers, by proclaiming the good news, and by serving.

It is my simple prayer that *The Blessing Course* will be a blessing to all who engage in it; and that we will all then be a means of God's blessing to others.

+Paul Dunelm
May 2016

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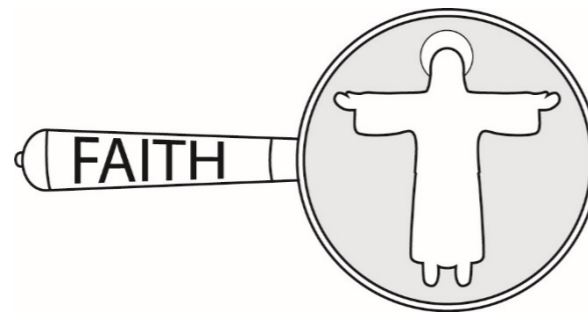
Introduction to Being Disciples

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12.2

In this booklet, we focus on Jesus. To be a disciple is to be a follower of Jesus. To be in the church is to be a part of Christ's body. The heart of the Christian faith is Jesus, who he is, what he has done, and what he continues to do in our lives, in our church, and in our communities.

If Christ is not at the centre of our faith, then we are trusting in something other than the Christian God. So here, we begin with Christ and Christ remains central to the entirety of *The Blessing Course*.



There are a variety of ways to explore our understanding of Jesus. The way we have chosen is to look at parts of the Gospel of Luke, which gives us a clear picture of Jesus.

Read Luke

Please consider reading the whole of Luke during this unit. To do this, you could begin with Luke chapter 1 on the day of Session 1 and then read 1 chapter every day until you finish the whole Gospel.



Conclude by singing together the Irish hymn, 'Be Thou My Vision'.

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, in the day and the night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my Wisdom, be thou my true Word.
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I Thy true heir.
Thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight.
Be thou my armour, and be thou my might.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower.
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise.
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart.
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, when battle is done,
Grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Session Contents and Structure

The sessions in this booklet are designed for group study and consist primarily of activities for you to engage in as a group. In between the activities are short explanatory paragraphs that are meant to guide your sessions. You may want to read these paragraphs aloud, or the group leader may summarise them briefly.

Each session is divided into three sections. The first section is called *Welcome and Worship* - all of the sessions open and conclude with worship. Worshipping God together honours God. It also reminds us that our sessions are about our spiritual growth and opens us to the work of the Holy Spirit.

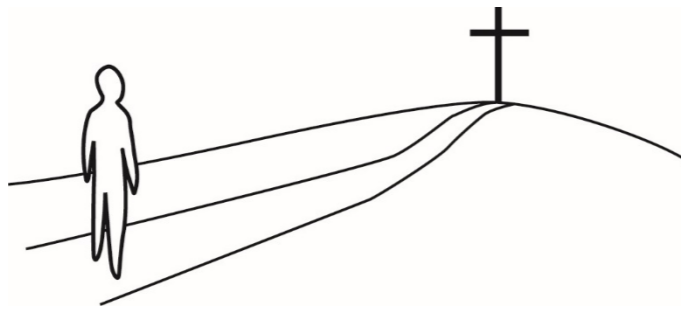
The next part of each session is called *Reflecting Together*. Here you will find opportunities to talk about your faith and what you believe. The final section, *Responding*, helps you to relate your thoughts about your faith to your own discipleship. It allows space for personal reflection and includes the closing worship.

At the very beginning of each session, you will also see a section labelled *Resources*. This provides a list of items you will need for that session. The group leader may provide the items in the list, or you may divide responsibility for these items among the members of your group.

Session 1

Following Jesus

**We begin by thinking about Jesus' identity.
Who is Jesus and why do we follow him?**



Responding

We finish where we began, with our view of Jesus.



- Activity 5.8 In the space below, draw or write a prayer to God. The statements are meant to help you.

Dear God,

I want to thank you for Jesus because ...

Please help me to

Amen.

