

## Journey to Freedom

### Session 5 - Mountain

If you are following this course alone as opposed to part of a Lent Group, please ignore the sections in red.

#### **Gathering (10 minutes)**

*Welcome members of the group and ensure they all know each other.*

*You may like to give each group member a short time to say how they are and name any stresses or distractions that are on their hearts.*

#### **Prayer (5 minutes)**

*More confident leaders may wish to pray by name for every member of the group.*

*Pray this collect:*

Lord God our redeemer,  
who heard the cry of your people  
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery,  
free us from the tyranny of sin and death  
and, by the leading of your Spirit,  
bring us to our promised land.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Introduction (2 minutes)**

*Feel free to use your own words.*

#### **Scripture (10-15 minutes)**

Exodus 19, 16-25

*Read the scripture passage slowly and clearly. Encourage people to listen deeply to what God is saying to the through it.*

*After the reading, leave a long period of silence.*

*Invite people to name a word or a phrase that spoke especially clearly to them.*

#### **Talk (15-20 minutes)**

*Show this week's video.*

*If you can't make it work, don't panic! The text is on the website and the app. Just read it out to people, doing your best Bishop Philip impression!*

## Discussion (25 minutes)

*Either in the group or alone, reflect on these questions. **Keep the discussion moving so that there is enough time for all of the questions.***

- What words would you use to describe Moses' encounter with God on Mount Sinai?
- Where is your mountain? Where do you go to meet with Jesus?
- In the talk Bishop Philip identified three important ways in which we meet with Jesus:
  - Communal (being part of a church family)
  - Doctrinal (believing in what Jesus has done)
  - Personal (knowing Jesus personally as a friend)

Which of these matters most to you? Which do you need to work on?

- In the talk, Bishop Philip described five ways in which we can grow in our personal relationship with Jesus. These were:
  - Praying for the Holy Spirit
  - Making a Rule of Life
  - Using your imagination as you read the Bible
  - Using silence to listen to Jesus
  - Having a group of people with whom to pray and grow together in faith

Are any of these strengths for you?

Which one would most help you grow in your relationship with Jesus?

## Application (5 minutes)

*Keep a time of silence to reflect on what you will do to grow in your relationship with Jesus.*

## Looking Back (10 minutes)

The Lent Course is nearly over! Give some time to reflecting **together** on these questions?

- What most struck you in the course?
- What have you discovered about God or about yourself?
- What next steps might you take in your Christian life as a result of this Course?

## Prayer (10 minutes)

*Conclude by leading a simple service of Compline as below.*

*If you are leading a group that is meeting during the day, you may wish to use Prayer During the day which is [here](#).*

*(If you prefer to use traditional language, the order from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer can be found [here](#).)*

## **Preparation**

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.  
**Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.  
The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed  
and in what we have failed to do.  
Forgive us our sins,  
heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*The following or another suitable hymn may be said or sung*

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,  
From fears and terrors of the night;  
Tread underfoot our deadly foe  
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done  
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;  
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath  
Our souls are raised to life from death.

## **The Word of God**

### ***Psalmody***

*One of the following psalms may be used.*

### *Psalm 4*

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;  
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;  
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not;  
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness  
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'  
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart,  
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

### *Psalm 91 verses 1-7*

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings  
and you shall be safe under his feathers;  
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand,  
yet it shall not come near you.

## *Psalm 134*

1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦  
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦  
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦  
give you blessing out of Zion.

*At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## *Scripture Reading*

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there was something like a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. God did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; also they beheld God, and they ate and drank.

*Exodus 24, 9-11*

*Silence is kept*

## *Responsory*

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
**I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

## **The Gospel Canticle**

*The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said*

**All Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

*Luke 2.29-32*

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

## **The Prayers**

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

### *The Collect*

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;  
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,  
and may your blessing be always upon us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer ([here](#)) may be said.*

## **The Conclusion**

In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
**for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,  
**so do we look for you, O Christ.**

The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;  
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.  
**Amen.**