

'THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP' – 2010 LENT NOTES FROM THE LEPROSY MISSION

WEEK SIX - REVIEW AND REFLECTION

The following is a suggested programme for this final week; but how you conduct this review is entirely up to you.

Programme for Week Six

1. Open with a hymn/song, or listen to some reflective music. If it is not possible to do either of these, someone could read a suitable hymn. There is a list of suggested hymns at the end of this session.
2. Have a time of prayer – focusing on some of the themes covered during the last five weeks.
3. Review the past five weeks. Taking each week in turn, discuss the suggested questions below.

Week One – Lent and the temptations of Jesus

Bible passages: Matthew 4: 1-11

In this session you will have considered material temptation, the temptation of power and popularity and that of abusing power.

Look at **James 1: 12-15**. Here James mentions the consequences of either persevering under trial or giving in to temptation.



DISCUSS:

What are the benefits of resisting temptation and coming through a testing time? Do we need such times to grow spiritually and in character?

Week Two – The cost of being different

Bible passage: Read again Romans 12: 2

Paul mentions that the key to being different is to think differently. He also mentions a positive result of having a renewed mind.



DISCUSS:

Can you share examples of things we have rethought in the light of our faith? Have you become more conscious of God's will as a result of doing so? In what ways are you visibly different because you are a Christian?

Week Three – Speaking up for those without a voice

Our responsibility as Christians to confront poverty and injustice and to stand up for those who have no voice was considered.

Bible passage: Luke 4: 18-19

Here Jesus quotes from **Isaiah 61**, stating that his ministry will be good news to the poor and will bring freedom to the oppressed.



DISCUSS:

What can we do to make a difference to someone who is treated as a social outcast?

Week Four - The cost of giving

We can give our *time*, our *talents* or our *treasure*.

Bible passage: 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11

Paul makes it clear that giving should not be done legalistically but cheerfully. God will give to us so that we may give to others.



DISCUSS:

How can we be generous in a time of economic recession?

Week Five – Being a servant

Bible passage: Mark 10: 45

This verse reveals the motivation for Jesus ministry and the basis for our salvation that His servanthood achieved.



DISCUSS:

Can you make a list of what you can practically do to serve God and your neighbours?

Bible passage: Hebrews 12: 1b-3

All read this passage together

‘Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 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. Consider him who endured such opposition ... so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.’

Continue with a time of silence for reflection (some of the following quotations may be used to prepare the group).

Olive Wyton (British Anglican laywoman and devotional writer)

‘Silence is precious; but we have to pay the price it demands. Silence does not reveal its treasures until we are willing to wait in darkness and emptiness.’

Max Picard (German philosopher)

‘Silence is not simply what happens when we stop talking...when language ceases, silence begins. But it does not begin because language ceases. The absence of language simply makes the presence of silence more apparent.’

Robert Hugh Benson (1871-1914 - English Roman Catholic apologist)

‘It is in silence that God is known and through mysteries that he declares himself.’

Rowan Williams (Archbishop of Canterbury)

‘Any culture which is terrified – as ours is – of silence and aloneness is one in which the sense of human reality, human truth, is being eroded.’

After an appropriate time of silence, someone or the whole group can read the following passage.

Bible passage - Psalm 103

To conclude the group could share the following prayer together:

Heavenly Father,

We rejoice in the love that you show to us in our daily lives and give thanks for your many blessings. Great is Thy faithfulness.

Yet there is a challenge and a cost in following You. As we have reflected upon this over the past few weeks, may Your spirit give us wisdom and understanding as we seek to serve You. May our hearts and minds be further opened to Your will. Grant us wisdom and discernment so that we can use all that You have given us to be a blessing to others and bring honour and glory to Your name.

As we approach Easter we are reminded of the price Your Son paid at Calvary. His prayer at Gethsemane was intense and personal yet He was obedient to Your will for Him.

*May we too, be obedient disciples; ready and willing to serve You to the end.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen*

Suggested hymns/songs

All of these can be found in either *Methodist Hymns & Psalms* or *Complete Mission Praise*

<i>The church of Christ in every age</i>	Fred Pratt Green 1903-2000
<i>Lord Thy church on earth is seeking</i>	Hugh Sherlock 1905-1998
<i>The kingdom of God</i>	Bryn Rees 1911-1983
<i>From heaven you came</i>	Graeme Kendrick 1950 -
<i>Meekness and majesty</i>	Graeme Kendrick 1950 -
<i>For the fruits of His creation</i>	Fred Pratt Green 1903-2000
<i>O Lord the clouds are gathering</i>	Graeme Kendrick 1950-
<i>Ye servants of God</i>	Charles Wesley 1707-88
<i>Jesu, Jesu fill us with Your love</i>	T.S.Colvin 1925
<i>Go forth and tell....</i>	J.E.Seddon 1915-83
<i>Make me a channel of Your peace</i>	Based on a traditional prayer
<i>O Master let me walk with Thee</i>	Washington Gladden 1836-1918
<i>Tell out my soul</i>	T. Dudley-Smith 1926
<i>Lord for the years</i>	T. Dudley-Smith 1926
<i>Give me a heart that will love the unlovely</i>	G.E. Hutchinson