



Discipling Disciple

Session 3 - The Prodigal Son



CHRIST CENTRAL

Part 1 (looking back: hospitality/catching up/review)

identity

worship

community

Spend time catching up with everyone's week – consider that eating food together can be a good context of building friendship and trust in the group. After everyone has shared a bit, ask how everyone found crafting and telling the story. This is the time for caring for those in your group, hearing about what's going on in their lives, asking questions, listening, and praying.

Prayer and worship

Spend some time at the beginning in worship – this can be singing together, or it can be declaring truths about God, each person reading a verse or psalm from scripture etc. This sets the tone for all that follows – we are engaging with the living God - not learning a syllabus.

Part 2 (Looking into God's word)

identity

mission

worship

i) **Ask 3 people to read the story out loud (in different versions)**

The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:1-32)

- ii) **Act out the story** - Talk about the characters in the story and choose them. If you know anything about the characters, talk about him / her
 - a. Determine where the scenes will be acted out and the spacing of the story
 - b. Act out the story with one person narrating
 - c. Act out the story at least one more time, with people switching parts. This time stop at crucial points in the story, and certainly at the main action(s) of the story that illustrate the main point of the story. Each time you stop consider how each of the characters must have felt. Describe the scene to each other a bit more, describing what everyone in the scene is doing.
 - d. If you forget parts of the story, the entire group can work together to remember what happened next, or what was said.

iii) **Ask the questions about the story**

- 1. What do you like about this story / what stood out to you?
- 2. What bothered you about this story?
- 3. What does this story show you about God?
- 4. What does this story show you about people?

Part 3 (application and commission)

identity

worship

mission

Ask the remaining questions:

- 5. If this story is true, what does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story? What is God showing you? What does this story show us about what it means to be a follower of Jesus? How will you respond? (it is really important to give time in this section for reflection and response. Don't settle for superficial answers, hopefully as you model honesty and vulnerability this will be imbibed by the group. However, you may want to help people go deeper, by asking some follow-on questions. Don't be afraid to do so.)
- 6. Who are you able to tell this story to?



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iv) Now, get each person to tell the story they have crafted

Encourage everyone in the group to think of people in their life whom they could retell the story to; mention that at the next session we will ask who was able to tell the story. Again, it is helpful to emphasise the reason for going and telling the story ourselves is that it is the best way for us to remember the story and we are learning these stories to share the gospel with others.

A note on Prayer

Make sure time is guarded to pray. You may want to do it at the beginning of the meeting or wait till the end.



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For next week

Try crafting the story when Jesus is tempted by Satan in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11, the story is also in Mark and Luke) using the story crafting process we gave you. When you do day 3 (experiencing the story) you could try going through the story as Jesus. What did it feel like to you to have journeyed with Him like that?

Notes for day 4

Read the following Old Testament passages in the following order:

- Exodus 16:1-12; 17:1-7
- (part of Moses' speech to the Israelites just before he died and they entered the Promised Land) Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 13-19, 8:1-6

How do these passages alter any perspective you may have on Jesus' use of scripture in the temptation story?

Why did Jesus fast for 40 days? Some would say it was about Jesus preparing for his ministry, but it also had a deeper symbolic purpose of contrasting Jesus' ability to obey God in the tough situations against Israel's inability to obey God while they were wandering for 40 years in the desert.

'Biblestudytools.com' notes: Satan's temptations were hedonism, egoism, and materialism. John the Evangelist in his epistle categorised these temptations as "lust of eyes" (materialism), "lust of body" (hedonism) and "pride of life" (egoism). Temptations intend to deceive and corrupt three main human characteristics; to think, wish and feel which are inside the mind, soul, and heart as Jesus alludes in the Greatest Commandment. These are related with transcendentals or ultimate ideals in three areas of human interests; science (truth), arts (beauty) and religion (goodness). Christians are called to seek for divine virtues; faith, hope, and love that link them directly to God who Himself is Truth, Beauty, and Goodness.