



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.

# Session 4

## Fall and Brokenness

*Sin damages our relationship with God and breaks our bodies, communities, and world. Acknowledging our sin and its consequences.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 4.

- What did you learn from Linh’s experience of evangelistic conversations?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Fall and Brokenness?

We are continuing to reflect on the main stages of God’s story: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Re-creation.

Last session we looked at Creation and what it tells us about who we are. We looked at it from two perspectives:

- 1) God’s story and what the Bible says about us and our world, and
- 2) My story, and how we know, experience, and live out these truths in our own life.

We connected Creation with everyday words like identity and purpose.

	<b>God’s story:</b> How does the Bible answer these questions?	<b>My story:</b> How do I answer these questions? How do my friends answer these questions?
<b>Creation and Identity</b>	<p>What does Jesus think about us and our world?</p> <p>How does Jesus enable us to be children of God?</p>	<p>Who am I? Who are we?</p> <p>What is my (our) purpose?</p> <p>Why do I matter? Why do you matter?</p>

When we read the Bible, we tend to move from God’s story to Our story. In conversation we tend to move in the opposite direction, *from* Our story *to* God’s story.

- Share with the group one of the possible conversation trajectories you worked on in homework. Help each other come up with more or better questions.

## Train

### God's Story: Fall

This session we focus on the second stage of God's story – the Fall. This is the Bible's answer to the question 'what is wrong with the world?' and 'why is the world so broken?'

**Read John 9.** We get a snapshot of life in a broken and dark world.

1. What happens? Is there anything that surprises you?

*Use this question to outline what happens so that everyone starts in the same place.*

*Jesus gives sight to a man born blind but the religious authorities don't believe Jesus did it, so they question the miracle and try to pressure people to change their story. Their questions help the man better understand who Jesus is and grow his conviction to follow Jesus. He eventually comes to see the real Jesus and worship Him.*

2. What aspects of the world's brokenness has this man experienced?

- *Physical brokenness of blindness and poverty.*
- *Relational brokenness.*
  - *People blame him for his blindness by assuming he's a sinner.*
  - *His parents abandon him under pressure rather than celebrating with him.*
  - *The Pharisees use their power to harass and pressure him.*
- *Perhaps also spiritual brokenness if he too wondered whether he did something to deserve this blindness.*

3. What sins do we see in the Pharisees?

- a. In their treatment of the man and his parents.

- *Abuse of power. Threats. Intimidation. Accusations. Rejection.*

- b. In their opinion of themselves.

- *Pride in their own rules and knowledge. They judge Jesus by their own standards and refuse to be questioned or consider whether they are wrong. Even when they can't deny the healing.*

- c. In their opinion of Jesus.

- *They look at the good that Jesus did and call Him a sinner.*
- *They don't care that Jesus has healed a man. They just care that Jesus doesn't play by their rules. Because He*

*does not keep the rule they made about the Sabbath.  
 Note: The Sabbath is about rest with God in His world.  
 Jesus gives this man rest and peace by restoring his sight.*

4. In the end, there are two responses to Jesus' life-giving, light-giving work. What are they and what are the consequences of each?
  - a. Response 1
    - *Blind man responded by worshipping Jesus.*
    - *He sees Jesus for who He is – literally and metaphorically – and responds with worship.*
    - *He gives glory to God by telling the truth about the Jesus he met.*
  - b. Response 2
    - *The Pharisees are wilfully blind even though they claim to see.*
    - *They embrace and justify their sin rather than acknowledging and repenting of it and so remain guilty of sin and under God's judgement.*

This healing is a dramatic illustration of who Jesus is and the work He came to do. Jesus opened the man's eyes because He is 'the light of the world' who does the 'works of God.' Yet the Pharisees, in sinful arrogance, denied their need for Jesus and/or evidence of Jesus. Instead, they blindly and futilely trusted their own knowledge and goodness. They accused others of sin while seeking to justify their own. Consequently, they remain guilty of sin, and under God's judgment, for the way they treated Jesus and other people.

When Adam and Eve rejected their life-giving God, they not only damaged their relationship with Him and each other, they damaged the fabric of creation. We still feel the impact of God's judgment on their sin, and ours, in our broken bodies, communities and world.

Further, since *all of us* go through life as both victims *and* perpetrators of sin, God's commitment to judge sin is both a source of comfort and threat. A comfort because those who harm us will be held to account. A threat because we too will be held to account for the way we have treated God and others.

Sin and its consequences ripple through every aspect of our lives.

Thank God for the life-giving, light-giving work of Jesus. "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:1 NIV)

***Our Story: Brokenness – What is wrong with me and the world?***

God’s story tells us that the brokenness we experience flows from human sin and God’s judgement on it, and that the right response is to worship Jesus and receive the life, light and forgiveness that He offers.

Our friends might not talk about sin and God’s judgement, but they do know that the world is broken. They ask questions like ‘What is wrong with us?’ and ‘Why can’t we fix things?’. Conversations about guilt and failure, pain and suffering, are an opening for the gospel.

