



MODULE 1 | **Jesus & Me**

Training 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** (This Module)*

Talking about Jesus and His impact on me

MODULE 2 | **Jesus & Conversation**

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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We would also like to thank SOMA, Rebecca Manley Pippert, Tim Keller and Sam Chan for their work on evangelism training. They have helped shape our thinking and inspired us.

* Module 1 contains 10 sessions, other modules will contain 8 sessions.

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 1

Listen and Share

Knowing Jesus changes us and our lives for the better.

Module Introduction

Learning to speak clearly about Jesus and our relationship with Him is important for our own understanding of the Gospel, and for that of our family and friends. When we talk about what it means to know Jesus, we give people information about, and reasons to trust, Jesus themselves.

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 you feel about evangelism?

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 1 and listen to the impact that meeting Jesus has had on Alec's life. Jakob and Esperanza will then give you an introduction to Session 1: Listen and Share.

Share

This is our first week so we will take some time to get to know each other. Introduce yourself to the group and share something about the story of God's work in your life. Here are some suggestions of what you might talk about:

- | How you came to trust in Jesus
- | Pivotal moments or people in your walk with God
- | How being a Christian has changed you

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.

When people are speaking, remember to listen well. It's a privilege when people trust you enough to share their lives with you. Write down a couple of follow-up questions you would like to ask each member of the group about their story.

- How did you find that experience of listening and sharing?

Train

Now we'll learn from Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman and **read John 4:4-26**. Consider the flow of the conversation.

1. What topics did Jesus and the woman talk about as the conversation progressed?

2. In each phase of the conversation:
 - a. what did Jesus offer her?

 - b. how did He challenge her?

3. How does the 'mood' change over the course of the conversation?

Read John 4:27-30, 39-42.

4. Why do you think the woman spoke about Jesus?

5. Why do you think they listened to her?

6. What are you challenged by in this story?

In John 4 we meet a Samaritan woman who is, unusually, drawing water by herself during the day. She has a history of difficult relationships and is interested in theology. Jesus sees her for who she is, and He welcomes her. But He also challenges her with the truth about God, Himself, and her life. Meeting Jesus is both confronting and incredibly positive for the woman. The effect of this encounter ripples out to others because she can't help but tell her neighbours about this Jesus who she met. Then they come and meet Him too.

Pray

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.

Psalm 105:1-2 (NIV)

Spend some time thanking God for His work in your life. Ask Him to give you opportunities to share your story with others. Ask him to help you to listen well to the people around you when they share their stories with you.

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

- Set up a group chat on social media or a messaging app this week. In your group chat, ask each other your follow-up questions and answer the questions people ask you.

It might feel a bit weird, but we are trying to learn how to talk more comfortably about these things with each other, so just take a deep breath and go with it.

Session 2

People and Prayer

God provides us with opportunities to speak about Jesus. Ask Him for these.

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 2 and listen to Heather's story about prayerful evangelism. Jakob and Esperanza will then give you an introduction to Session 2: People and Prayer.

Share

- What do you find difficult about sharing your faith in Jesus with others?

The Samaritan woman we met last week went back to town and talked to those around her about this man Jesus that she met. 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.
- Choose two of these people and tell the group a little about them, and your relationship with them. As you share, please remember to respect people's privacy!
- Keep a note of each other's friends so that you can pray for them.

Train

Prayer is the starting point when it comes to sharing our faith. We ask God to be at work in people, and through us, to help them meet Jesus. In Colossians 4:2-6 Paul teaches the Colossians about evangelistic relationships.

1. What does Paul ask the Colossians to pray about?
2. How does Paul want the Colossians to live and speak?

3. Why are prayer, conversation and Christian living all important for evangelism?

4. How do these three things interact with each other?

5. What steps can you take to devote yourself to praying like this?

Paul asks the Colossians to devote themselves to prayer. It is God who 'opens doors' and gives opportunities to speak about Jesus. It is God who enables Christians to speak clearly and boldly about Jesus. It is God who opens the door of a person's heart to receive Jesus as Lord.

