

Session Six. A Restored Conversation

In preparation:
Read pages 79-81 and appendices A & B.
Think which suggestions might work in your church as you look at Q 1 & 2 page 92.

Opening worship:
Read John 1:1-14.
Then read from page 81 John 1:1-14 revisited.

Pray for helpful and productive conversations.

Introduction:
Share in pairs if and how conversation in this course has helped your understanding of the value of talking about God and faith.

Share your thoughts on Q 1 & 2 on page 92.

Discuss suggestions fully.

Which suggestion seems to be one which could be pursued?

What steps need to be taken to do so?

Who will do it?

Close by re-reading page 79 as an introduction to a final commitment to conversation about God.

Read—as an act of commitment page 80.

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**Keep
talking**

Time To Talk of God

Recovering Christian conversation as a way of nurturing discipleship



A 6 week course designed for small groups using the Conference Report 'Time To Talk of God'

Date: January 2006

Each participant will need a copy of 'Time To Talk of God' (available from Liz Childs, District Mission Enabler 01469569770, elizachilds@tiscali.co.uk £2.50)

This booklet is offered as a suggested format for exploring the material and can be adapted as appropriate to your group.

The facilitator of the group should read the introductory paragraph to each session in advance so that 'in preparation' activities can take place.

Each session is designed to last one and a half hours starting with a Bible reading and opening prayer and ending with a time of quiet reflection.

Session Five. Conversations with Methodist Tradition

In preparation:
Read pages 56-63;
Look at Q.3 page 58 and think about your choices.

Introduction:
Ask everyone to share why they are the denomination they are.

Opening worship:
If possible sing or play a CD of one of your favourite hymns. Pray in the words of a familiar hymn.

Use the questions in the text omitting pages 60-61.
Or depending on your group, ask everyone to look again at the text and comment on anything new that they have discovered about Methodism.

The message of John Wesley was very relevant to and popular with the ordinary people. Is anything about Methodism relevant to C21 ordinary people and therefore worth talking about?

Look at the Covenant prayers on page 55.
What are the key differences between them?
Which do you prefer and why? Which aspects do you find most challenging?

Close by praying your chosen version of the Covenant prayer alone, slowly, pausing where you are particularly challenged.
Maybe use some background music.



Session Four. Conversations with Jesus

In preparation:
Read pages 44-49 and choose which Jesus conversation you would like to explore in the group.
Bring some food to share for an agape meal.



Introduction:
Divide group according to their choice of passage.

Opening worship Read only the passages you intend to use:

Mark 12:28-34, Mark 7:24-30, Mark 5: 24-34, Mark 12:41-44, Luke 14:7-14

Divide into groups according to chosen passages where possible.
Allow 20 minutes to answer questions for conversation.
Share your meal together. Read the Emmaus Road experience (Luke 24) and tell one another your answers to the question on page 50.
Pass bread and water around the group to complete the agape meal.

Close with a time of reflection, perhaps using page 51.

Session One. What do we mean by discipleship?

In preparation each member is asked to:

1. Read the ground rules on page 9 of Time To Talk of God
2. Read pages 16-19 of Time To Talk of God
3. Bring something which symbolises their membership of the church or their discipleship.

Opening Worship:
Read John 4: 1-42 (or extracts)
Leave time to reflect on the results of the conversations in this passage.
Prayer from page 10-11 (or your own).

Introductions:
Ask each member to introduce themselves, show their symbol and say a few words about what discipleship/membership means to them.

Look together at the quotes on pages 19-20 in Time To Talk of God and then explore the questions on page 21.

(Pick & mix the questions to suit your group. Individuals/twos and threes can do different questions).

Close with a time of quiet reflection using definitions of discipleship that have the greatest agreement.

Session Two. Getting People Talking



In preparation:

1. Read pages 25-26, 67-75 of Time To Talk of God.
2. Think about this question: Who really taught you the faith and attracted you onto the path of discipleship?

Opening worship:
 Read Luke 19:1-10 and think about what blocks you seeing Jesus.
 Prayer from pages 10-11

Introduction:
 Ask people to share in pairs their answer to 'In preparation' 2.

Ensure people have read the relevant pages. Starting with questions on page 27 (TTTG) explore with the group positive settings and opportunities to talk about faith. List on paper or flipchart those things that seem necessary for conversation to take place. Then move on to page 75 and in answering the questions avoid general criticism and encourage answers to question 3 (overcoming the blocks).

This has been a 'wordy' session. You may like to close with an action, eg lighting candles to represent overcoming the blocks to talking of faith, while quiet music enriches personal reflection.

Session Three. Conversations in Contemporary Culture

In preparation

1. Read pages 31-38 TTTG
2. Bring some old magazines to the group.

Introduction:
 Share in pairs the news item which has disturbed you most this week.

Opening worship
 Read Luke 20:19-26.
 Reflect and pray.

Divide people into 4 groups and assign each group a section from page 32 onwards. Allow 20 minutes for these discussions. In the whole group consider briefly the questions on page 39.

Use the magazines people have brought to create a collage of being a Christian in the contemporary world. Leave time to complete this activity and for people to comment on the creation.

Lots of opportunity for prayers of intercession will have arisen from this section, so close with a time of open prayer or a prayer activity of your choosing.