



MODULE 2 | **Jesus & Conversation**

# **Leaders Guide**



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# Course Overview

## What is Ripple Effect?

Ripple Effect is a Christian discipleship course for evangelism. Ripple Effect is an accessible and comprehensive course that will help you:

- Better understand the good news about Jesus yourself
- Love family and friends who don't know Jesus by praying for them regularly
- Develop skills in talking about Jesus
- Learn how to live a life always 'on mission' and ready to serve God
- Hear what God is doing in and through others as you pray for them

## Who is Ripple Effect for?

This course is for you if you want to 'dive' into evangelism or just want to dip your toe in the water. Expect God to create ripples that impact others in ways you never would have imagined.

Depending where you are on your Christian journey, you should begin with Module 1 and/or 2 to establish gospel themes and learn frameworks used in later modules.

## Why does Ripple Effect work?

The course is built around small groups of people meeting weekly to engage with the brief session video and session guide. These weekly meetings are where discipleship happens and are crucial to the momentum of Ripple Effect. For each session, the group will:

### SHARE

Share stories of evangelistic opportunities since the last session to encourage and seek wisdom from others in the group. God is always working.

### PRAY

Praise God for his love, salvation, and the privilege of evangelism. Ask God to save our family and friends and use us to help them come to know and trust Jesus.

### TRAIN

Improve confidence and competence in evangelism by learning, practicing, and reviewing skills that enable us to speak about Jesus in a natural and unforced manner.

## **What does Ripple Effect cover?**

The Ripple Effect course is made up of 6 modules. You will find the modules cohesive as they build on gospel themes and frameworks. Each module contains 8 sessions.

### **MODULE 1 | Jesus & Me**

Talking about Jesus and His impact on me

### **MODULE 2 | Jesus & Conversation (This Module)**

Talking about the gospel in everyday conversations

### **MODULE 3 | The Real Jesus**

Reading a Gospel with someone investigating Jesus

### **MODULE 4 | Apologetics**

Answering the questions people have about Jesus and Christianity

### **MODULE 5 | Knowing Jesus**

Discipling a new Christian

### **MODULE 6 | Jesus & Mission**

Sharing the gospel to everyone

## **Acknowledgements**

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# 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.

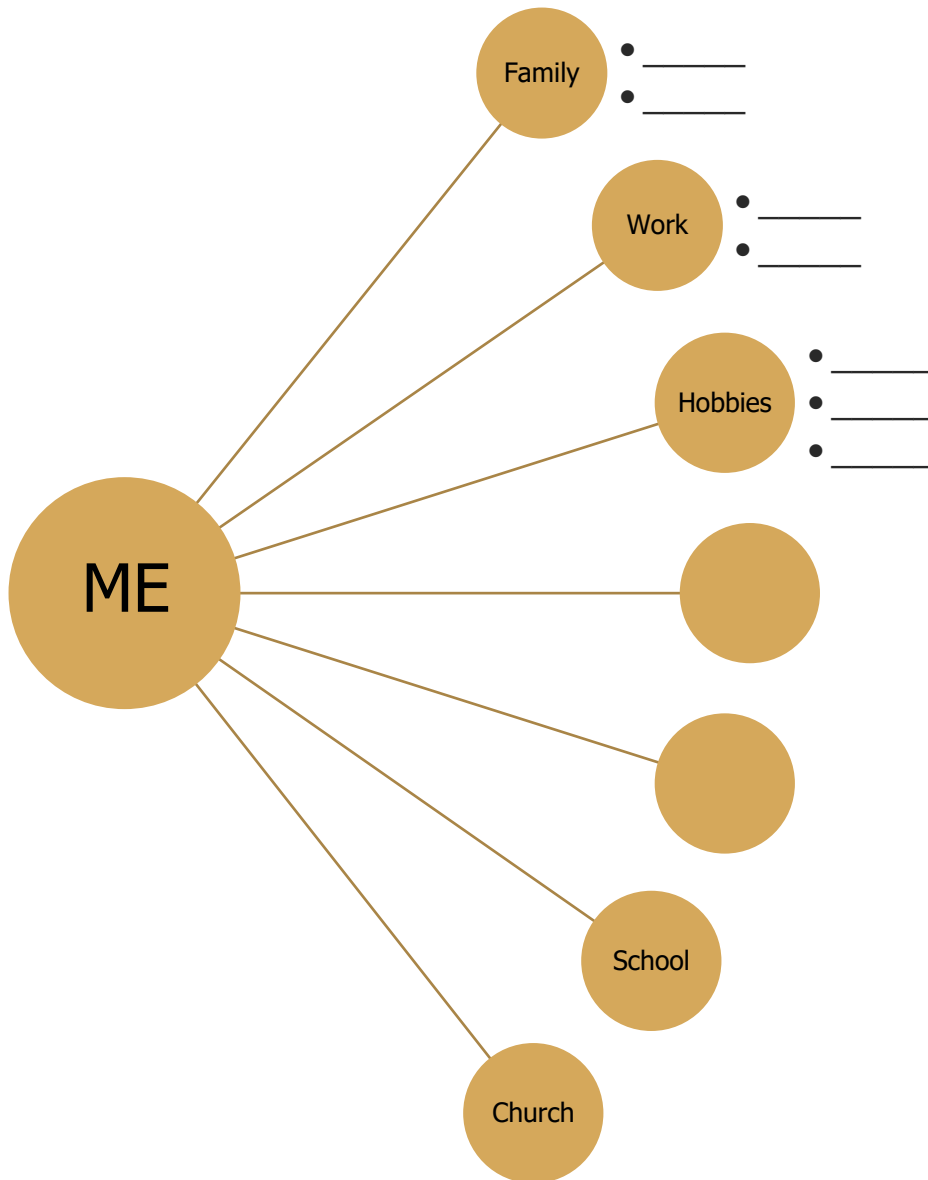
→ **Choose 5 of these people to pray for regularly.**

→ **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.