In anticipation of God answering prayers, Paul encourages the Colossians to live and speak in ways that encourage conversations about who Jesus is, and the difference knowing Jesus makes. We can be tempted to see prayer as 'just prayer', but because it is prayer to the sovereign God, it creates ripples that end up changing people's lives.

Pray

Write a prayer for yourself and your five friends based on Colossians 4:2-6. Use 'I', 'me', and their names. Pray these prayers together.

Homework

- Finish working through the Relationship Network Worksheet.

- 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 evangelistic contacts.
 - ask them to pray for any evangelistic opportunities you have had or anticipate having.

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:

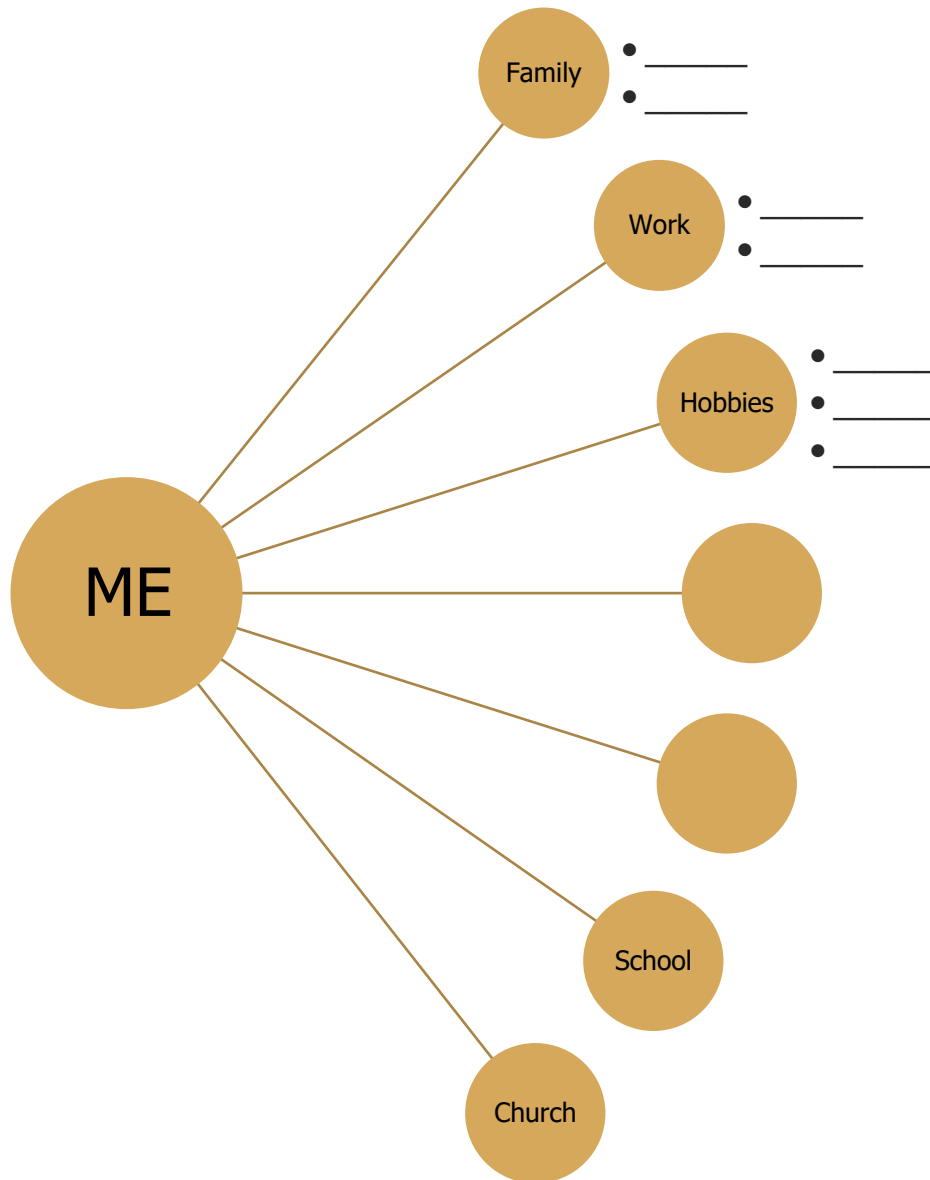
- | underline the names of people you see regularly, even if you don't know them very well yet.
- | circle the names of people you expect to see next week.

