

## BIBLE STUDY 7: Closing ideas for worship & reflection

This section is not laid out as a bible study but aims to remind the group of what they have been learning through the previous bible studies. The following passages are a selection of the passages which remind us that once we were strangers but now have been brought into a loving relationship with God. As a means of encouraging the group to reflect on all that they have learnt, ask different members to read some/or all of these passages.

1. Deuteronomy 26:6-11
2. Exodus 22:21-23
3. Matthew 25:35-40
4. Matthew 2:13-15
5. Luke 14:12-14
6. Hebrews 13:1-3, 12-14
7. Hebrews 11:8-10, 15-16

Now read together in response the following Psalm:

Psalm 146:5-10

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
6 who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith for ever;  
7 who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

9 The LORD watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

10 The LORD will reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

Time of Reflection: Bringing our

thoughts to the cross

As a reminder of what Christ has done for us read together the following passage:

Romans 5:6-11

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.\* 10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Each member of the group is given out 3 gift tags. On the first gift tag, they write an attitude that they had about ethnic minorities in the past that they feel they need to repent off. After everybody has written this attitude, one by one, they bring this gift tag up to the wooden or large cardboard cross and hang it around the nail on the left arm.

Ask the members to then write on their next gift tag something that they have learned from the time of reflection either today or during the series. It can be in the form of a prayer or just in the form of a thought. Then one by one they hang their gift tags around the nail on the right arm.

Finally ask the members to write a prayer about how they would like to change for the future: some attitude

that they need God's help to work on: some practical way in which they can reach out to the stranger in their community. One by one, these tags are hung around the nail on the top central beam of the cross.

Prayer

Father God, we bring to you our false attitudes that we have had about people who are different from us. We pin these to the cross to remind ourselves that we need to put these sinful attitudes to death. We also bring to you our hopes and aspirations for the future that you will help us to demonstrate the sacrificial love that Christ demonstrated upon the cross and that the message of the cross will transform our living and our loving. Help us Lord, in Jesus' name, amen.