## Session 2

# Deeper Conversations

*Good questions encourage deeper conversations about what people really think. Learning to ask, encourage and answer questions.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 2.

- What did you learn from Jeri and Joseph's conversation about how evangelism impacts people?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Deeper Conversations?

Asking good questions, and listening to the answers people give, is a great way to encourage deeper conversations. In today's session we'll think about how to ask, encourage and answer questions in ways that enable real engagement with each other as we live life together.

### Train

Jesus spent time with all sorts of people. He wasn't picky. He spent time with outcasts (= tax-collectors and sinners) and leaders (= Pharisees etc.) While he was with them, Jesus asked all sorts of questions about what they really thought. He also did and said things that encouraged people to ask Him questions. He sometimes even answered questions with questions.

**Read Luke 7:36-50.** We see an example of Jesus asking questions to help uncover what people really think and feel.

*Keep an eye on the time here. We are seeking to identify key points to apply in our evangelism. We are not doing a detailed exegesis of the text.*

1. What happens? Is there anything that surprises or challenges you?
  - *Jesus is at a Pharisee's house. A 'sinful' woman turns up and makes a scene. Jesus affirms her and tells a story about forgiveness that challenges the religious leaders to be like her in their response to Him.*
  - *Jesus is a little blunt! But perhaps blunt is okay when people know that it is accompanied by love?*

2. What questions does Jesus ask Simon? What do these questions reveal or challenge about Simon's attitude to Jesus, himself and others?
  - *Who loves me more? 42.*
  - *Do you see this woman? 44*
  - *Simon's hypocrisy. He invites Jesus home, but does not welcome Him.*
  - *Simon's pride. His belief is that he's better than her. She's a sinner and he isn't.*
  - *Simon's belief that he does not need forgiveness.*
  
3. Jesus could have made these points without the questions. Why is it sometimes *better* to ask questions than simply make statements?
  - *Creates conversation. Have a dialogue, not just a monologue. The questions force Simon to engage.*
  - *It challenges Simon to be honest about himself, Jesus and others.*
  - *It reveals to Simon what he's really thinking and feeling.*
  
4. What question do these events spark for the other guests?
  - *Who is Jesus to think He can forgive sins?*
  
5. Why are Jesus' words to the woman in verses 48-50 so important? What doesn't He want her or anyone else to have questions about?
  - *Jesus assures her that she is forgiven and can go in peace. Trust in Jesus creates certainty. She's welcome and safe with Him.*
  - *This could be why Jesus is so public with his challenging questions? Simon is a religious leader and his attitude and beliefs detrimentally affect others.*

Jesus already knew what Simon was thinking and feeling. Sometimes we don't even start with that.

- *Think back to some of Julie-anne and Sam's comments in the introduction video.*
- *They show we're interested in people and care about understanding what they think and feel.*
- *They help us know people better so that we know how to speak with them about Jesus in ways that might connect with them.*
- *They help people think through the implications of what they believe.*

- *They invite dialogue.*
  - *They encourage people to ask questions back. Which might give us an opportunity to share about the Jesus we know and love.*
- What are some other ways that asking questions can help us in evangelism?

Jesus asks questions to engage and challenge people. His questions invite people to be honest with themselves about who they *really* are and what they *really* think. His questions seek to uncover the beliefs and values, passions and fears that drive how we relate to God, each other, our world and even ourselves. But information or self-awareness is not Jesus' end game. He wants people to see their need for forgiveness and come to Him.

In this module we'll learn to have deeper conversations by asking, answering, and encouraging good questions. Asking questions and listening to people's answers shows that we care. As does answering their questions with honesty and vulnerability. Both these facilitate trust and deeper conversations about life, Jesus and the difference knowing Him makes.

May the ripples our deeper conversations create help us know people better, so that they can know themselves and us better, and ultimately, so that we can *all* know Jesus better.

### **Share**

- Choose two more of the five people you committed to praying for regularly and tell the group a little about your relationship with them. What do you talk about with each other? Take time to consider how their lives would be better if they knew Jesus.

*If someone doesn't have any non-Christian friends, then that's what you start praying for. Ask God to bring someone into their life.*

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

### **Pray**

To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.

Proverbs 18:13 (NIV)

- 1 Thank God for the forgiveness, salvation and peace that Jesus gives to everyone who trusts Him.

- | Ask God to give you the courage to offer conversations that go deeper, even if it feels uncomfortable initially.
- | Ask God to help you listen well so that you know what questions to ask people.

**Homework**

*During the week, post the link to the Conversation Spiral in your group chat to remind people that you'll be discussing your ideas at the start of the next session.*

Jesus was a master at asking questions that helped people wrestle with their underlying heart issues about identity, longing, fear, passions, and beliefs. Some of us do this instinctively. Many of us find it a little harder. We can all get better with practice.

- Watch the Karen Morris "Conversation Spiral." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ybNa2rM6cc>

Choose two of the friends you're praying for. For each person:

- Make a note of some of the things you talk about.
- Choose one of those topics and try writing out a few questions for each of the three categories Karen speaks about.

OR

- Review a conversation you had this week with one of the people you're praying for. If you had your time again, think about which questions you could have asked to offer a deeper conversation.

	General question / topic	Specific Question	God Question
Person 1			
Person 2			

Tip: Gregory Koukl is a Christian apologist. He has three generic go-to questions that he finds helpful:

- What do you mean by that?
- Why do you think that?
- What difference does that make to you?