Resources

For this session you will need:

- One large sheet of paper (at least A3 sized) for the group
- Coloured markers
- One Bible per person
- Index cards, one per person, each with a horizontal line drawn across the middle and the numbers 1 to 10 written evenly spaced along the top of the line, with 1 at the far left and 10 at the far right
- The words and music to 'There is a Redeemer' by Melody Green.

The story of Mary and Martha helps us to understand the first commandment.



- Activity 5.6 Read aloud Luke 10.38-42. Martha's conduct reflects the conduct of the Samaritan. Her care for others is commendable. Even more commendable is Mary's desire to be with and listen to Jesus.

How can we be like Mary?

What are some ways that you already express love for God? How might you develop this love?

Jesus does not disapprove of Martha. But service to others must always flow out of love for God.

- Activity 5.7 What happens when our service to others does not have God at the centre? What else might motivate us?

The models provided by the Samaritan and Mary point to different expressions of discipleship.

Welcome and Worship

If this is your first time together as a group, go round and introduce yourselves. Everyone should state their name and complete the following sentence: 'I am here because...'

The following Celtic prayer is called 'A Telling Place'. Say it together as a prayer for blessing upon all of your Blessing Course sessions.

**Blessed be God who lifts us up.
Blessed be the Father of heaven.
Blessed be the risen and ascended Lord.
Blessed be the Christ in glory.
Blessed by the Spirit of Truth and Love.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit.**

**Bless us this day with vision.
Bless us this day with faith.
Bless us this day with hope.
May this place be a sacred place,
a telling place,
where earth and heaven meet.**

Amen.*

*'A Telling Place', in the Northumbria Community Trust, *Celtic Daily Prayer Book Two: Farther Up and Farther In* (London: HarperCollins, 2015), p.1090.

Reflecting Together

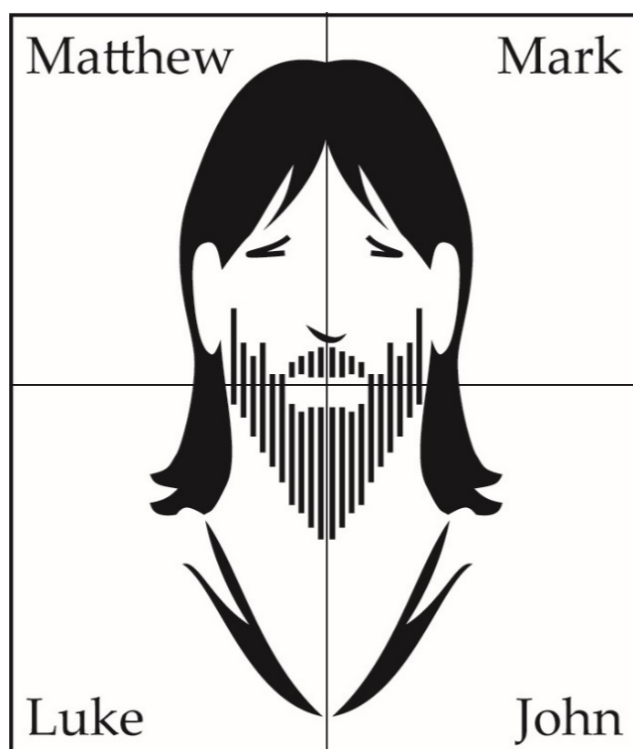
Who or what do you think of when you think of Jesus?

- Activity 1.1 Write 'Jesus' in the centre of the large sheet of paper and place this on the floor or a table in the middle of the group. Using coloured markers, ask everyone to draw on the paper any pictures or words that come to mind in response to the question 'Who or what do you think of when you think of Jesus?'
- Activity 1.2 Talk about what is on the paper. Ask everyone to explain their pictures or words. Together consider what portrait of Jesus is represented by your paper.

The four Gospels provide us with written portraits of Jesus. The Gospels seek to show us who Jesus is and what he does.