Choose one conversation topic in the table below and use the Conversation Spiral to plot a possible conversation trajectory. If one of your group members is in a real-life conversation about the brokenness of the world, then use that one.

General question / topic	Specific questions about the heart, feelings and personal impact.	God Question Part A: Questions about values, opinions and the meaning of life.	God Question Part B: Direct questions about God, Creation and Identity.
	Our story	→	God’s story
<b>The injustice I see in the world makes me angry.</b>	Where do you see injustice?  How have you been affected by injustice?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>	What would a just world look like?  Can humans and human courts deliver real justice?  Is there an ultimate justice?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>	If there is a God, do you think he is angry at the way people treat him and each other?  Did you know that Jesus was a victim of injustice Himself?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>
<b>What goes around comes around.</b>	Why do you say that?  Is this true in your life?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>	Do people always get what they deserve?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>	If God gives and sustains life, what might he deserve?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>

<b>I'm not perfect, but I'm not that bad either.</b>	<i>What makes you say that?</i>  <i>How do you define perfect?</i>	<i>Who decides what is good or bad?</i>	<i>Do you think God would agree with you?</i>
<b>It's very sad that there are so many wars in the world.</b>			
<b>Your own topic –</b>			

The ideas we have discussed under Fall and Brokenness could connect with conversations about:

- War, disease and suffering.
- Injustice.
- Guilt and shame.
- How good (or bad) people are.
- Anger, bitterness and disappointment.

**Share**

Today we'll share stories about the evangelistic opportunities God gave us this week. Some might seem like successes; others might feel like failures. Some might be interesting conversations we'd like to pray about and then pick up again in the future.

- What opportunities has God given you to share Jesus with others this week?
  - *If people can't answer this, they might be able to share something about the next two points.*
- Which people would you like to share Jesus with next week? When will you talk with them?
- Think of (one of) the people you are praying for.
  - What do they complain about, or get angry about?
  - What would they say is 'wrong' with their life and the world?
  - Who do they blame for this brokenness?

Take brief notes to remind you of what to pray for. Consider breaking up into groups of three to four people.

## Pray

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:17-18 (NIV)

Our passage today reminds us that Jesus needs to open our eyes so that we can see our need for the life and forgiveness that only He can give.

- | Thank God for opening our eyes to help us see the forgiveness and healing that Jesus gives us.
- | Pray for each of your friends by name: pray that God will open their eyes to their need for Jesus and that He will enable them to come to Him for forgiveness and healing.

## Homework

### *God's Story*

- **Read Mark 7:14-23 and Luke 13:1-8.**
  - Using these passages and our discussion on John 9, have a go at answering these questions:
    - What is wrong with me (us)?



- Why is the world so broken?
- Who is to blame?
- Why can't we fix things?

***Our Story***

Choose one topic that you talk about with your friend that relates to Fall and Brokenness. Use the Conversation Spiral to work out questions you could ask in your next conversation about this.

OR

Choose one of the other topics suggested in the session that we didn't work on.

<b>General question / topic</b>	<b>Specific questions</b> about the heart, feelings and personal impact.	<b>God Question Part A:</b> Questions about values, opinions and the meaning of life.	<b>God Question Part B:</b> Direct questions about God, Creation and Identity.
	<b>Our story</b>	→	<b>God's story</b>

### ***After Session Reflection***

*If the Training material always blows out and you run out time for sharing and praying, speed it up. We're not doing a detailed exegesis of the text. Annoying as that will be for some in the group. We're looking for key themes from each stage in God's story that we can connect to conversation. Park detailed text questions for another time.*

*If the Sharing section takes too long because everyone has 50 stories about evangelistic conversations or attempts at one .... how fantastic! Isn't our God good! But, maybe do the training as one big group and then break into smaller groups of 3 or 4 to share and pray.*

*If Sharing takes too long because you end chatting about life in general..... well, sometimes that's what you need to do to look out for each other. But maybe find a time to catch up for coffee!*

*If praying takes too long ... seriously, if that's what's happening, that's fantastic. Go for it. But if prayer is always being cut short, work out where to cut back on training and sharing. Praying is too important. We're inviting our friends into a relationship with the living God. That can only happen when He softens people hearts. To use John 9, people only become Christian when Jesus opens their eyes to own sin and need, and to His goodness, mercy and grace. Pray, people!*

# Summary Table

**Key Concepts and Questions for each gospel theme.**

	<b>God's story:</b> How does the Bible answer these questions?	<b>My story:</b> How do I answer these questions? How do my friends answer these questions?
<b><i>Creation and Identity</i></b>	<p>What does Jesus think about us and our world?</p> <p>How does Jesus enable us to be children of God?</p>	<p>Who am I? Who are we?</p> <p>What is my (our) purpose?</p> <p>Why do I matter? Why do you matter?</p>
<b><i>Fall and Brokenness</i></b>	<p>What is sin and what are its consequences?</p> <p>What does Jesus think and feel about our broken world?</p>	<p>What is wrong with me (us)?</p> <p>Why is the world so broken?</p> <p>Who is to blame?</p> <p>Why can't we fix things?</p>



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