Turning these into specific questions for each conversation will help you generate some questions to get you started.

- Use your group chat to encourage each other in prayer. Perhaps you could message the group to:
  - let them know when you prayed for them and their family and friends.
  - ask them to pray for evangelistic conversations you have had or would like to have.

### ***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?*





## Session 3

# Creation and Identity

*In Christ, we are not only creatures dependent on our creator, we are children of God. Knowing our God-given identity.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 3.

- What did you learn from Hayley and Lindsay's conversation about evangelistic conversations?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Creation and Identity?

In the last session we talked about deepening our relationships through deeper conversations. We considered how asking, answering, and encouraging good questions facilitates trust and deeper conversations about life, Jesus and the difference knowing Him makes.

- How easy or challenging did you find the homework?

*If people got stuck, remind them of Koukl's three questions and Julie-anne and Sam's 'Tell me more' comment.*

*This is not about finding the 'right' set of questions. It's about learning to ask questions and think intentionally about nudging a conversation in a particular direction (if your friend wants to go there with you). We will have plenty of practise in coming weeks.*

### Train

The Bible tells the story of God's relationship with us and our world. Over the next few sessions, we'll reflect on the main stages of God's story: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Re-creation and Transformation.

Using passages from John's gospel, we'll investigate how each stage of God's story answers some of the big questions people ask about life. As we do so, we'll look for everyday words that connect Biblical truths about Jesus with everyday conversations.

This session focuses on Creation. Knowing that God created us, and what he created us for, helps us answer questions about identity and purpose; questions like 'who am I?', 'do I matter?' and 'what is the purpose of my life?'.

**God's Story: Creation**

John's Gospel begins in the same way as Genesis – In the beginning – except that this time, Jesus Christ, our creator, enters His creation. **Read John 1:1-18.**

*We're using stories from John's Gospel not because it's the only thing the Bible says about Creation, Fall, Redemption and Re-creation – it's clearly not – but it's a story about Jesus that they might be able to use in their evangelism.*

1. Make a list of everything John tells us about 'the Word.'
  - *Use this question to gather data. We'll start interpreting it in the next question.*
2. Use your observations to answer the following questions. What does this passage tell us about:
  - a. Jesus?
    - Who He is.
      - *Word; The one who shows us who God is.*
      - *Creator entering His creation. God, The Son, becomes human.*
    - Why He came into the world.
      - *To enable people who believe in Him to become children of God.*
      - *To make God known to people; reveal God's glory.*
      - *To lavish us with grace; light; life.*
  - b. People/Humanity.
    - Who we are. (Who am I?)
      - *Created by and dependent on God. Needing the light and life that Christ provides.*
      - *Made for a relationship with God. Able to know God as Father. Children of God though faith in Christ.*
      - *Embodied creatures. (Word became flesh)*
      - *But creatures able to reject Jesus our creator.*
    - Why we matter. (Why do I matter?)
      - *Because God thinks we matter and acts like we matter.*
      - *God wants us to know Him as Father and enjoy grace and truth.*
      - *Creator entered His creation so that we could know God: now that's valuable.*
  - c. the world we live in. (Why does it matter?)

- *It, and we, are created, dependent, and impacted by darkness.*
- *God is deeply committed to His creation.*
- *it is sustained by God and lived in by Jesus. The world is the place where God's children live.*

d. God

- Who He is.
  - *Father and Son. Creator.*
- What He wants for His people and creation. (What is my purpose?)
  - *For us to become children of God who know Him and enjoy Him.*
  - *For creation to be filled with life and light.*

Notice how John 1 helps us answer questions 'who am I?', 'do I matter?' and 'what is the purpose of my life?'.

'The Word becoming flesh' is a powerful testimony to God's ongoing love for and commitment to His creation. Jesus became human so that we might know God as Father. In Christ, we are not only creatures dependent on our creator, we are children of God who are known and loved by Him. We find a secure identity, dignity, and purpose for ourselves and others. The grace and truth, light and life, that God created us for, and that Jesus enables us to enjoy, ripples through our lives, our relationships, and our world.

***Our Story: Identity – Who am I?***

Everyone needs to work out who they are and why they matter. We all need purpose and direction for our lives. The answers we come up with will also have implications for how we treat other people and the world we live in. These questions are an opening for the gospel.

In the following table you'll find some practice conversations. They use the Conversation Spiral we learnt in homework to plot a series of questions that might nudge a conversation towards Jesus.

Please note, the God Questions section has been divided into two parts. Part A focusses on values, opinions, and the meaning of life. Part B is a direct invitation to talk about God and Jesus.

After looking at the worked examples, chose one of the topics and come up with some questions in each column. If one of your group members is in a real-life conversation about human meaning and purpose, then use that rather than our imaginary ones.

*Do as many as time permits. But remember to leave time for the Share and Pray parts of this session.*

*Ask if any of your group members is in a discussion with family or friends about the questions Who am I, Why do I matter or What is my purpose in life, then start with that. Real world examples are always better than imagined ones. It will also be a conversation and person you can pray for later.*

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>My parents made me who I am today.</b>	Why do say that that?  Why were they so influential?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>	What does it mean to be part of a family?  Why are families so powerful in determining who we are?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>	What do you imagine it would be like to be part of God's family?  Can I share with you how Jesus makes me who I am today?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>
<b>Womens equality is really important.</b>	Why do you say that?  Have you been treated unequally? Or has someone you know?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>	What is human equality based on?  Is equality really enough?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>	If all people were created and loved by God, what type of basis would that create for equality?  Can I share with you about Jesus who treats us equally because he loves us equally?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>

<b>I've worked hard to get where I am.</b>			
<b>Your own topic –</b>			

The ideas we have discussed under Creation and Identity could connect with conversations about:

- Human dignity and value.
- Identity issues around race, gender, economics, etc.
- Value derived from success and achievement.
- Family and belonging.
- Beauty, value and care of creation.

