

Session Outline

general format & session suggestions

materials needed

- *Countering Pharaoh* DVD
- DVD player and TV monitor (or projector and screen)
- Participant handouts printed from the *Countering Pharaoh* materials CD
- *OPTIONAL: Whiteboard or flipchart for discussion session*

group size

There is no prescribed size for groups using *Countering Pharaoh*. Remember, too many participants tends to bog down the conversation and prevent open dialogue. The group should be divided into pairs or smaller groups for discussion.

facilitator

See the Role of the Facilitator pdf on the materials CD

curriculum components

Each session of *Countering Pharaoh* offers a number of curriculum components that can be used by facilitators to maximize the effectiveness of the material and customize each session to the unique character of each group. These components can be “mixed and matched” to fit your group’s personality, time constraints, etc.

Warm-up Questions

The *Countering Pharaoh* DVD has nearly a dozen “Warm-up Questions” for use in any way the facilitator sees fit. The session outline suggests letting the class randomly pick one or two of the questions before starting each session. Several of the questions fit well with the themes of the sessions and might be viewed as “bonus material” at the end of the regular session, time permitting.

Orientation Texts

Each handout notes specific Biblical texts mentioned in that session’s DVD material. The participants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these texts at the beginning of the session (see “session format” below). Unless otherwise noted, scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version.

Active Listening Component

Each handout lists a number of concepts or vocabulary for the participants to listen for during the video and jot down a quick definition or comment. These can be discussed at the end of the video or elsewhere in the session.

Questions

After viewing the DVD, the questions provided can help direct the conversation of the group.

Countering Pharaoh

At the end of each participant guide is the same action item: "Name one discipline that you will commit to between now and your next meeting". This exercise intends to make the material in each session practical for the participants.

session format

OUTLINE

Countering Pharaoh has been designed to be a flexible resource that can be utilized in a variety of settings, seasons, and scheduling situations. Below is a session outline that would be appropriate for most situations.

Ideal for a Sunday morning class or other situation where 45 minutes to one hour of time is available, adapt the following schedule to your situation.

- a. If time allows and your group is so inclined, prime the conversation with a random "Warm-up Question" or two from the DVD. Open the floor to comments. (10 minutes)
- b. When ready to begin, have a participant or two read the Orientation Texts to the group. (5 minutes)
- c. Note the active listening items with the group and remind participants to listen for these words or concepts and their meanings.
- d. Watch the DVD in its entirety. (approximately 12 to 20 minutes)
- e. Divide into pairs or small groups to discuss the active listening items and the questions provided.
- f. Bring the pairs/groups back together to discuss their answers all together.
- g. As a group, identify several ideas Brueggemann suggests in this session for countering Pharaoh today.
- h. Have participants share with the group what discipline they intend to practice between now and the next session that will "Counter Pharaoh" today.
- i. Depending on the tradition and comfort level of your group, choose one of the following:
 - 1) quiet time / meditation
 - 2) contemplative prayer
 - 3) intercessory prayer, etc.

BONUS QUESTIONS for going deeper.

These questions are appropriate at almost any time in the course of the discussion:

- *What has this session challenged or changed about the way you think about the divine?*
- *About people?*
- *About the Church?*
- *About yourself?*
- *The relationship of all these?*

NOTE: Any time you're stuck or want to take things in a different direction, open the floor for observations with open-ended questions like:

What jumped out at you? What caught you by surprise? What idea or comment did you disagree with? Why? What comment caused you to breathe a sigh of relief? Why?

As people head out the door:

If the material has not already been handed out or emailed for the whole series, don't forget to hand out the next session's material. Confirm location, time, etc. for the next gathering.