→ **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 3

Trained and Ready

Christian has a story worth telling. Let's learn to tell it well.

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 3 and listen to Brandon's story. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 3: Trained and Ready.

Train

Every Christian has a unique story about how they became Christian and why they stay Christian. In each session of the Ripple Effect, we'll hear someone tell part of their story. What did you remember or notice about Brandon's story? Why did that stick in your mind?

Let's have a look at the way Paul shares his story. **Read Acts 26:1-29.**

1. What does Paul say about:
 - a. himself and how he met Jesus?
 - b. Jesus – who He is and what He did?
 - c. how Jesus changes people's lives, including Paul's?
 - d. responding to Jesus?
2. What is unique about Paul's conversion experience and what is more general to all Christians?

Session 4

Creation and Identity

Knowing our God-given identity. I am created for relationship with God, others, and the world.

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 4 and listen to Larissa's story about how knowing the God who created her gives her security and purpose. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 4: Creation and Identity.

Train

Over the next few sessions, we'll reflect on the main stages of God's story: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Re-creation. In each session we'll look at one stage in God's story and how it intersects with our story. We'll consider how each stage of God's story answers the questions people ask about life and connect it with words that come up in everyday conversation. Our final session on God's story will be about transformation and how knowing God changes us for the better.

This week we focus on Creation. Knowing that God created us 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

In Genesis 1 we learn about God's relationship with the people and world He made. We learn about who we are and what our God-given purpose is. Read Genesis 1:26-31.

1. What do we learn about our relationship with:
 - a. God?

 - b. other people?

 - c. the world?

2. What does God think about us and our world?

Read Psalm 8:3-9.

3. Who or what are we created for?
4. What is the right response to our God and Creator?
5. What does it mean to be created 'in God's image'?

Origin stories are powerful in giving us a sense of identity and purpose. Humans are created in God's image for relationship with God, each other, and the world.

We were created to enjoy Him and His blessings as we care for the world He made. When we understand how precious and important we are to God we find a secure dignity, meaning and purpose.

The impact of rightly understanding and embracing who God made us to be should ripple out from us and bless the lives of those around us.

My Story: Identity – Who am I?

Everyone needs to work out who they are and why they matter. At the start of this session, Larissa shared about how knowing her God-given identity and purpose gave her great joy and security in a changing world. How does God's story connect with you personally and become part of your story? How do you know, experience, and live out these truths in your life?

Choose one of the following questions to reflect on. They are different angles on the topic of Creation and Identity. There are several starting points because different approaches 'click' with different people. Just chose one that feels most natural to you. 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 being created in God's image give me dignity, value and/or purpose (aka, why do I matter)?

Be specific. When has knowing this helped me respond to a situation at work, negotiate a difficult relationship, make a decision, etc.

2. How does knowing that all people are created in God's image, with dignity and value, shape the way I relate to them (aka, why do you matter)?

Be specific. Is there a time when knowing this changed the way I thought, felt, and treated people?

3. How does being created by God bring me joy or security? Can I illustrate this with a specific real-life example?

4. What do I find beautiful about the picture in Genesis 1:26-31? Why?

Share

- Share with the group a little about the final person (from the five you identified in previous weeks) that God has placed in your life. Try to guess how they would answer the question: who or what are you created for? Take time to consider how their lives would be better if they knew Jesus.
- Share with the group any parts of the Gospel summary 'Key to Christianity' that stood out for you, or any questions you had with the presentation.

Pray

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?
You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honour.
You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:
all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.
Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalms 8:3-9 (NIV)

Psalm 8:3-9 describes the right response to our creator God. In groups of three or four people:

- | Praise God for creating us with dignity and purpose.
- | Ask for opportunities to share your story about the God who created us.
- | Pray for each other's friends by name.

Homework

In Genesis 2, the creation narrative focuses in on humanity. It speaks about who we are, as it again describes our relationship with God, each other, and the world God made. We need to read Genesis 1 and 2 together to understand them both. Read Genesis 2 and add to the answers you gave in God's story.