**Share**

- Share about last two people you committed to praying for regularly. Tell the group a little about your relationship with them. What do you talk about with each other? Take time to consider how their lives would be better if they knew Jesus.
- Keep a note of each other's friends so that you can pray for them.

**Pray**

... to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God ...

*John 1:12 (NIV)*

- | Thank God for the blessings mentioned in John 1:1-18.

Conversations are rarely linear and predictable. We can practise how to create conversational bridges between daily conversation and Jesus and the deeper questions in life, but because this is genuine dialogue, we need to pray that our family and friends want to cross the bridge with us.

- | Pray for an opportunity to share about being a child of God with family and friends.
- | Pray that our friends might know God in Christ and become children of God. Pray for each other's friends by name.

## **Homework**

### ***God's Story***

We've approached this topic through John 1, but it is not even close to everything the Bible says about this topic. For a broader perspective on the Bible's teaching on Creation and Identity we can look at other passages. In Module 1: Jesus and Me, we looked at Genesis 1.

→ **Read Colossians 1:15-23.**

- What does this passage tell us about Jesus' relationship with:
  - God
  - Creation
  - Humanity
- How does it start to help us answer the questions:
  - Who am I? Who are we?
  - What is my purpose?
  - Why do I matter? Why do you matter?

### ***Our Story***

- Consider the friends you are praying for.
  - For one of them, how do you think they might answer these questions?
    - Who am I? Who are we?
    - What is my purpose?
    - Why do I matter? Why do you matter?

If you don't know how to answer these questions, notice the things they talk about, what they hope for and dream about, how they introduce themselves, where they spend their money or time, what energises or saddens them.

Choose one of the things they talk about that relates to Creation and Identity. Have a go at working out some 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 in the session.

<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***

- *How easy or difficult did people find this session?*
- *What part of the session did you focus on? What did you gloss over?*
- *What does this mean for the next session?*





# 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 worshiping 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 judgement 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.

<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>
<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>



## Session 5

# Redemption and Security

*Jesus, our creator and king, willingly dies in our place to save us. Trusting Jesus.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 5.

- What did you learn from Rawle's experience of evangelistic conversations?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Redemption and Security?

In previous sessions we reflected on two stages of God's Story – Creation and Fall – and how we might connect it to our daily conversations. You'll find a summary table at the end of this session.

- To help us revise, share with the group the conversation trajectory you worked on for homework.
- Help each other come up with more or better questions.

### Train

#### ***God's Story: Redemption***

This session we focus on Redemption. God is committed to the world He created. He loves us and frees us from our sin and its consequences through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the Bible's answer to the question 'how can I be safe in a broken world?': Jesus can save us.

Each of the gospels spends a lot of time on the last week of Jesus' life. These passion narratives don't just tell us that Jesus died and rose; they also tell us *why* He died and rose. In doing so, they reveal what kind of King Jesus really is. **Read John 18:28-19:16.**

1. What happens? Is there anything that surprises you?
  - *Pilate moves back and forwards between meetings with the Jewish authorities and Jesus.*
  - *The Jews accuse Jesus of a number of things and want Pilate to kill Him.*
  - *Pilate repeatedly finds Jesus innocent, but is pressured into crucifying Jesus by the Jewish authorities.*
  - *Jesus and Pilate discuss the nature and limitations of human power.*
  - *Pilate releases a prisoner called Barabbas instead of Jesus.*

2. What type of leaders are Pilate and the Jewish authorities? How would you describe their leadership?
  - *Cynical. Pilate is not interested in truth.*
  - *Unjust. He tortures and kills an innocent man to protect himself.*
  - *Limited power. He is manipulated and pressured by the Jewish authorities.*
  - *Limited knowledge. He makes decisions with limited knowledge.*
  - *Limited realm. His leadership is only for this world.*
  - *Derivative power. He only has power because God has given it to him.*
  - *Abuse of power. He uses his power to protect himself not others.*
  
3. Jesus may be the one on trial, but He is actually the one in control of events. Jesus knew He was going to be lifted up on the cross and willingly goes to His death (18:32, See 12:32-33).
  - a. How does the Barabbas episode give us a picture of what Jesus' death means and why Jesus chose to die?
    - *Jesus, who is innocent, dies instead of Barabbas who is guilty.*
    - *The innocent Jesus dies so that the guilty go free.*
  
  - b. How does the Passover time stamp (18:28, 19:14) give us a picture of what Jesus' death means and why Jesus chose to die?
    - *God set His people free from slavery and oppression in the Exodus by the Passover.*
    - *Death passed over the homes of Israelites who had sacrificed a lamb and painted their door with its blood.*
    - *Jesus offers himself as a sacrifice so that the judgment of death passes over those who put their faith in Him.*

**Read John 20:19-23.**

4. What does King Jesus' death and resurrection achieve for His people?
  - *Peace in a broken and threatening world.*
  - *Forgiveness of our sins.*
  - *Intimacy with God as the Holy Spirit is given to us.*
  - *Purposeful life/mission as we share the message of forgiveness in Christ with others.*

5. What type of King is Jesus? How would you describe His leadership?

- *Powerful. His kingdom and rule extend beyond this world. He is in control of events.*
- *Good. His kingdom is based on truth and integrity, not lies and hypocrisy.*
- *He uses His power to save others, not Himself.*

Jesus is a king worth trusting because He is willing and able to save us. No one else can. Jesus’ goodness is most clearly seen on the cross when He uses His power to protect and save us rather than Himself. He is the innocent Son who is punished instead of guilty rebels. He is the Passover lamb who offers Himself so that we can be set free from death and judgment.