The Gospel of Luke tells us who Jesus is in its opening chapters, which are about Jesus' birth. These chapters contain three well-known passages that give us insight into Jesus' identity.

We sometimes sing these passages in church. The songs based on these passages are called the *Annunciation*, the *Benedictus*, and the *Nunc Dimittis*. These names are simply the first word in the Latin versions of the songs.

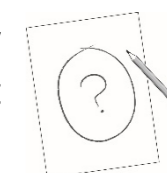


In Luke 10.27, a lawyer states the two greatest commandments in response to a question from Jesus. The commandments are then followed by two stories that help us to understand this love.

The second commandment is shown through the parable of the Samaritan.

- Activity 5.4 Read Luke 10.25-37. Note the interaction between Jesus and the lawyer. The Jews despised the Samaritans as 'half breeds', so the lawyer would have looked down on and probably hated Samaritans.

How might the lawyer have felt about hearing a story about a 'good' Samaritan? Why do you think that Jesus chose a Samaritan as the hero of his story?



Notice that Jesus reveals the lawyer's heart by telling a story, not by making a statement about prejudice or neighbourly conduct.

- Activity 5.5 When we love others, we bless them.

What are some ways that you already express love for neighbour? How can we be like the Samaritan in our parishes or lives?

- Activity 5.2 How do the views of love you have listed influence how you think about love?

Write your thoughts here:



Love is at the heart of Jesus' two greatest commandments.

- Activity 5.3 Work your way through the first commandment one point at a time:

What does it mean to love God with all of your heart?

Your soul?

Your strength?

Your mind?

- Activity 1.3 Divide into three small groups:

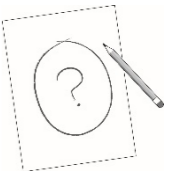
Group 1 should look at Luke 1.30-33, the passage that is sometimes called the *Annunciation*.

Group 2 should look at Luke 1.68-69, 78-79, part of a passage that is sometimes called the *Benedictus*.

Group 3 should look at Luke 2.29-32, the passage that is sometimes called the *Nunc Dimittis*.

According to your passage, who is Jesus and why does he come into the world?

Draw or write your thoughts here:



- Activity 1.4 The three small groups should feedback their thoughts to the whole group. Singing is allowed!

Jesus' favourite title for himself is the 'Son of Man', a title that comes from Daniel 7.9-14. This title shows that Jesus is *the* King over all of creation.

- Activity 1.5 For this activity, ask everyone to imagine that they are a member of the Jewish Council during the time of Jesus. Choose one person to read aloud Daniel 7.9-14. The Council knows the Daniel passage. It is a vision of God's throne. The

Council would have understood the Son of Man in Daniel 7.13-14 as divine.

Then ask someone to read Luke 22.66-71. As you listen, ask yourself:

How might the Jewish Council feel about Jesus' claims?

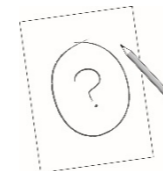


There can be no doubt that the Jewish Council understood Jesus' claim to be God's Son, but they did not believe him.

The disciples had a very different response to Jesus' claims about himself.

- Activity 1.6 Ask someone to read aloud Luke 24.50-53. The ten commandments make clear that only God is to be worshipped.

What are the implications of the disciples worshipping Jesus?



Welcome and Worship

Place the card containing the two greatest commandments in a visible place. Ask everyone to think quietly about what these commandments mean.

Then say the commandments together:

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength,
and with all your mind.**

And you shall love your neighbour as yourself.

Luke 10.27 (NRSV)

Ask someone to pray, giving thanks to God for his love for us.

Reflecting Together

What comes to mind when you think of love? How is your view of love shaped by the world around you?

- Activity 5.1 On the A3 sheet of paper, make a list of some of the ways that love is portrayed in our world. You may find it useful to think of the views of love found in songs, films, or adverts.

Session 5

Living for Jesus

One important way to live for Jesus is by obeying his two greatest commandments.