- Write out a 'purpose statement' for your life based on Genesis 1-2.

Session 5

Fall and Brokenness

Acknowledging our brokenness. Our sin damages ourselves, others, and the world God made.

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 5 and listen to Alec's conversation with his friend about the brokenness of our world. Then, Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 5: 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. You'll find a summary diagram at the end of the session.

- Share with each other the 'purpose statement' you worked on for your homework.

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 Genesis 3:1-24 to discover how each of the relationships we identified last session were damaged by human sinfulness.

1. Why did Adam and Eve eat the fruit? (i.e. What was their sin?)
3:1-6

2. How does sin immediately affect their relationship with God and each other? Why? 3:7-13

People trusted themselves instead of God. Being 'in the image of God' was not enough, they wanted to *be* God, and so they rebelled against Him. God treated people with dignity and took their actions seriously.

Rejecting the good and just God who gives life *can* only lead to death. God judged Adam and Eve and we now live in a world that is profoundly broken, marred by sin and death. We are out of sync with God, each other, the world, and even ourselves. The impact of human sinfulness ripples out across all people, in all generations.

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

We all live in a world effected by the events of Genesis 3. We all experience the impact of sin and brokenness. We've used the word 'broken' because it is more likely to come up in conversation than 'sin'. Broken also implies that the world is 'not what it was meant to be' and that it needs fixing. God's story tells us that the brokenness people experience flows from human sin and God's judgement.

Choose one of the following questions to reflect on. They are different angles on the topic of Fall and Brokenness. 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. When has my sinfulness damaged relationships and contributed to the world's brokenness? How did knowing God's story help me to respond?

2. How does recognising my own brokenness effect the way I treat other broken people? Can I illustrate this with a specific real-life example?

3. How does knowing that the world is 'not what it is meant to be' help me respond to frustration, pain or disappointment? Can I illustrate this with a specific real-life example?

4. What do I find challenging or comforting about knowing that God judges sin? Can I illustrate this with a specific, real-life example?

Share

Today we will 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 would 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?
- Which people would you like to share Jesus with next week? When will you talk with them?

Pray

Read 1 John 1:5-2:2 and use it as basis for your prayer.

In groups of three or four people:

- | Praise God for forgiving and cleansing us through Jesus.
- | Confess your sin and ask God for forgiveness.
- | Ask for opportunities to share your story about the God who mends our brokenness by judging and forgiving sin.
- | Pray for each of the conversations and friends that people shared about earlier.

Homework

A few weeks ago, we watched the Gospel summary 'Key to Christianity'.

- This week we'll look at another Gospel summary, 'Two ways to Live': twowaystolive.com/

How does it tell the story of:

- Creation and Identity. Who am I?

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?
<i>Creation and Identity</i>	<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>
<i>Fall and Brokenness</i>	<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>

Session 6

Redemption and Security

Resting securely in God's love. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus forgives me and reconciles me to God.

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 6 and listen to Karen encourage us to speak about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 6: Redemption and Security.

In previous sessions we reflected on two stages of God's Story – Creation and Fall. You'll find a summary diagram at the end of the session. To help us revise, share with each other something that stood out for you in the Gospel presentation 'Two ways to live'.

- Did you have any questions about the presentation?

Train

God's Story: Redemption

This week we focus on Redemption. God loves us and frees us from our sin and its consequences. He does this 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?'

Read Romans 5:1-11.

Answer the following questions using the table on the next page:

1. Before
 - a. How are people described *before* they become Christian?
 - b. What are their circumstances like?
2. After
 - a. How are people described *after* they become Christian?
 - b. What are their circumstances like?
3. How do people move from 'before' to 'after'?

How and why God saves us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Romans 5:1-11.

Before	After
How?	

- Look at the table. Try to express each idea in your own words, without using any Christian jargon.

- Does anything strike you or surprise you?

- How do people know God loves them?

Because God loves us, Jesus died for us. He took on Himself our sin, and died the death that we deserved, so that we could be justified (= declared not guilty and now right with God), redeemed (= set free from sin and death), and reconciled (= forgiven).

When we trust Jesus to save us, Jesus shares with us His resurrection life and God pours His Spirit into our heart so that we *know* we are loved. We still sin and we still live in a broken world, but Jesus fixes our relationship with God and enables us to live transformed lives of love, peace and joy.

