

Ripple
Effect

MODULE 2 | **Jesus & Conversation**

Leaders Guide

Module Overview

MODULE 2 | Jesus & Conversation

This module is designed to help you prayerfully proclaim the good news of Jesus by connecting the gospel to everyday conversations.

1. Deeper Relationships
2. Deeper Conversations
3. Creation and Identity
4. Fall and Brokenness
5. Redemption and Security
6. Re-creation and Hope
7. Transformation and Change
8. Prayer and Intentionality

Each session includes these components:

1. **INTRO.** Each session starts with a short training video.
2. **TRAIN.** Build our confidence and competence in evangelism by working through Biblically grounded training material.
3. **SHARE.** Talk through evangelistic opportunities in the past week, whether these are stories of successes, 'fails,' or simply interesting conversations with potential.
4. **PRAY.** Praise God for His love, salvation, and the privilege of evangelism. Ask God to save our family and friends and speak through us to them.
5. **HOMEWORK.** Revisit session content from a different angle to consolidate our learning.

Module Goals

- Learn a gospel framework to help us better understand what God has done for us in Christ.
 - So that we continue to grow closer to God and more willing and able to glorify Him.
- Learn how to make connections between core gospel truths and everyday conversation.
 - So that we can naturally and organically nudge conversations to Jesus and the difference knowing Him makes.
- Pray for our family and friends who don't know Jesus yet.
 - So that they might share in knowing Jesus with us.

Tips for Leading

Tips for leading will be in italics in this Leaders Manual. They'll include tips about leading, possible trajectories for answers and ideas about how you could particularise the session for your group.

As you move through the material, you'll get an idea of where your group should spend more time or less time. You can shift the order of the Train, Share and Pray blocks to meet the needs of your group best. Just think clearly about how you connect these components if you do. All of them are important. Be careful not to always cut one of these sections short.

General tips for effective weekly Ripple Effect sessions

1. *Set some group expectations. For example, listening to and not interrupting others when they are speaking. If there is disagreement, it should be expressed gently and respectfully. Keeping to the agreed start and finish time. Letting the group know if you are unable to attend a session. Etc*
2. *Lock in a regular meeting time and place with your group and commit to it.*
3. *Don't panic if it feels clunky at the start. People will get to know each other.*
4. *Avoid running over time because it discourages people from attending. Set a timer if you need to and don't feel the need to cover all the material every session.*
5. *Doing the homework each week will help consolidate what you've learnt.*
6. *Perhaps you could encourage other groups members to lead one of the later sessions? Ripple Effect is about peer-to-peer encouragement. You don't need to be an expert evangelist to facilitate a session. You just need to be willing to prepare and share.*

Session 1

Deeper Relationships

We all have unique, God-given opportunities to share Jesus and our life with people. Prayerfully making the most of them.

Module Introduction

We may not all be gifted evangelists (although some of us are!) but we all have a unique set of opportunities to share our lives and Jesus with those around us.

In this module we seek to make the most of these God-given opportunities by learning how the gospel connects with everyday conversations in ways that are organic and natural. God-willing, it will also help us grow in our own faith as we better understand how knowing Jesus intersects with all aspects of our lives.

Introduce yourself to the group and share something about why you are participating in Ripple Effect.

- What do you think of when you hear the word 'evangelism'?
- How do you feel about evangelism?

Listen well to the answers people give. It will help you understand what they want from this module and any apprehension they have about evangelism. Some people may have had negative experiences with being evangelised or when evangelising.

As the leader, you can set the tone for the group by being honest and vulnerable.

At the end of the discussion, set some group expectations. For example, listening to and not interrupting others when they are speaking. Giving permission for disagreement when it is expressed gently and respectfully. Keeping to the agreed start and finish time. Letting the group know if you are unable to attend a session. etc.

Many of these group expectations will also be relevant in evangelism.

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 1.

- What did you learn from Martine's experience of evangelistic conversations?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Deeper Relationships?

Everyone has unique opportunities to share Jesus and life with the people around them. In today's session we will ask God to help us 'see' the people he has placed in our lives, commit to praying regularly for them, and start intentionally seeking to deepen our relationship with them.

Share

If there are more than 4 people in your group, plan how to divide up the group for this section and set the 'timer' accordingly. Depending on the people in your group, pairs can be quite intense. You might keep the same groups for the entire module, or you could mix up the groups each session. Do what's best for your group.

Encourage people to stick to a couple of minutes. It will be too much time for some people and not enough for others. This is only session 1. There will be plenty of time to share in coming sessions. Time constraints also reflect the reality that when it comes to evangelism, we are often working with limited windows of time.

Take notes of how each person answers these questions. It will help you know how to lead the group in coming weeks.

