



Ripple
Effect

MODULE 2 | **Jesus & Conversation**

Leaders Guide

Module Overview

MODULE 2 | Jesus & Conversation

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

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

Each session includes these components:

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

Module Goals

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

Session 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?
- 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 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.

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
I want to become a better version of myself.			
How can we stop our communities falling apart?			

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

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
2. Two Ways to Live
twowaystolive.com
3. 321
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf94J3xGfOs
4. Back to God's Village
www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLQmgPT-xOU
5. Big Story Gospel
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.

	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>
<i>Redemption and Security</i>	<p>How does Jesus save us?</p> <p>Why does Jesus save us?</p>	<p>How can I be safe in a broken world?</p> <p>Why am I confident God loves me?</p> <p>What does Jesus save me from?</p> <p>What type of life does Jesus save me (us) for?</p>

<p><i>Re-creation and Hope</i></p>	<p>What 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><i>Transformation and Change</i></p>	<p>How does receiving Jesus' love set me free to love?</p> <p>How do we become like Jesus?</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>

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ripple-effect.net.au