Resources

For this session you will need:

- The first and second greatest commandments on a large card
- A large A3 sheet of paper and markers
- One Bible per person
- A pen for each person
- Music for the Irish hymn, 'Be Thou My Vision'

Responding

How we respond to Jesus often reveals what we think about him.

- Activity 1.7 What does your church think of Jesus? How does your church talk about him? What role does he play in your church's weekly activities and worship services?

How my church thinks of Jesus:



Divinity and humanity are united in the person of Jesus. Jesus is both God and human. Jesus' divinity means that he is eternally King. Jesus' humanity means that he is eternally *our* King.

- Activity 1.8 Give out the index cards. Ask each person to circle the number that represents her or his relationship to Jesus right now – with the number 1 representing 'distant from Jesus' and the number 10 representing 'very close to Jesus'. Then below the line, ask each person to write where they would like to be on the scale.



- Activity 1.9 Ask everyone to hold their cards in their hands and prayerfully listen to or sing 'There is a Redeemer' by Melody Green.

Conclude by praying responsively the following prayer:

We pray for strength to follow Jesus.
Saviour, we hear your call. Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Happy are the humble;
they will receive what God has promised.'

Saviour, we hear your call. Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Be merciful as your Father is merciful;
love your enemies and do good to them.'

Saviour, we hear your call. Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Love one another, as I love you;
there is no greater love than this,
to lay down your life for your friends.'

Saviour, we hear your call. Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Go to people everywhere
and make them my disciples,
and I will be with you always, to the end of time.'

Saviour, we hear your call. Help us to follow.

God of mercy,
you know us and love us and hear our prayer.

**Keep us in the eternal fellowship of
Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.***

*Adapted from 'Prayers F43', New Patterns for Worship, The Church of England
<https://cms.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/common-material/new-patterns-worshp/resource-section-themes/f-prayers>

- Activity 4.9 Place the tin foil tray next to the candle. Put your slip of paper on the tray as a way of giving its contents to Jesus. As you do this pray silently, giving thanks for Jesus' forgiveness. When everyone has done this, use the matches to light the slips of paper and burn them on the tray.



Conclude by saying together the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

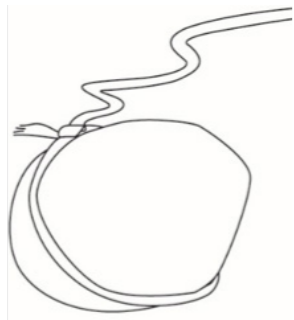
Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

- Activity 4.7 Ask for a volunteer to carry a heavy weight. Put the heavy rucksack on the volunteer and ask the person to walk around the room without stopping. If the volunteer is strong, you may need to ask the person to jog around the room. The volunteer cannot remove the weight, but she or he may ask for forgiveness and to have it removed. Encourage the group to work out how to remove the weight. After the weight is removed, ask the volunteer to describe the experience of carrying the weight, asking for its removal, and then having it removed.



Talk together about the volunteer's experience as a model of the experience of forgiveness.

Write or draw your thoughts here:

Session 2

Having Faith in Jesus

What does it mean to place our faith in Jesus?



Resources

For this session you will need:

- A flip chart and markers
- One Bible per person
- Blank index cards, blu-tack
- Permanent markers
- A small smooth stone for each person

When we follow Jesus, we are set free to live a life of forgiveness. We receive forgiveness, we forgive ourselves, and we forgive others.

- Activity 4.8 Consider the following individually and prayerfully: Is there an area in your life for which you are thankful for Jesus' forgiveness? Or an area for which you would like to receive forgiveness? Or something that you need to forgive?

Write or draw your response on a small slip of paper and fold it up.

Welcome and Worship

Begin your session in prayer by asking one person to give thanks for God's presence with you.

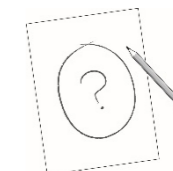
Then say together this section of the Nicene Creed, as a statement of faith:

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of the Father before all the ages,
Light of Light, True God of true God, begotten not made,
of one substance with the Father,
through whom all things were made,
who for us men and our salvation came down from the
heavens,
and was made flesh of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became man,
and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate,
and suffered and was buried,
and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into the heavens,
and sits on the right hand of the Father,
and shall come again with glory to judge the living and dead
of whose kingdom there shall be no end.**

Jesus promises that when we repent, we receive forgiveness.