When we trust Jesus to save us, the risen Christ assures us that peace, forgiveness and the Holy Spirit is ours. This is the message that Jesus sends us to proclaim in the world.

The peace and forgiveness we enjoy ripples out from us and transforms all our relationships.

***Our Story: Security – Who or what saves me?***

We all trust someone or something to give us security in a broken, uncertain and often unjust world. Who or what we trust differs, our choice might be wise or unwise, but we all trust something.

Conversations about what we trust to protect us and keep us safe are openings for the gospel. God’s story tells us that only Jesus is powerful enough and good enough to provide the security we want and need.

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>I need to learn to forgive myself.</b>	What do you mean by that?  Why is this important to you?	If you can’t fix the damage is forgiveness possible?  <i>What other questions could you ask?</i>	If God knows what you have done but offers to forgive you, would that make a difference?

	<i>What other questions could you ask?</i>		<i>What other questions could you ask?</i>
<b>Australia would be a much better place if we had a leader like _____.</b>	<p>What do you admire about him/her?</p> <p>How did she/he make things better?</p> <p><i>What other questions could you ask</i></p>	<p>What do you think makes a good leader?</p> <p>Why are we always disappointed in our leaders?</p> <p><i>What other questions could you ask?</i></p>	<p>What do you think about Jesus as a leader?</p> <p><i>What other questions could you ask?</i></p>
<b>Have you read [the latest self-help book] it has changed my life!</b>	<p><i>What is it about?</i></p> <p><i>How has it made a difference to you?</i></p> <p><i>What else would you like to change? Why?</i></p>	<p><i>What other changes would you like to make?</i></p> <p><i>Are there some things we can't change?</i></p> <p><i>What do you imagine real fulfilment is like?</i></p>	<i>Could knowing Jesus change your life for the better?</i>
<b>I am afraid of what will happen if I make a mistake at work.</b>			<i>What do you imagine it would be like to know a leader who would love and protect us whatever happened?</i>

Your own topic –			
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The ideas we have discussed under Redemption and Security could connect with conversations about:

- Leadership.
- Fear and anxiety.
- Perfectionism.
- The perfect relationship, job or home.
- How we escape and relax.

**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. If many group members have lots to say, consider breaking up into groups of three to four people now.

*If some group members are struggling to have conversations, encourage them to persevere. Perhaps God has a long-term timeline, and we can't see what He is doing in their friend's life yet. Perhaps His Spirit is not moving visibly in the 5 people they chose to pray for and they could also be praying for opportunities in general. Encourage them to pray for those in the group who are having these conversations with people.*

- What opportunities has God given you share Jesus with others this week?
- 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:
  - How would they finish this sentence: 'As long as I have \_\_\_\_\_ will be okay.'
  - What/who do they think can save them from the brokenness of the world and their life?
  - Where do they look to find safety when they are scared/hurt/guilty/bored?
  - What would make Jesus a better option for them?

## Pray

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

- | Praise God for the type of king that Jesus is.
- | Ask God for increasing confidence that Jesus is the risen Lord who saves.
- | Ask God for opportunities to talk with people about how we can trust Jesus to give us security in a broken world.
- | Thank God and pray for the conversations or friends that people shared about earlier.

## Homework

### *God's Story*

→ **Read Ephesians 2:1-9.**

- Using this passage and our discussion on John 18-19, have a go at answering these questions.
  - How does Jesus save us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - Why does Jesus save us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - What does Jesus save us from?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - What does Jesus save us for?



***Our Story***

Choose one topic that you talk about with your friend that relates to Redemption and Security. 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 together.

<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>

# 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 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>
<b><i>Fall and Brokenness</i></b>	<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>
<b><i>Redemption and Security</i></b>	<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>Who can I trust to save me?</p> <p>What do I need saving from?</p> <p>What life am I saved for?</p>



## Session 6

# Re-creation and Hope

*Jesus promises us resurrection life with Him and each other when we trust Him. Living in hope.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 6.

- What did you learn from Jamie and Emily's conversation about evangelistic conversations?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Re-creation and Hope?

In previous sessions we reflected on three stages of God's Story – Creation, Fall and Redemption – and how we might connect it to our daily conversations. You'll find a summary diagram at the end of the session.

- To help us revise, share with the group the conversation trajectory you worked on for homework. Help each other come up with more or better questions.

### Train

#### **God's Story: Re-creation**

This session we look at Re-creation. When we trust that Jesus died for us, our relationship with God is restored. God also promises that Jesus will return to save and to judge, and that when He does, all our relationships will be fully restored. God's story is one of hope for God's people.