The security we find in Jesus ripples out from us and transforms all our relationships.

My Story: Security – Who or what saves me?

We all trust someone or something to give us security in a broken and uncertain world. Who or what we chose to trust differs from person to person. Our choice might be wise or unwise. But we all trust something. God's story tells us that only Jesus can provide the security we want and need.

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. Remember to avoid Christian jargon. Spend a couple of minutes making some notes about what to share with the group.

1. When did I first understand what it really meant to say that 'Jesus died for my sin?'. For some of us this is a conversion experience. For others it might be a moment of clarity.

2. How does trusting Jesus as my Saviour help me deal with fear, pain, regret or guilt? Illustrate this with a specific, real-life example. Make sure you say something about Jesus' death and resurrection.

3. How does knowing that God loves me bring me joy, peace or security? Illustrate this with a specific, real-life example and remember to say something about Jesus' death and resurrection.

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 of you 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?

Pray

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

In groups of three or four people:

- | Praise God for loving us so much that Jesus died for us.
- | Ask God for increasing confidence that Jesus is the risen Lord who saves.
- | Ask for opportunities to share your story about the God who gives us security in a broken world.
- | Thank God and pray for the conversations or friends that people shared about earlier.

Homework

It's important to be able to speak clearly about how Jesus saves us through His death and resurrection so we're going to practise!

→ Reflect

Which of the pictures used to describe Jesus' work on the cross – justified, redeemed, reconciled, saved – most resonates most with you at the moment? Why?

- Notice that this is not quite the same as telling the story about how you became a Christian.

This question asks you to reflect on how trusting Jesus' death and resurrection continues to impact your life now.

- Illustrate your answer with a specific, real-life example of how trusting Jesus gives you security in a broken world.
- Include aspects of both the life Jesus has saved you *from* and the life Jesus saves you *for*.
- Remember to mention Jesus' death and resurrection and avoid Christian jargon.

→ Write out a paragraph to share with the group next session.

Think of the friends you are praying for. For each friend, consider how they would answer the question: What or whom do I trust to give me security, peace and joy? Take time to consider how their lives would be better if they knew Jesus.

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>

- b. each other?

 - c. the world we will live in?
-
- 3. How does this future address the deep longings for identity, healing and security that we discussed in the first three stages of God's story?

 - 4. When you imagine life after Jesus returns, how closely does it correspond to the vision in Revelation 21?

God promises a future where all things will be restored to a right relationship with God their Creator. Sin and its effects (brokenness, death, pain, fear, and judgement) are gone. Christians wait for the day when Jesus returns, and we'll experience this new life with God and each other, in all its fullness.

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

My 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 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. When has knowing Jesus and the future He promises given me hope even though other dreams have disappointed me?
2. Why is the vision of 'world peace' in the New Creation a better, stronger and bigger hope than any other vision of peace offered by the world?
3. How does putting my hope in Jesus' return change the way I make decisions about work or money or relationships or health or ...? What are the 'costs' of doing this and why are they worth it?
4. When I imagine life in the New Creation, what do I look forward to most? Why?

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 share Jesus with others this week?
- Remind each other of the five people you're praying for. For one of them, consider how trusting Jesus will give them a better hope for the future than the one they have now.

Pray

The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10 (NIV)

- | Praise God for a future of perfect relationships with Him and each other, in a world free of sin, suffering and death.
- | Ask God to rescue your family and friends from the coming wrath and for a relationship with Jesus.
- | Ask for opportunities to share your story about the God who offers us a beautiful future.
- | Thank God and pray for the conversations or friends that people shared about earlier.

Homework

- Watch the Gospel summary '321':
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf94J3xGIOs

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.

