

## SESSION 3    READING THE BIBLE – A SIMPLE GUIDE    LEADER'S NOTES

### *Before the session*

1. Familiarise yourself with READING THE BIBLE – A SIMPLE GUIDE.
2. Plan how you will lead the opening and closing prayers.
3. Plan how you will lead your group at sections 6 and 7. Think of the process and timings.
4. Make copies of any Bible reading or reference material for the group.
5. Model generous hospitality

### *Note on timings*

These are a rough guide only. No specific time has been given for refreshments.

### *At the session*

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

**5 minutes**

*Remember:*    \*Confidentiality ground rules            \*Introductions            \*Programme and timings

#### **2. Opening prayer**

**(5) minutes**

You may wish to keep the opening prayer brief (less than five minutes) as there is a longer prayer exercise later in the session.

#### **3. Outline the aims of Gathering □ Growing □ Going**

**3 minutes**

(Please refer to the Leader's Resources for additional information).

In essence, this course offers us an opportunity to re-acquaint ourselves with the basic truths, values and practices of Christianity. Its purpose is that we can become sure of what we know and grow more confident in our ability to live and share our faith.

#### **4. A brief description of the week's topic**

**2 minutes**

A central part of the diocesan vision is that we grow more like Jesus. Christians have always turned to the Bible as the core text through which one may encounter God's wisdom and guidance – and as the place where Jesus is most clearly presented.

#### **5. Contextual Bible Study: The poetry of Isaiah**

**30 minutes**

For details see Leader's Resources, page 6.

#### **6. Hand out the leaflet, 'Reading the Bible – A Simple Guide'**

**10 minutes**

Allow the group time to read the leaflet.

Guide the group to discuss the content in either twos, small groups or plenary.

#### **7. A Biblical exercise from READING THE BIBLE – A SIMPLE GUIDE**

**10 minutes**

Either            Holy Reading (Lectio divina): Ephesians 3.14 –21 (A prayer for the Ephesians)

or                Ignatian Meditation: Mark 4.35 - 41 (Jesus calms the storm).

For details see Leader's Resources, pages 9 and 10

Encourage discussion/sharing in small groups after the exercise

#### **8. What next?**

**5 minutes**

How might this leaflet be used as a resource for your church or Ministry Area.

How will you achieve this?

#### **9. Closing Prayer**

**5 minutes**