In an act that points to His own resurrection, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. **Read John 11:1-45.**

1. What happens? Is there anything that surprises you?
  - *Lazarus is dying but Jesus defers going to see him until he is dead.*
  - *Jesus arrives and questions both Mary and Martha about their belief in resurrection.*
  - *Everyone thinks that if Jesus had been there, He could and would have saved Lazarus.*
  - *Jesus is upset by Lazarus' death.*
  - *Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead and says "I am the resurrection and the life."*
  - *New life starts now.*
2. Jesus delays His arrival so that Lazarus is dead by the time He arrives. Why? 1-16

- *So that Jesus might be glorified as people see and believe that Jesus can raise the dead.*
  - *People believed He could heal the sick. Raising the dead was taking it to another level.*
3. Jesus says to Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 17-27
- a. When does resurrection life start?
    - *In this life. When we believe in Jesus it starts immediately.*
    - *Life is not temporary. Death is temporary. For Christians it can be described as 'sleep.'*
  - b. How is resurrection life received?
    - *By recognising who Jesus is. I am. Jesus uses the divine name (Exod. 3) to describe Himself and His ability to do God-like things, like giving life and raising the dead.*
    - *By believing that Jesus can give it, and will give it, to people who trust Him.*
  - c. What does this add to what Martha already believed?
    - *She believed in a general resurrection. But Jesus connects life after death, resurrection, with faith in Him.*
    - *He also speaks about it as a present experience, not just a future event.*
4. How does Jesus feel about the death of Lazarus and the grief of Lazarus' family? 32-38, (Cf 3,4)
- *Jesus is moved and troubled. He's grieved by Lazarus' death and its impact on the people He loved. Even though Jesus know He was about to raise Lazarus.*
5. This event points to Jesus' own death and resurrection, as well as ours. What reasons does Jesus give people to trust Him when He says that He is the resurrection and the life? 38-45. See also 20:26-31.
- *He raised a dead man. This showed that He was from God and was doing God's work.*
  - *He was raised Himself, physically. Thomas could see him and touch Him. His crucifixion wounds showed that it was really Him.*

Jesus offers eternal life to all who believe in Him. Jesus' resurrection gives us a certain hope that He will return and restore our bodies, relationships, and the world. While our new life starts now, we still wait for the day

when Jesus returns and we will experience this new life with God and each other in the world God has renewed, in all its fullness.

Having this hope ripples out and shapes the decisions we make in our lives.

***Our Story: Hope - What hope is there for the future?***

In a world where news stories often focus on looming destruction, people need hope. We need a future that we can dream about, plan for and look forward to. God’s story presents us with a beautiful and optimistic future. How do our friends talk about hope?

Choose a couple of the topics in the table below to discuss together. If one of them is a ‘live’ conversation that one of you is having with a friend now, definitely chose that one! Remember, we are looking for questions that create a conversational bridge that connects the topic to Jesus and the deeper questions of life.

General 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>I work in medicine because I like to help people.</b>	<i>What’s your specialty?</i>  <i>Why did you choose it?</i>	<i>How does a terminal patient have hope?</i>	<i>What hope would it give if we knew that God is real and there’s a life beyond this one?</i>
<b>Small acts of kindness between neighbours will make the world a better place._____</b>			<i>Can I share with you about the hope that Jesus offers, which is bigger and better than we can imagine?</i>

<p><b>My mother was a good person. She is still watching over me from heaven.</b></p>			
<p><b>I've got what I wanted but it just doesn't seem to be enough.</b></p>			
<p><b>Your own topic –</b></p>			

The ideas we have discussed under Re-creation and Hope could connect with conversations about:

- Life after death.
- Disappointed hopes.
- Fear of missing out.
- Ultimate justice and equity.

**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. If many group members have lots to say, consider breaking up into groups of three to four people now.

- What opportunities has God given you to share Jesus with others this week?
- 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 hope for in their future?
  - How confident are they in this hope?
  - How does their hope shape the way they live life now?

### **Pray**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26 (NIV)

- | Thank God that in Christ we have eternal life and a bigger and better hope than anything the world offers us.
- | Ask for opportunities to talk with people about the future we look forward to with Jesus and His people.
- | Thank God and pray for the conversations or friends that people shared about earlier.

### **Homework**

#### ***God's Story***

Read Revelation 21:1-8. Using this passage and our discussion on John 11, answer the questions:

- What hope is there for the future?
- What does real peace look like?
- Is hope naïve or necessary?
- What do I look forward to when Jesus returns?

#### ***Our Story***

- Watch Sam Chan connect 'your world to Jesus in 60 seconds.'  
[www.espressotheology.com/](http://www.espressotheology.com/)
- Consider two or three topics that interest you or that might be relevant for your friends. For each one:
  - How does he move from the topic to Jesus?
  - What parts of God's story does Sam connect this topic with?



- Creation and Identity
  - Fall and Brokenness
  - Redemption and Security
  - Re-creation and Hope
- Imagine this was a conversation with your friend. What series of questions could you ask to nudge the conversation in this direction?

# 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 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>
<b><i>Fall and Brokenness</i></b>	<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>
<b><i>Redemption and Security</i></b>	<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>Who can I trust to save me?</p> <p>What do I need saving from?</p> <p>What life am I saved for?</p>
<b><i>Re-creation and Hope</i></b>	<p>What future does Jesus promise His people?</p> <p>Why is this future so certain that we start to enjoy it now?</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?</p>



## Session 7

# Transformation and Change

*Having been loved by Jesus, we are enabled and called to love others.  
Living transformed lives.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 7.

- What did you learn from Warwick and Kushak's conversation about evangelistic conversations?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Transformation and Change?

In previous sessions we reflected on three stages of God's Story – Creation, Fall, Redemption and Re-creation – and how we might connect it with our daily conversations. You'll find a summary diagram at the end of the session.

- How did you find the homework exercise from [www.espressotheology.com](http://www.espressotheology.com)?
- What was the last movie, article, or podcast that you saw or heard? How could you connect that with God's story?

### Train

#### **God's Story: Transformation**

We have investigated God's story in four stages – Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Re-creation – using stories from John's Gospel and have found that it is, in fact, our story.