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	What does it mean to be created in God's image?	Who am I? Who are we? What is my purpose?
	What does God think about us and the world He created?	Why do I matter? Why do you matter? How does being created by God bring me joy or rest?
Fall and Brokenness	What is sin and what are its consequences?	What is wrong with me (us)? Why is the world so broken? Why can't we fix things?
	What went wrong with the world God created?	Is God's justice something to look forward to or fear?
Redemption and Security	How does Jesus save us?	How can I be safe in a broken world?
	Why does Jesus save us?	Why am I confident God loves me? What does Jesus save me from? What type of life does Jesus save me (us) for?
Re-creation and Hope	What is the New Creation like?	What hope is there for the future?
	Who is in the New Creation?	What does real peace look like? Is hope naïve or necessary? What do I look forward to when Jesus returns?

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?

2. Why does God love us?

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>
Re-creation and Hope	<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>

<i>Transformation and Change</i>		<p>Is hope naïve or necessary?</p> <p>What do I look forward to when Jesus returns?</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>

Session 9

Telling My Story

Turning your testimony into a story.

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 9 and listen to Sarah share why and how she 'tells her story'. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 9: Telling My Story.

Share with each other something that stood out for you in the Gospel presentation 'Back to God's Village'. Did you have any questions about the presentation?

Train

Every Christian has a story about how they became Christian and why they stay Christian. It will *always* be a story about how God, in Christ, transforms our identity, brokenness, security and hope. But it will always be a *unique* story because people are different, our experiences are different, and how Jesus meets us in the particulars of our life is different.

No two stories will be exactly the same.

Further, our story has many chapters because our relationship with God is multifaceted and dynamic. When we share our story with others, sometimes we share one chapter and at other times we share a different chapter. Some chapters are yet to be written so it helpful to reflect regularly and update our stories.

God's Story

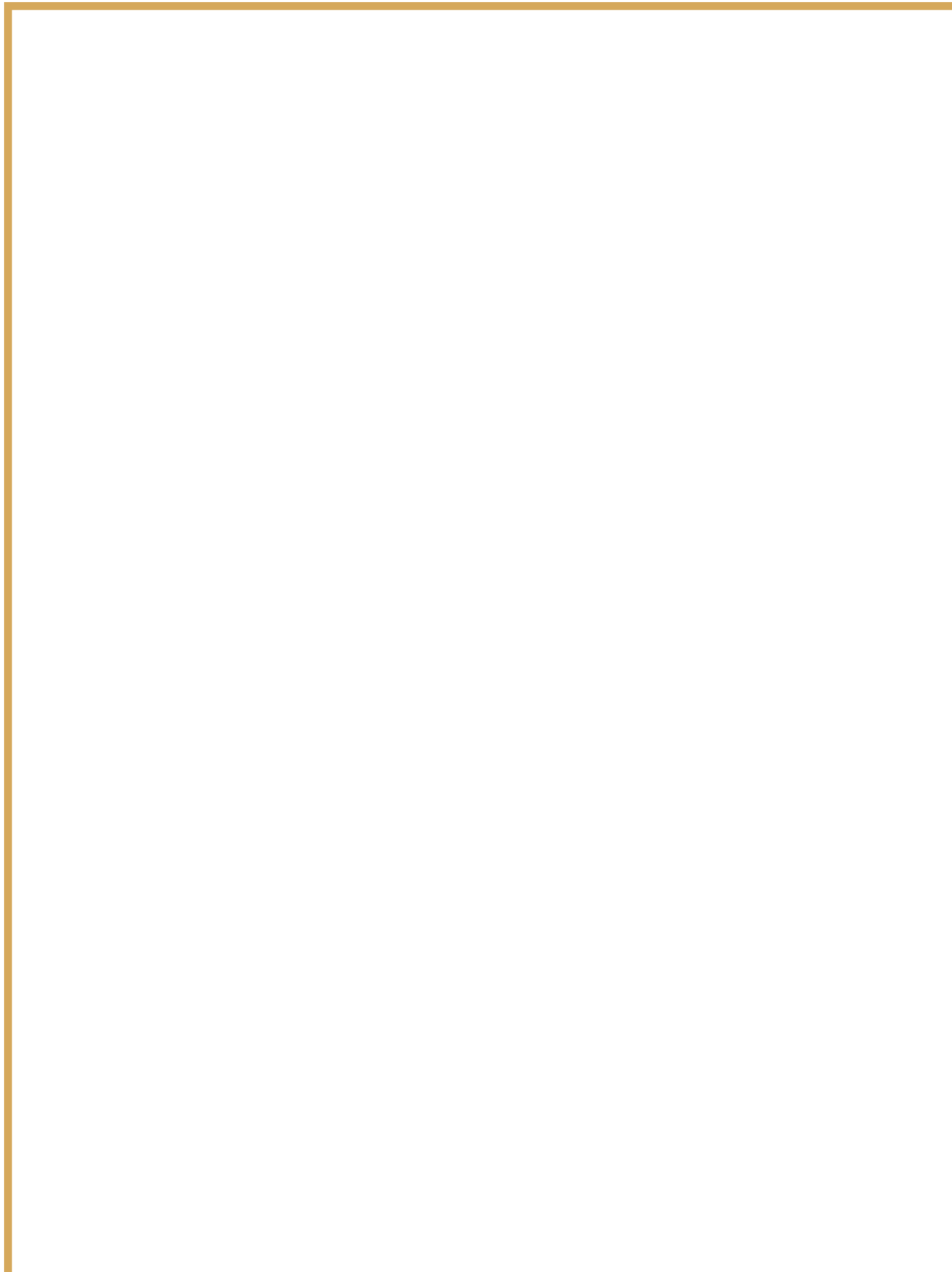
God's sovereign kindness: it might be your particular story about Jesus that someone needs to hear so that they can call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

