



Ripple
Effect

MODULE 1 | **Jesus & Me**

Leaders Guide

Module Overview

MODULE 1 | Jesus & Me

This module is designed to help you prayerfully proclaim the good news of Jesus to people as you tell them the story of how Jesus met and changed you.

1. Listen and Share
2. People and Prayer
3. Trained and Ready
4. Creation and Identity
5. Fall and Brokenness
6. Redemption and Security
7. Re-creation and Hope
8. Transformation and Change
9. Telling My Story
10. Living My Story

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.
- Practice articulating the gospel (= God's story) and how it intersects with our story.
 - So that we can talk with others about 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 8

Transformation and Change

Transformed lives. Knowing God's love for us in Christ changes us and our lives now.

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 8 and listen to Remy speak about being a Christian in the Arts. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 8: Transformation and Change.

The Gospel summaries we have been looking at for homework present God's story in different ways. What reflections do you have on the Gospel summary '321'?

Train

God's Story: Transformation

We have investigated God's story in four stages – Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Re-creation – and have found that it is, in fact, our story. This week we reflect on how knowing God's love for us in Christ changes us and our lives now.

In his first letter, John urges his readers to live radically transformed lives because they have met Jesus. **Read 1 John 4:7-21** and unpack what it tells us about how knowing Jesus transforms our lives and relationships.

1. How do we know God loves us?
 - *God sent his Son to die as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. We didn't deserve this. It was an act of self-giving love. 4:9 Note the comment here on historicity. John actually met Jesus and witnessed these events. 4:14.*
 - *God gives us His Spirit who shares the resurrection life of Jesus with us. Jesus' life is the life of a Son loved by his Father. Jesus shares with us his Sonship so that we too can know that we are dearly loved children of God. 4:7, 13-16.*
2. Why does God love us?
 - *Because God is love. Not because we are loveable. 4:10*
3. List the reasons this passage gives us to love others.
 - *We have been loved by God and so we should love each other. 4:7-8, 19*
 - *If we love God, we must love the people God loves. 4:20-21*
 - *God tells us to love. 4:21*

- *God's love is made complete in us when we love each other. Part of the way we experience and express God's love is through Christian community. 4:11-12*
4. How does being loved by God encourage and enable Christians to love others?
- *We have a model of true love because God shows us what love is. Love is selfless not selfish. 4:9-10*
 - *We know the goodness of being loved and so we should love. 4:10-11*
 - *We love because we are already loved by God, not trying to earn God's love. Our love can be genuine because we are not doing it out of fear of judgement. 4:17-18*
 - *Knowing we are loved by God addresses all the fears that hinder our love of others. Fear of rejection, failure etc. Having been loved, we're set free to love. 4:16-18*
 - *God makes other Christians our brothers and sisters and tells us to love each other. We become better at loving as we experience giving and receiving love in Christian community. 4:19-21*
5. Write out a definition of what it means to be a Christian, and live as a Christian, using this passage.

My Story: How can I change for the better?

Most people know they are 'not perfect', and this gives us an opportunity to talk about how Jesus has and is changing us. It could also give us an opportunity to talk about the Jesus we are becoming like.

The way we treat others *should* give people around us an experience of the difference that knowing Jesus makes.

How does God's story connect with you personally? Choose one of the following questions to reflect on. Aim to illustrate your answer with a specific example or story from your life. Spend a couple of minutes making some notes about what to share with the group.

1. How does knowing Jesus make me a 'better version of myself'?
2. How is God helping me become more loving and more like Jesus?
3. How do I respond when I fail to love in the way God calls me to?
4. How have I experienced Christ-like love through Christian community?

Share

Share any stories of evangelistic opportunities in the past week: successes, failures, answered prayers, and interesting conversations. Take brief notes to remind you of what to pray for.

- What opportunities has God given you to share Jesus with others this week?

- Remind each other of the five people you are praying for.
- Think of one of the friends you are praying for. How would they answer the question: How can I be 'better'? Take time to consider how their lives would be better if they knew Jesus.

Pray

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:9-12 (NIV)

Use 1 Peter 2:9-12 as a basis for prayer for yourself and your friends.

- | Pray for opportunities to testify to God's love in words and actions

Homework

→ Watch the Gospel summary 'Back to God's Village':
www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLQmgPT-xOU

How does it tell the story of:

- Creation and Identity. Who am I?
 - Fall and Brokenness. What is wrong with the world?
 - Redemption and Security. How can I be safe in a broken world?
 - Re-creation and Hope. What hope is there for the future?
 - Transformation and Change. How can I change for the better?
1. What do you like about this Gospel summary?
 2. Is there anything you don't understand or have questions about?
 3. Were there any parts of the Gospel summary that particularly resonated with your experience of God? Why?
 4. Would this Gospel presentation be a good 'fit' for any of the friends and family you are praying for?

Summary Table

Key Concepts and Questions for each gospel theme.

	God's story: How does the Bible answer these questions?	My story: How do I answer these questions? How do my friends answer these questions?
Creation and Identity	<p>What does it mean to be created in God's image?</p> <p>What does God think about us and the world He created?</p>	<p>Who am I? Who are we?</p> <p>What is my purpose?</p> <p>Why do I matter? Why do you matter?</p> <p>How does being created by God bring me joy or rest?</p>
Fall and Brokenness	<p>What is sin and what are its consequences?</p> <p>What went wrong with the world God created?</p>	<p>What is wrong with me (us)?</p> <p>Why is the world so broken?</p> <p>Why can't we fix things?</p> <p>Is God's justice something to look forward to or fear?</p>
Redemption and Security	<p>How does Jesus save us?</p> <p>Why does Jesus save us?</p>	<p>How can I be safe in a broken world?</p> <p>Why am I confident God loves me?</p> <p>What does Jesus save me from?</p> <p>What type of life does Jesus save me (us) for?</p>

<p><i>Re-creation and Hope</i></p>	<p>What is the New Creation like?</p> <p>Who is in the New Creation?</p>	<p>What hope is there for the future?</p> <p>What does real peace look like?</p> <p>Is hope naïve or necessary?</p> <p>What do I look forward to when Jesus returns?</p>
<p><i>Transformation and Change</i></p>	<p>Who are we in Christ?</p> <p>How does God transform us and make us like Christ?</p>	<p>How can I change for the better?</p> <p>What type of person do I want to be?</p> <p>What happens when I fail to be who I should be and want to be?</p> <p>How does Jesus create a better community?</p>

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