Jesus came, lived, died and rose to reconcile us to God, each other, our world, and even ourselves! The deep-seated questions about life, and longings for it to be different, find their answers in God's Story. This session we reflect on how knowing God's love for us in Christ changes us and our lives now. In Jesus' final meal with His disciples, Jesus washes His disciples' feet in an act that points to what He is about to do for them on the cross. **Read John 13:1-20, 34-35.**

1. What happens? Is there anything that surprises you?
  - *Jesus knew He was about to die.*
  - *He washed His disciples' feet – the role of the lowest servant.*
  - *Jesus taught His disciples that they must be cleansed – served by Him – before there is any hint of serving Him or others.*

- *Having received His cleansing (grace) they must see to love each other.*
  - *He does this even for Judas who will betray Him.*
  - *Then He calls His disciples to love each other while they wait for Him to return*
2. Peter is horrified that Jesus wants to wash his feet because foot washing was the work of a slave or a junior member of the group. Why does Jesus insist?
- a. 1-5
    - *It is an act of love for them as He approaches His death..*
    - *It helps them understand what Jesus does for them on the cross, and how to receive it.*
    - *Jesus is willing and able to cleanse us from our sins.*
    - *We can only be with Jesus if we humbly accept His loving service of us.*
  - b. 6-11
    - *It's a picture of the cleansing that He's going to provide for them on the cross.*
  - c. 12-20
    - *It's an example for them to follow.*
    - *If Jesus was self-sacrificial in His love for them, they too should have self-sacrificial love for each other. Including their enemies – Jesus washed Judas' feet too.*
    - *Living this way will be a blessing.*
3. How does knowing we are first loved by Jesus enable us to love like Jesus? 34-35
- *We know what real love looks like because Jesus gives it to us.*
  - *If we focus on Jesus, we are not focussing on the person and whether they deserve our love.*
  - *Knowing that Jesus loves us addresses all the fears that hinder our love others. Fear of rejection, failure etc.*
  - *Because we are already loved, we don't need to love others to receive their love back.*
4. Why would this kind of love mark Christian community as distinct from other communities?
- *Genuinely self-sacrificial love is costly and rare. For it to be normal across a whole community is exceptional.*
5. What words would you use to describe Jesus' love for His disciples?

Becoming a Christian changes us and transforms all our relationships. Jesus washed His disciples' feet to show them that, having been loved *by* Him, they are to love *like* Him. His death on the cross both enables and models the humble, self-sacrificial love they are to have for each other. It's a love that they are to offer to others by inviting people to trust Jesus and join us in Christian communities characterised by love.

God's love ripples out from Jesus, to us, and through us to others, while we wait for Jesus to return.

***Our 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 changed 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.

Choose a couple of the topics in the table below to discuss together. If one of them is a 'live' conversation that one of you is having with a friend now, then definitely choose that one! Remember, we are looking for questions that create a conversational bridge that connects the topic to Jesus and the deeper questions of life.

<b>General 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>
<b>I want to become a better version of myself.</b>			
<b>How can we stop our communities falling apart?</b>			

<b>Good education can change people for the better.</b>			
<b>I don't seem to be able to make the changes I know I need to.</b>			
<b>All you need is love.</b>			
<b>Your own topic –</b>			

The ideas we have discussed under Transformation and Change could connect with conversations about:

- How and why people change.
- Reaching goals and dreams.
- Who we want to become.
- Structural reform.
- Justice.

## **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. Consider breaking up into groups of three to four people now.

- What opportunities has God given you to share Jesus with others this week?
- 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 type of person do they want to be?
  - How do they want to change themselves and their lives for the better?
  - What happens when they fail to be who they think they should be?

## **Pray**

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

- | Thank God that Jesus loved us and died for us.
- | Ask God to help us form Christian communities that are characterised by love.
- | Ask for opportunities to talk with people about the future we look forward to: a future with Jesus and His people.
- | Thank God and pray for the conversations or friends that people shared about earlier.

## **Homework**

### ***God's Story***

→ **Read Titus 3:3-8.**

- Using this passage and our discussion on John 13, have a go at answering these questions:



- How does receiving Jesus' love set me free to love?
- How do we become like Jesus?
- What happens when I fail to be who I should be and want to be?
- How does Jesus create a better community?

### ***The whole story***

Sometimes it's useful to use a gospel summary that you can leave with people to refer to later. These give people an outline of all the stages of God's story all at once.

→ Choose two or three gospel summary from the list below. For each one, notice how it tells 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. Key to Christianity

[graphicfaith.org.au/training-resources/key-christianity](http://graphicfaith.org.au/training-resources/key-christianity)

2. Two Ways to Live

[twowaystolive.com](http://twowaystolive.com)

3. 321

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf94J3xGIOs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf94J3xGIOs)

4. Back to God's Village

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLQmgPT-xOU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLQmgPT-xOU)

5. Big Story Gospel

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=uv15GygmW2Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uv15GygmW2Y)

- Consider if this gospel summary would 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.**

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<b><i>Creation and Identity</i></b>	<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>
<b><i>Fall and Brokenness</i></b>	<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>
<b><i>Redemption and Security</i></b>	<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><b><i>Re-creation and Hope</i></b></p>	<p>What future does Jesus promise His people?</p> <p>Why is this future so certain that we start to enjoy it now?</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><b><i>Transformation and Change</i></b></p>	<p>How does receiving Jesus' love set me free to love?</p> <p>How do we become like Jesus?</p>



## Session 8

# Prayer and Intentionality

*Making the most of our God-given opportunities to share Jesus. Prayerful and intentional relationships.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 8.

- What did you learn from Bronwen's experience of evangelistic conversations?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Prayer and Intentionality?

God's story is the Gospel – that is, the Good News of Jesus. Christians have a God-given *identity* as children of God; an honest understanding of how we contribute to, and are harmed by, the world's *brokenness*; eternal *security* in Christ whatever circumstances face us in this life; and a sure *hope* that Jesus will return and restore our bodies, relationships, and world.