In Romans 10:9-15 Paul speaks about God sending people to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

1. How does someone become a Christian (9-13)?

- Answer the question 'what do I enjoy about life with Jesus'? This question highlights why you 'stay' a Christian and why following Jesus makes life better. Just unpack one aspect of this, with a specific, real-life example.
- Answer the question 'why did I become a Christian?' While this question overlaps with 'how' you became a Christian, it focuses attention *more* on personal motives and impact, and *less* on the timeline of events. Just unpack one aspect of this, with a specific, real-life example.

Take ten minutes to sketch out your story. Then use your notes to tell your story to each other. Try to keep it to three minutes each so that you focus on the key points.



Give each other feedback.

- Point out any use of Christian jargon.
- Where and how did Jesus come up?
- Which part of each story really spoke to you, or encouraged you, or challenged you? Why?
- What part of the story would you like to hear more about? Why?

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.

Pray

Read Romans 10:9-15 and use it as a basis for prayer. Thank God for His work in your life and ask Him to send you to share the Good News with others. Pray for each other's family and friends.

Homework

- Listen to Sam Chan tell his story. Listen from 6:10 mins to the 9:40 min. mark: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfXnVkpmsyI
- Which of our themes (identity, brokenness, security, hope, change) comes up?

- What does Sam tell us about Jesus?

- How did he use specific stories to illustrate the points he was making?

→ Read through the 'My Story' questions that we looked at in previous weeks. What other stories can you tell about knowing Jesus and the difference that knowing Him makes? Write out two more chapters of your story.

Session 10

Living My Story

Evangelism is a natural outworking of who we are in Christ.

Session Introduction

This is the final session of Ripple Effect: Jesus and Me. Watch the introduction video for Session 10 and listen to Jeri speak about why she shares the Gospel. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 10: Living out your story.

Train

The Bible gives us many reasons to evangelise and they all matter. In different ways, they are all natural outworkings of what we believe and who we are in Christ. Have a look at some of them by reading the following passages. Perhaps group members can take a few passages each to read and report back on.

- **Matthew 9:35-38** and **Romans 10:1-4**

- **John 4:28-30** and **1 Peter 2:9-10**

- **Philippians 2:5-11** and **Revelation 7:9-12**

- **2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

- **2 Peter 3:4-9, 15** and **1 Thessalonians 1:8-10**

This is the final session of Ripple Effect MODULE 1: **Jesus & Me**

1. What are your key takeaways from Ripple Effect: Jesus and Me?

2. What one thing would like to keep working on?

What happens next?

Here are some ideas:

- Move on to Ripple Effect MODULE 2: Jesus & Conversation
- Keep gathering each month to pray for your evangelism
- Find a few other Christians and take them through Ripple Effect MODULE 1: Jesus & Me
- 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!

Notes

Notes

Keep learning at
ripple-effect.net.au