- Activity 4.5 Zacchaeus repents and receives forgiveness from Jesus.

What impact does this have on Zacchaeus?



How might his return of money to his neighbours have affected his relationships with them?

Responding

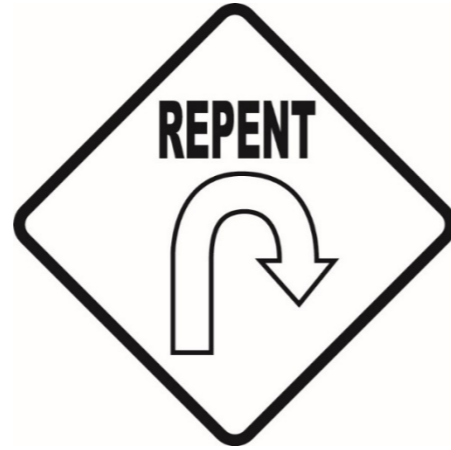
Forgiveness is life-giving. It is something to celebrate. It takes away the barriers between you and God, and between you and other people.

- Activity 4.6 Put yourself in Zacchaeus' place.

What does it feel like when someone forgives you?



- Activity 4.3 Making a u-turn does not mean turning around and then staying still. It means turning around and going in the opposite direction. What does this suggest about repentance and following Jesus? Can you think of any examples?



Some examples:

Repentance is often about saying no to sin. One motive for sin is the desire to live for ourselves, rather than living for God.

- Activity 4.4 Read Luke 19.1-10. Zacchaeus was disliked by the people around him. Talk about the following:

How would you describe Zacchaeus sin?

In what way had Zacchaeus been living for himself?

Reflecting Together

What is faith? Faith is trust in someone. It means entrusting ourselves to someone or something, even when we cannot see the outcome.

All of us put some level of trust in other people and things. We trust our car to get us to work. We trust that the ingredients list on a cereal packet is accurate. We trust our doctor's advice.

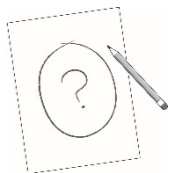
- Activity 2.1 What do you rely upon as you go about your day? Why do you trust in these things?

Who do you trust? How does this trust affect your relationship with that person?

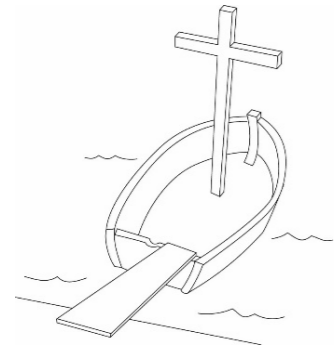
Using the flip chart, make a list of everyone's responses.

- Activity 2.2 Now ask: Do we find trusting in God easier or harder than trusting in the things on this list? What do we know about God that can make it easier to trust in him?

Write or draw your thoughts here:



At the heart of Christianity is faith in God.



Martin Luther distinguished between belief and faith using the image of a ship.

Standing on the seashore, pointing at a ship, and saying that you think it will take you to the other side of the sea is a statement of belief. Your life does not depend upon the ship.

Getting on the ship and trusting it to take you to the other side of the sea is an act of faith. This faith is justified when the ship is reliable and takes you safely on your journey.

Reflecting Together

What does it mean to live for Jesus rather than for yourself? How does journeying through life with Jesus change your way of living?

- Activity 4.1 Look at the road signs. What does each sign mean? What direction does each sign give you for your journey?

Jesus provides us with directions for how to follow him.

- Activity 4.2 Read aloud Luke 24.46-47. After his resurrection, Jesus says that all people now have the opportunity for repentance and forgiveness of sins. Use this passage to talk about:

Why are repentance and forgiveness important to us?

