

Session 3: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ – Leaders notes

Diocesan Vision Course	Youth Companion
<p>Resources: Course members' materials, the vision course DVD, a DVD player, TV and pens. Optional: music for the prayer reflection at the end of the sessions</p>	<p>Extra Resources (in addition to those on the left): Coins Paper and pencils Large sheet of paper Felt pens</p>
<p>Session Outline: Welcome Opening Worship and Prayer including Vision Prayer Getting Started Bible Passage DVD Teaching input Growing in God Money Matters I will offer up my life Our Priorities Prayer Reflection Take it Away Material</p>	<p>Session Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To encourage young people to take stock of their current relationship with God ● To discuss what it means to be a disciple of Jesus ● To provide the opportunity to think about what Jesus has given for us and what we might give in response
<p>Welcome: (3 minutes)</p>  <p>Welcome back those who came last week and any new members to the group, and briefly recap last week's session.</p>	<p>Icebreaker Game: (6 minutes)</p> <p>In pairs, ask the young people to sit back to back. Give one (Person A) a few moments to think of something they consider valuable, and the other (Person B) a piece of paper and a pencil. Person A needs to describe it as accurately as they can in 4 minutes, while the other one tries to draw it.</p> <p>A quicker option could be to give Person A a coin (preferably from another country) and ask them to describe that to Person B.</p> <p>You could make this activity more complicated by not allowing Person B to ask questions.</p>
<p>Opening Worship and Vision Prayer: (3 minutes)</p>	<p>As a youth group you may wish to start with the prayer on the left or</p>

 <p>Begin the course in prayer and join together in praying the Diocesan Vision Prayer. Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.</p>	<p><i>say it together at the end of your session.</i></p>
 <p>Getting Started: (7 minutes) Looking at the picture in appendix 1, which vehicle best represents where you are on your faith journey? Talk in threes about your journey to becoming a follower of Jesus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were there key people who helped you? • Did it take a long time or did everything move very quickly? 	<p>Getting Started: (7 minutes) Following on from the ice-breaker, before using the questions about becoming a follower of Jesus, you may want to mention/briefly discuss how relationship with others help us grow, see things differently and learn new things. Then do the activity on the left.</p>
 <p>Bible Passage: Mark 8:34-38 (10 minutes) Invite someone in the group to read the following passage and then explore the Bible passage using either Option 1 or Option 2 below.</p> <p><i>³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.’</i></p> <p>Option 1 Jesus presents some tough teaching on Christian discipleship. In what ways have you grown as a disciple over the last 5 years? In what ways might we need to deny ourselves so that more of Christ can live in us? Can you identify any particular areas of your life where Jesus might need to be at work?</p>	<p>Bible Passage Discussion (10minutes) After reading the Bible passage to the left, ask the young people to read The Message paraphrase version: Mark 8:34-38 The Message (MSG) <i>³⁴⁻³⁷ Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for? ³⁸ “If any of you are embarrassed over me and the way I’m leading you when you get around your fickle and unfocused friends, know that you’ll be an even greater embarrassment to the Son of Man when he arrives in all the splendour of God, his Father, with an army of the holy angels.”</i></p> <p>After reading, discuss these questions:</p>

