

WAY OF SERVANT-LEADERSHIP

SESSION 1: DEFINING SERVANT- LEADERSHIP FACILITATOR'S NOTES

8.45AM 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 today?
- 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!
- Who among the participants can we encourage to use their gifts in leading, praying, or facilitating today 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

- Meeting each other
- Gaining an overview of the course, who it is for and group values.
- Beginning to explore the concept and definition of leadership - positives and negatives.
- Learning how Scripture describes leadership, with an initial focus on the Old Testament.
- Understanding the meanings of leadership and ministry.
- Understanding the offer of mentoring for intentional discipleship alongside the course.



FOR THIS SESSION YOU WILL NEED

- TV / Laptop / Wifi
- Ppt for session 1
- White board if writing feedback.
- Handouts, or digital links to content booklet, Leadership and the Bible booklet and bookmark, Sharing my Experience Leaflet, DBS guides and bookmarks.
- Any prayer materials or visual focus.

9AM PREPARING MYSELF

You might like to reflect on Isaiah 6: 1-8, remembering that God is leading you as you seek to lead others:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

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

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

Father,

I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will.

Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all.

Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.

I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands,

without reserve,

and with boundless confidence,

for you are my Father. Amen.

Charles de Foucauld



9.30AM 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.

Invite people to turn off phones, take off watches if they wish as a sign of their availability to God.

Have a moment stillness together.

Play / sing / or read the words of "The Servant King" by Graham Kendrick, a song which expresses the servant-heart of God, and commits us to serving each other. A video with music and words can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0FSZ_iSYO8

Finish by leading a prayer committing the morning to God.

9.35AM INTRODUCTION - AIMS FOR THE MORNING

(You may want to miss this out if your group is less formal, or you are using the material one to one).

- Meeting each other
- Gaining an overview of the course, who it is for and group values.
- Beginning to explore the concept and definition of servant-leadership - positives and negatives.
- Learning how Scripture describes servant-leadership, with an initial focus on the Old Testament.
- Understanding the meanings of servant-leadership and ministry.
- Understanding the offer of mentoring for intentional discipleship alongside the course

Ask people to briefly introduce themselves, starting with you.

Start with practicalities – how you are going to communicate as a group / coordinate travel / where the fire escapes are.

Ask people to bring Bibles – approximate or the same version as much as possible – or provide them yourself.

Establish key values – honesty, safety, everyone's participation and input being encouraged, though only as much as they feel comfortable with, on the other hand people don't have to share if they don't want to, confidentiality, punctuality, no question is stupid, letting people know if not coming and any others you feel are important.

In pairs ask people to discuss two questions: Why are you here? Do you have any immediate questions?

Feedback to the group.



9.50AM 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, or adapt the bullet points, using your own material or approaches to reflect your context and teaching style.

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.

Cover the content, using the ppt or bullet points:

Who is this course for?

How does it work?

What will it cover?

What are some reservations we might have about the idea of servant-leadership, particularly within the church?

(You may like to do a brainstorm around this, writing down thoughts on a board, before sharing the ideas on the slides)

Why do human beings need servant-leadership?

Where is leadership found in the Bible?

(Please note that the more detailed focus this month should be on the Old Testament material - the material focussed on Jesus/New Testament will be part of the next two months' sessions. A part of this, you may like to ask people in pairs to discuss what we can learn about leadership from each of the characters mentioned, before showing the slide)

What does the Old Testament in particular show about servant-leadership?

How might we define servant-leadership?

What is the difference between ministry and servant-leadership

10.30AM 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:

Where are my areas of influence?

What questions do you have?

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



10.50AM DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Nehemiah 2:11-20 and 4: 12-23

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.

11.15AM PERSONAL RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR COMING MONTH.

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. But the following month 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.

11.25AM SIGNPOSTING

Point people to the content booklet for the session, the booklet on Leadership in the Bible and Bookmark.

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

Ask someone to volunteer to share some of their experience for 5 minutes next month - this will happen each session. There is a handout with instructions.

11.30AM CLOSING PRAYER

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

Read out Isaiah 6:1-8 to the group and pray the Lord's Prayer together (same version!)and/or the prayer of Charles de Foucauld.



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