This Good News *changes* us. It is Good News that others need to hear.

Consider your homework exercise:

- Which gospel summary did you like most? Why?
- Did any make you feel uncomfortable? Why?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a gospel summary?

### Train

In this session, we circle back to where we started:

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)

### Read Colossians 4:2-6 and 1 Peter 3:15-16.

1. What do these passages tell us about intentional conversations, which seek to share the gospel with people who are not Christian? Consider attitude, manner and content.

- a. Colossians 4:2-6
  - *Prayerful and watchful.*
  - *Dependent on God to open doors and give people boldness.*
  - *Making the most of every opportunity that God gives.*
  - *Wise in our actions. Gracious in our speech.*
  - *Which should lead to questions that we can answer.*
  - *Talk about Christ.*
  - *Sometimes we'll initiate and other times we'll answer.*
  
- b. 1 Peter 3:15-16.
  - *Revere Christ the Lord. Remember He is Lord.*
  - *Be ready to give an answer for the hope we have.*
  - *Speak with gentleness and respect.*
  - *Which means people have no valid reason to slander us.*

These passages assume that the way we live and speak will lead people to ask questions about the Jesus we follow. For this to happen, we need to be involved in people's lives and invite them to be involved in our lives. So that they can see and experience the difference that knowing Jesus can and does make, not just in our lives, but in the lives of Christians more generally.

***Intentionality in on-going relationships***

The following table invites you to think through ways you can deliberately and intentionally relate to people as a Christian who genuinely loves them. The first three rows are about spending time with people. The last three rows are about conversations with people. In real life the categories overlap.

Work through the following table with one of the people you have been praying for in mind. Try to come up with some specific ideas for how to progress your relationship and conversations prayerfully and intentionally.

	Me Individually	My Christian Community
<p><b>Love:</b> Acts of service.</p> <p>How can I show love to them in practical ways that they will appreciate?</p>	<p><i>Meal? Message?</i>  <i>Drive them to the airport?</i>  <i>Remember their name.</i></p>	<p><i>Is there a church program they might be interested in?</i>  <i>Mainly Music?</i>  <i>Food hampers.</i></p>

<p><b>Social:</b> Casual and fun hangout.</p> <p>How can I spend time with them in everyday ways?</p>	<p><i>Things we have in common.</i> <i>Exercise? Dog park?</i></p>	<p><i>Who might they connect with that I could introduce them to?</i> <i>Parenting group?</i></p>
<p><b>Community:</b> Connecting them.</p> <p>How could I help them get to know my Christian friends?</p>	<p><i>Dinner with a mix of Christian friends and those who are not?</i></p>	<p><i>Social event?</i></p>
<p><b>Questions:</b> Answering questions.</p> <p>How can I answer the questions they have about Jesus?</p>	<p><i>Book or website?</i></p>	<p><i>Apologetic Event?</i> <i>Evangelistic course?</i> <i>(Alpha etc.)</i></p>
<p><b>Jesus:</b> Talking about Jesus.</p> <p>How can I introduce them to the life and teachings of Jesus?</p>	<p><i>Gospel summary?</i> <i>Prep. answers that point to Jesus in my conversations.</i></p>	<p><i>Evangelistic course?</i> <i>(Alpha etc.)</i></p>
<p><b>Bible:</b> Reading the Bible</p> <p>How can I encourage them to read the Bible for themselves?</p>	<p><i>Invite them to read a gospel with me?</i> <i>Share a verse with them.</i></p>	<p><i>Bible Study? Small Group?</i></p>

Given what Jesus said about love and Christian community, connecting people to Christians and Christian community is significant. Inviting people to join you in Christian community is important. It gives people a variety of models of Christian living. It shows them the beauty of a community characterised by self-sacrificial love.

- Can you think of more reasons?
  - *Other people might be better answering their questions about Jesus than I am.*
  - *They can see that this is not just about me and what I think.*

### **Spontaneous conversations**

Not all our relationships are long-term. Sometimes you find yourself in conversations with a stranger, or with people you will only see a couple of times.

- What could prayerful intentionality look like for spontaneous and one-off conversations?
  - *Make the most of every conversation.*
    - *Think about interesting ways to answer questions like 'How are you?'*
    - *Know what the current 'water cooler' conversations are and plan questions and conversation trajectories around them.*
  - *Understand that you may play a part and be one of many Christians that God brings into their life and your role is to take the opportunity you have and trust God with the results.*
  - *Have a Bible passage or gospel outline to leave them with so that they can keep thinking about it. Connect them with a local church or Christian group.*

### **Share**

This is the final session of Ripple Effect **MODULE 2: Jesus & Conversation**.

1. How has Ripple Effect MODULE 2: Jesus & Conversation influenced the way you think and feel about evangelism?
2. Do you see yourself as an evangelist? Why/Why not? Does it matter?
3. What would a 'successful' evangelistic conversation look like?
4. What one regular habit could you incorporate into your life to help you be more intentionally evangelistic?

### **What happens next?**

Here are some ideas:

- Move on to the next module of Ripple Effect together.
- Keep gathering each month to pray for your evangelism



- Find a few other Christians and take them through Ripple Effect
- MODULE 2: Jesus & Conversation
- Memorise a gospel summary
- Read a book on evangelism. Two good books to start with are:
  - *Talk About Jesus: Personal Evangelism in a Skeptical World (Without Being That Guy)*. S Chan, 2020.
  - *Out of the Saltshaker and Into the World: Evangelism as a Way of Life*. R. Manley Pippert, 1979.

**Pray**

You know what to do!





Keep learning at  
[ripple-effect.net.au](http://ripple-effect.net.au)