<p>Option 2 Jesus does not hold back in teaching His disciples the level of commitment He requires.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does He mean by 'take up his cross' and 'lose his life'? Is this over the top? 2. From Mark's account, how necessary is this level of commitment? 3. Discuss the implications of teaching this level of discipleship in our churches as normal for the Christian. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any words or phrases that stand out? • What do you think Jesus means when he says 'Follow me'? • Can you think of times when you have not felt in control of what was happening around you? • Why would Jesus ask us to be so vulnerable and allow Him to be in control of our lives?
<p>DVD Teaching input: (5 Minutes)</p>  <p>Play session 3 Making Disciples from the DVD</p>	<p>Watch the DVD in advance to see if you think your group will engage with it. If you don't think they will then skip this activity.</p>
<p>Growing in God: (12 minutes)</p>  <p>Use this introduction to set the scene for the next exercise. Just as seeds need good soil, water, light and the 'right' conditions to encourage germination and growth, so too our life with God can be nurtured by creating the right conditions for growth. Ultimately nurturing our relationship with God is like any other relationship; it flourishes through spending quality time with God.</p> <p>The list in appendix 2 includes some of the things that people find helpful in growing as a disciple. Fill in parts of the chart to describe your own ways of growing in God. What's going well? What could improve? What could you try? What doesn't work for you? Simply tick the box or make a note. You don't need to do all these and there is space to add your own ideas.</p> <p>When you have had some time filling in the chart you might like to share your responses in pairs.</p> <p>As you talk it would be helpful if you could identify (and possibly write down) some things that the church could take responsibility for doing to help people grow in their faith.</p>	<p>Growing in God: (10 minutes)</p> <p>Use the introduction to the left.</p> <p>If you decide not to use the list in appendix 2, as a group create a 'garden' together (drawn on a large piece of paper). Ask for ideas of times and ways they each spend time with God, or times they could and add a plant / tree / flower to the 'garden' with each idea. Using felt pens, each young person can add to the sheet (by writing or drawing) times and ways to grow their relationship with God, outside of the ordinary day routine – such as summer camps, school/college CU gatherings, or going on a monthly walk to pray with a friend.</p> <p>Ask if there are any things they are challenged to try, or that the church/group leaders could do to help them?</p>

Money matters: (8 minutes)



Jesus seems to indicate that one of the biggest challenges for us is around the issue of money and possessions.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’

‘No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.’

Matthew 6: 1-4, 19-21, 24-34)

The Bible talks about giving a proportion of your income to God’s work. Some groups suggest giving 5% of our income to the church and others recommend following the Bible’s teaching about tithing which involves giving 10% of what we have to God. Ultimately we need to decide with God what our level of giving should be. The Bible teaches that our giving to God should be realistic, planned, generous, regular and cheerful.

In most churches about 85% of the time, money, energy and prayer is given by about 15% of the people. Why do you think this is?

Money matters: (5 minutes)

Referring again to the ice breaker, discuss what is valuable to the young people and why.

Read the Bible verses (on the left)

Ask the group whether they think they could give anything to God’s work. You may want to focus on group giving, for example giving a proportion of tuck shop profit to charity, or doing a car wash with donated money going to the church work.

You may also want to highlight ways that they could be generous with other things that they value – giving some of their time, sharing some of their possessions. How could they offer things that they value as useful gifts to the group/church?

I will offer up my life: (10 minutes)



Giving isn’t just about money; it’s about offering ourselves totally to God. So as well as money we need to offer our time, talents, energy etc. to God. Underline some of the lyrics from these two hymns that you feel best express this idea.

*I will offer up my life
In spirit and truth,
Pouring out the oil of love
As my worship to You
In surrender I must give my every part;
Lord, receive the sacrifice of a broken heart*

I will offer up my life: (12minutes)

Chose one of the songs on the left and read the lyrics through to the group.

Give out paper and pencils/pens and ask the group to spread out. Then play* one or both of these songs, asking everyone to illustrate a line that stands out to them. (This could be anything from simply writing the words, drawing the image which comes to mind, to graffiti-style doodling!) Before you begin make the group aware that you will be sharing your doodling with each other during the next activity.

In their own space, in the silence after the song ends, ask each person to think and pray about these questions:
What could you offer to God and his church?