Faith is more than a list of things you believe. Faith includes belief, but also goes beyond it. Faith means *entrusting* your life to God.

- Activity 2.3 Think of a time when you took a risk. How did it feel? Then think about what it means to rely on God. What things make faith difficult? What helps you to act in faith?



When we repent and are forgiven, what does that help us to do?

Repentance means turning 180° around and going in the opposite direction.

To repent is to make a u-turn in our lives.

Welcome and Worship



Place the candle in a visible place in the room, light it, and leave it there throughout the session. As people arrive, ask them to pray quietly and to consider what it means that Jesus is the light that guides our lives.

Then say together the following prayer which is taken from St Patrick's Breastplate:

**Christ with me. Christ before me. Christ behind me.
Christ in me.
Christ beneath me. Christ above me.
Christ on my right. Christ on my left.
Christ when I lie down. Christ when I sit down.
Christ when I arise.
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me.
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me.
Christ in every eye that sees me.
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen.**

The Gospel of Luke tells a number of stories about faith. These stories help us to think about what faith in Jesus looks like.

- Activity 2.4 Divide into small groups. Each group should choose one of the following stories to talk about:

Luke 5.17-26, the healing of the paralytic

Luke 7.1-10, the healing of the centurion's servant

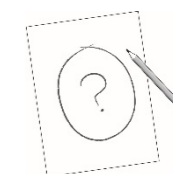
Luke 7.36-50, the forgiving of the sinful woman

Luke 8.22-25, the calming of the storm

Talk about the role of faith in these stories. Ask: who shows faith and how do they act on their faith? How does Jesus respond to their faith?

Then make a list of words or pictures to describe that faith. For instance in the Luke 5 story, the friends' faith could be described as 'determined'.

Descriptions of faith in this story:



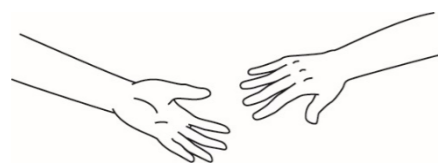
After you make your list, write each word or picture on an index card, one per card.

- Activity 2.5 Have each group describe the faith in their story and blu-tack their cards to the flip chart or to a wall.
- Activity 2.6 Talk about the cards. What do these descriptions suggest about faith?

Responding

Faith has to do with relationship. It is a way of relating to Jesus.

- Activity 2.7 Use the stories you have looked at in Luke to help you think about how Jesus is trustworthy.



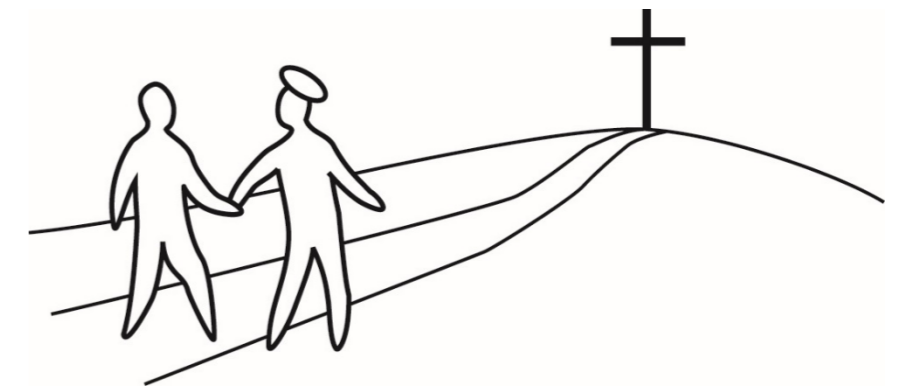
Now think about your own life story.
What things in your life have helped you to trust Jesus?

The church, the Bible, and worship all help us to focus on God, but none of these should be at the centre of our faith. Instead, each of these flows out of our faith in God. We are in the church because we belong to Christ. We study the Bible because it reveals God to us. We worship Jesus as our Lord.