This is our first session so we will spend some time getting to know each other. Introduce yourself to the group and share something about the key people God placed in your life to help you become or grow as a Christian. They might be family, friends, church leaders, etc.

- What did they say to you about Jesus?
- How did they live for Jesus in ways that were striking?

Don't feel like you need to cover all these areas; they are just prompts. There will be plenty of time in coming sessions to hear more about each other! Set a timer and give each person five minutes.

God placed *these* people in *our* lives to help us come to know and love Jesus. God also places *us* in *other* people's lives to help them come to know and love Jesus. Using the Relationship Network Worksheet at the end of this session, spend five minutes 'seeing' the people that God has placed in your life who don't yet know Jesus.

- From this worksheet, choose five people that you see or could see regularly to pray for.

Encourage group members to choose people they see or talk with regularly. For the purposes of this course, that gives everyone the best chance of making progress in sharing about Jesus. In saying that, God might well surprise us with who He's at work in!

- Choose one of these people and tell the group a little about them, and your relationship with them. What do you talk about with each other? As you share, please remember to respect people's privacy!

Keep an eye on the time. We don't need to know everything about people, just enough to start praying for them. This is early in the module. We'll get to know not just each other, but each other's friends, over time.

- Keep a note of each other's friends so that you can pray for them.

Train

We'll now turn to the Bible and read Paul's description of how and why he shared the gospel with the Thessalonians. **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13.**

1. Why did Paul live with them and speak to them about Jesus?
 - *He's been entrusted with God's gospel. He wants to please. 4-5*
 - *Because he loves them. 8*
 - *He wants them to live lives worthy of God, who calls them into His kingdom. 12*
2. What images does Paul use to describe how he feels about the Thessalonians?
 - *Family language. Brothers and sisters; Father and mother; Gentle as a child.*
3. How do Paul's words and life demonstrate his love for the Thessalonians?
 - *He loved them, which meant he shared life with them and the gospel about Jesus. 2.8*
 - *He spoke the gospel/word of God to them. He spoke with honesty and integrity. He spoke words of encouragement and comfort. 5-6, 12*
 - *He lived with them. He was gentle and caring. He was not a burden to them. He lived with integrity. He was holy, righteous, and blameless before them. 7-12*
4. What was Paul's role in the Thessalonians becoming Christian? What was God's role? (See also 1 Thessalonians 1:4-6.)
 - a. Paul's role
 - *He spoke God's word with integrity, and he lived with integrity as a follower of Jesus.*
 - b. God's role
 - *God provided the words, enabled the speaker, and enabled their response.*

5. What do you find encouraging about this passage? What do you find challenging?

These last paragraphs are a summary of the Bible teaching. Use it to pull things together and pick up on anything that may have been missed.

Because Paul wanted to please God and because he loved the Thessalonians, he shared the gospel and his life with them. As Paul spoke the words God gave him, with the help God gave him, God's Spirit worked in the Thessalonians to bring them to faith. God changed Paul and the impact of that rippled through every relationship and conversation he was in.

In this module we will ask God to do the same things in and through us, as we intentionally share our lives with the people God places around us.

We will seek to share the gospel with integrity and gentleness as we build real relationships of trust and love. God-willing, we will discover that our unique histories and experiences, in our unique network of relationships, give us unique opportunities to lovingly share our lives and Jesus with others.

May the gospel of grace ripple through our words and lives, and then out from us to the people around us.

Pray

You might need to sound out how comfortable people are with praying aloud in a group. If you need to, encourage them to write down one thing to thank God for and then read and pray their one sentence prayer.

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

- | Thank God for those who shared their life and the gospel with you.
- | Thank God for those who you can share your life and the gospel with.
- | Ask God to help you so say with Paul: Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.
- | Pray for each other and each other's friends.

Some members of the group may feel more comfortable praying out loud than others. Please remember that a one-sentence prayer written down and read out is just as authentic as a five-minute prayer prayed spontaneously.

Homework

→ Complete the Relationship Network Worksheet.

As the group facilitator, please set up a group chat on social media or a messaging app so that you can communicate prayer points and encouragements to each other during the week. It would be a good idea for you to be the one initiating discussion this week. Perhaps by sharing some of the things you discovered as you completed your Relationship Network Worksheet. Perhaps ask for prayer about a conversation you had or will have. etc.

Discuss why the homework is important and how much time people should spend on it. It needs to be quick enough for people to fit it in their week, but long enough to be useful. The homework is designed to consolidate learning by approaching the session content from a different perspective. It also encourages people to think about evangelism during the week and not just in Ripple Effect sessions.