<p><i>Chorus:</i> <i>Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring</i> <i>To so faithful a friend, to so loving a King?</i> <i>Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung</i> <i>As a praise of Your name</i> <i>For the things You have done?</i> <i>Oh my words could not tell, not even in part</i> <i>Of the debt of love that is owed</i> <i>By this thankful heart</i></p> <p><i>You deserve my every breath</i> <i>For You've paid the great cost;</i> <i>Giving up Your life to death,</i> <i>Even death on a cross</i> <i>You took all my shame away,</i> <i>There defeated my sin</i> <i>Opened up the gates of heaven</i> <i>And have beckoned me in.</i></p> <p><i>Matt Redman © Copyright 1994 Thankyou Music</i> <i>Reproduced by permission</i></p> <p><i>Were the whole realm of nature mine,</i> <i>That were an offering far too small;</i> <i>Love so amazing, so divine,</i> <i>Demands my soul, my life, my all.</i></p> <p><i>From: When I survey the wondrous cross</i> <i>– Isaac Watts</i></p> <p>Individually, consider these questions: What could you offer to God and his church? Time? Talents? It would also be a good idea to consider what you are able to give financially to the work of the church.</p>	<p>Time? Talents? Energy? Finance? What things do you consider valuable which may be taking your time, energy and focus away from God? Are you challenged about letting go or cutting back any of them?</p> <p>*Matt Redman's 'I Will Offer Up My Life' can be found on the albums 'Survivor:Ten' and 'Blessed Be Your Name' among many others (available to purchase on iTunes or Google Play) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sncjRr1_xc&list=PLDSwJEKOvvWNVY4xx_XQxYw-9jOsWLOvt&index=10</p> <p>Isaac Watt's 'When I Survey The Wondrous Cross' can be found to purchase on iTunes or Google Play, or Tim Hughes' modernised version is also available. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=889jL3TsBsU</p>
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<p>Our Priorities: (8 minutes)</p>  <p>Make a note here of things that will help the congregation grow as disciples. Identify two or three things that you can do in the next year.</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>As a leader of the group, make sure these are fed back to the church leadership, PCC and parish priest.</p>	<p>Sharing our challenges: (5 minutes)</p> <p>Invite the group to come back together and, if anyone wants to, share something they have been challenged by during this session.</p> <p>If no-one wants to share, turn the focus on ways they can support each other over the next year.</p>
<p>Prayer Reflection: (6 minutes)</p>  <p>Slowly read the words of this song together and then pause for prayer which can either be silent or spoken aloud.</p> <p>Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring To so faithful a friend, to so loving a King? Pause and praise Jesus for who he is - his life, his nature and his example</p> <p>Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung As a praise of Your name For the things You have done? Pause and give thanks for Jesus' death and resurrections</p> <p>Oh my words could not tell, not even in part Of the debt of love that is owed By this thankful heart Pause and spend a few moments saying thank you to Jesus for the ways he has blessed your life. Pray that you will continue to grow as disciple.</p>	<p>Alternative Reflection (3minutes) :</p> <p>Collate the illustrations and doodles from the previous activity and lay them out like bricks in a wall. Read through the lines chosen by the young people as a prayer, repeating phrases if they come up more than once.</p> <p>End the reflection with the verse: Oh my words could not tell, not even in part Of the debt of love that is owed By this thankful heart</p>

Take it Away Material: (3 minutes)