Session 4

Walking with Jesus


Jesus calls his followers to journey through life with him. That journey begins with a call to repentance and follows the path of forgiveness into new life.



Resources

For this session you will need:

- A large candle, matches
- 3-4 road signs, including a u-turn sign
- One Bible per person
- A rucksack full of heavy items (such as rocks, etc.)
- A small slip of paper for each person, pens
- A thick tin foil tray

 Respond in thanksgiving by listening to or singing together the hymn 'Crown Him with Many Crowns' by Bridges and Thring.

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and
praise.

His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love. Behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time.
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me.
Thy praise and glory never fail throughout eternity.

Faith grows as we entrust ourselves to God:

- Activity 2.8 Spend a few minutes in quiet reflection. Think of a part of your life in which you would like to trust God more.
- Activity 2.9 Give each person a smooth stone and a permanent marker. Write on your stone a word or picture that represents the part of your life that you want to entrust to God.

Hold your stone and pray together the following prayer:

**Heavenly Lord, we bring before you the things that we have
written here, as a sign of our faith in you.**

Pause

**We entrust these things to you, knowing that you care about the
things that are on our hearts.**

Pause

**During this week, help us to see how to trust you with these
things.**

Pause

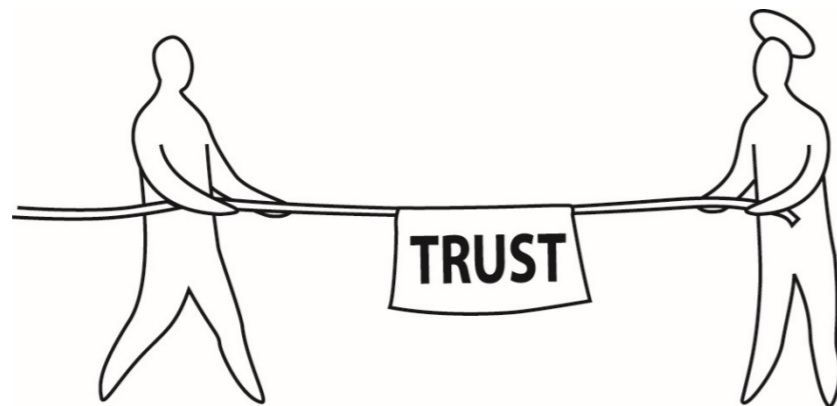
**We give thanks that our faith grows through the work of your
Holy Spirit. We ask for your Holy Spirit to work in us.
Amen.**

Put your stone in your pocket or handbag and carry it with you this week to remind you every day about having faith in God.

Session 3

Knowing Our Saviour

Here we think about why we call Jesus our Saviour

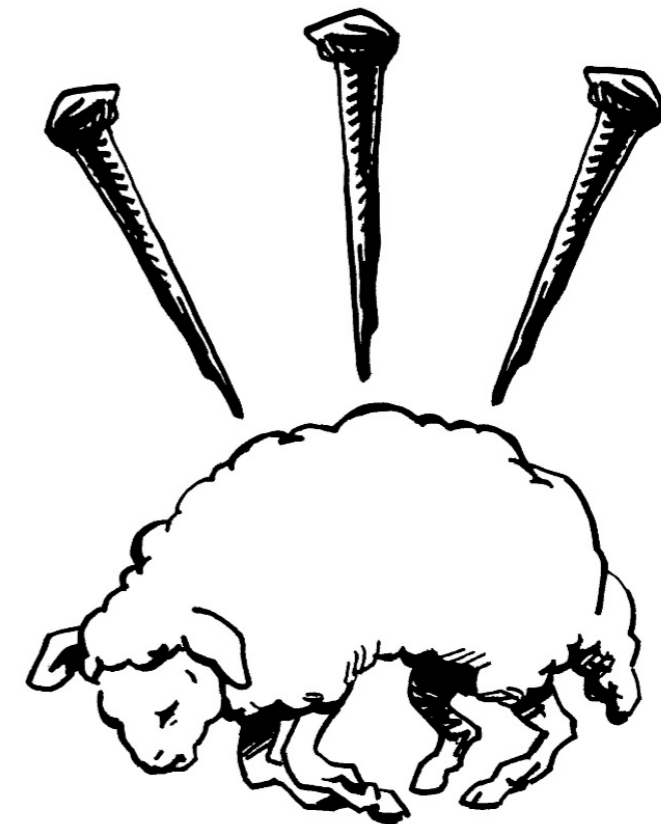


Resources

For this session you will need:

- A copy of the painting *Agnus Dei* by Francisco de Zurbarán
- A copy of a conquering *Agnus Dei*, such as the one found in the stained glass window at St John the Baptist Church in Needham Market, Suffolk.
You can find copies of these pictures on the internet.
- The worship song 'Agnus Dei' by Michael W. Smith or 'My Jesus, My Saviour' by Darlene Zschech
- One Bible per person
- The music for 'Crown Him with Many Crowns' by Bridges and Thring

- Activity 3.6 On the lamb below, draw pictures or symbols of things in your community that entrap people. You may also want to include anything in your own life that comes between you and God.



Jesus, the lamb of God, has suffered for all of these things, and overcome the powers that cause them.

- Activity 3.7 Pray silently for one or two of the things you have drawn.

Responding

- Activity 3.5 Read Luke 24.36-53.

How do the disciples respond to Jesus' resurrection?



Why does their response change from fear (verse 37) to joy and worship (verse 52)?

What model do they provide for us?

Meeting the resurrected Jesus changed the disciples' understanding of salvation. The disciples were expecting a Saviour who would give them back their land and nation. Jesus' salvation was much bigger.

Jesus did not come to satisfy our personal wants. He came to set us free from the powers that enslave us: sin, death, and the devil.

Welcome and Worship

Place the *Agnus Dei* painting by Zurbarán in a spot where everyone can see it, and leave it there throughout the session. 'Agnus Dei' is the title of this artwork. It is a Latin title and means 'Lamb of God'.

Today's session considers Jesus' journey through suffering and death to the triumph of resurrection, and the disciples' journey from confusion to joy. We begin where the story begins, with suffering.

Using the painting, meditate silently for 2-3 minutes on the suffering of Jesus as our sacrificial lamb.



Close the meditation by listening to 'Agnus Dei' by Michael W. Smith, or 'My Jesus, My Saviour' by Darlene Zschech. Encourage everyone to give thanks for Jesus as they listen.

Reflecting Together

In the Gospel of Luke Jesus is called Saviour. The Saviour is the one who enables salvation. In the Bible, salvation refers to deliverance from captivity, danger, or death.

- Activity 3.1 What do you think of when you hear the word 'salvation'?

My view of salvation:



Then ask, what are the views of 'salvation' in the community around us and how do they influence your view of Jesus' salvation?

Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples helps us to understand how his death is an act of salvation. The Last Supper was a Jewish Passover meal. This meal recalls God's deliverance of his people out of slavery. This deliverance began with an act of judgment. God judged the people in Egypt for their sin, but passed over the Israelites because they had sacrificed a lamb and placed its blood on their homes. The lamb's blood protected them from judgement and death.

- Activity 3.2 Read and compare Exodus 12.1-13 and Luke 22.14-20.

What comparisons can be made between Jesus' body and blood, and the body and blood of the sacrificial lamb in Exodus?



After the Last Supper, Jesus is arrested, tried, and put to death.

- Activity 3.3 Read Luke 23.32-46. The criminals show two different responses to Jesus' death.

What do you notice about these responses?

What can you learn from them?

As our Saviour, Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sin: death. He conquered the power of death in resurrection. Luke's story of salvation reaches its climax in Jesus' resurrection.

Place the picture of the conquering lamb next to the *Agnus Dei* painting by Zurbarán.

- Activity 3.4 Compare the two pictures of Jesus as the lamb of God. They represent his journey from death to resurrection.

What do these pictures suggest about Jesus as your Saviour?