After Session Reflection

- *How comfortable are people sharing and praying?*
- *How competent are people at reading the Bible?*
- *What went smoothly and what do I need to rethink?*
- *What can I do or change to make the sessions run more smoothly?*

As you move through the material, you'll get an idea of where your group should spend more time or less time.

- *You can shift the order of the Train, Share and Pray blocks to meet the needs of your group best. Just think clearly about how you connect these components if you do. All of them are important. Be careful not to always cut one of these sections short.*
- *You'll work out which person speaks first or longest or most authoritatively etc. As you learn more about the people in your group, consider the best way to handle group dynamics so that everyone is encouraged to share.*

Relationship Network Worksheet

Unless we pause and reflect, we may not realise the opportunities that God has given us to proclaim the gospel to others.

Use the following diagram to:

- | identify the different relationship networks in your life.
- | list the names of people who aren't Christian that you know in your network.

As you look at your relationship network, ask yourself 'Is my list broad enough?'

Here are some ideas to broaden your list.

- | someone who catches the train at the same time you do.
- | an old school friend you saw at a wedding.
- | someone who walks the dog at the same park.
- | a 'blast from the past' whose name appeared in your Facebook feed.
- | a person at the gym.

As you look at your relationship network:

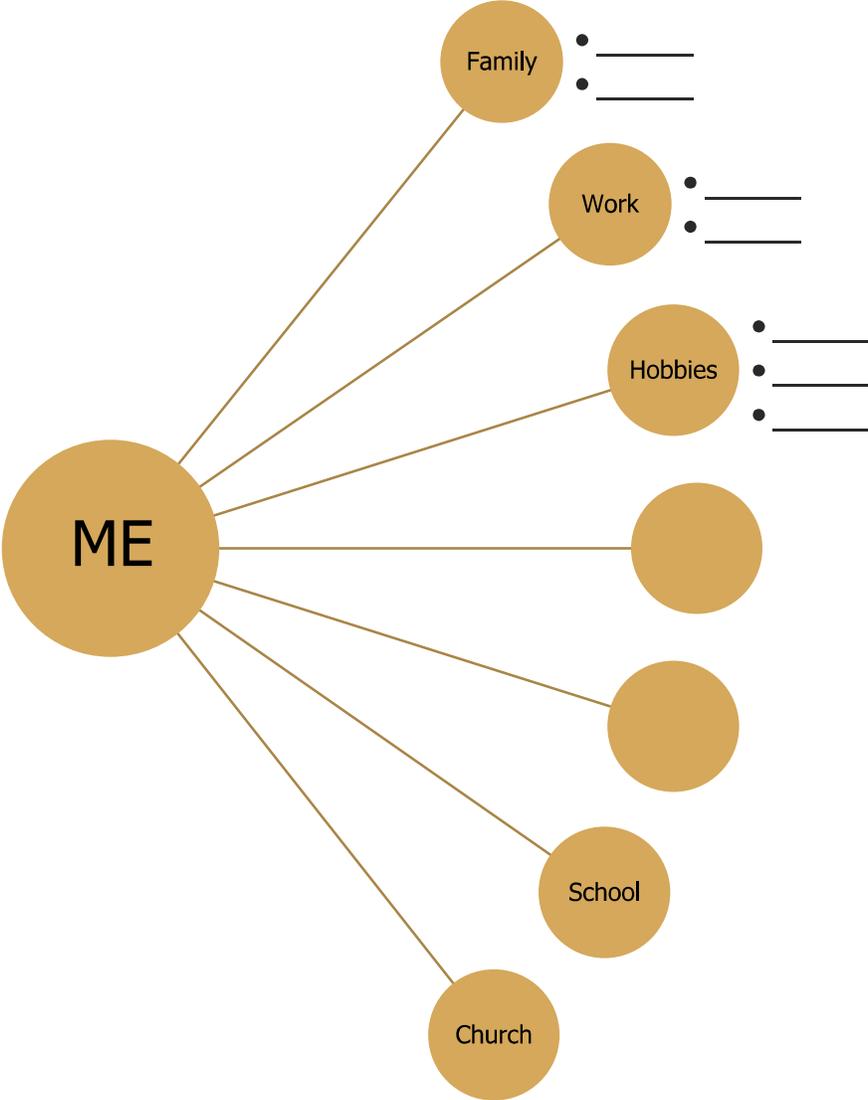
- | underline the names of people you see regularly, even if you don't know them very well yet.
- | circle the names of people you expect to see next week.

→ **Choose 5 of these people to pray for regularly.**

→ **Reflect**

1. How might their lives be better if they knew Jesus?
2. Where and when do you see them?
3. What do you talk about?
4. How can you start to be more intentional in the way you share Jesus and your life with them?

Try to be specific in your answers to these questions.



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