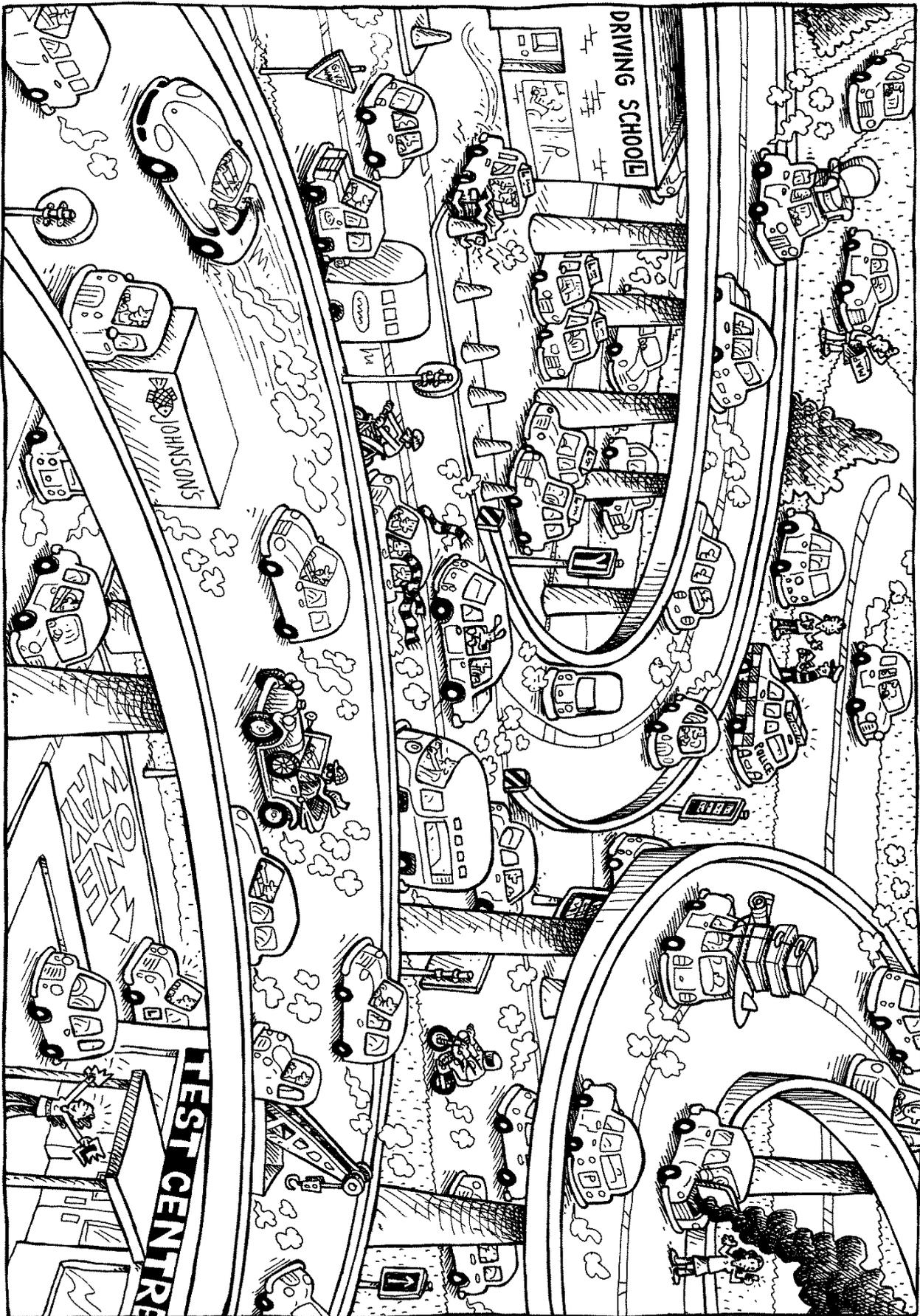


Encourage the group to use the following take away activity.
Every time you open your purse or wallet or get change from your pocket think about how much Jesus gave so that he could draw you into a relationship with him. You might like to have a version of 'When I survey the wondrous cross' on your CD player or MP3 player and listen to the hymn at least once every day.

Take it Away Material: (3 minutes)

Challenge the group with the activity on the left. Suggest to your group that they may want to choose a particular point in their daily routine e.g. paying for the bus or paying for lunch (even if they don't do this with physical money) to thank Jesus that he gave his life paying the price for our sin in a demonstration of ultimate love.

Appendix 1



Healthy Churches Transforming Communities – Blackburn Diocesan Vision 2026 Course
Leaders Notes Session 2

Appendix 2

Activity	I am doing ...	I could do this ...
Regular worship with others		
Bible Study (on your own)		
Bible Study (with other people)		
Private/personal prayer		
Praying at start/end of day. Giving the day to God and ending the day with God		
Setting aside a special time of the day to pray		
Praying with other people		
Special times (retreats or quiet days, Christian celebrations and/or conferences)		
Going on a pilgrimage		
Talking with a Christian friend		
Spiritual mentor/director		
Walking/being outdoors		
Reading Christian books		
Listening to music		
Listening to Christian music		
Serving/helping other people		
Being involved in Christian Leadership		
Listening to God		
Meeting in small groups		
Having somewhere where we feel close to God		
Keeping a prayer journal		
Other		
Other		
Other		

