



MODULE 3 | **The Real Jesus**

# **Leader's Guide**



## Session 7

# Inviting people to follow Jesus

**Key idea:** *Jesus' resurrection is true news and good news that people need to respond to. The risen Jesus offers people forgiveness and new life, which they can accept or reject.*

**Key encouragement:** *People become Christian from all sorts of backgrounds and beliefs when they meet the risen Jesus in the pages of the Bible with the help of God's Spirit.*

**Practical challenge:** *Ask people what they think about Jesus and where they stand with Jesus. Give them time and space to make an informed decision, but encourage them to make one.*

**Session goals:**

- *Discuss why Jesus' resurrection is true news and good news.*
- *Learn how to invite people to respond to Jesus.*
- *Pray for each other and each other's friends.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 7.

Jesus' resurrection is true news and good news that people need to respond to. The risen Jesus offers people forgiveness and new life, which they can accept or reject. Some people decide quickly. Other people need more time or information to make an informed decision, though long-term indecision is itself a choice with consequences.

### Share

Choose one of the following to share about.

- Share stories of evangelistic opportunities God gave you this week. These might be conversations you are grateful for or ones that didn't go as you hoped. They might be interesting conversations with potential or clear answers to our prayers.
- How did your plans to love your neighbour go?

### Pray

Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. ...

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:27-28, 31-32 (NIV)

- | Use this passage and the sharing time to guide your prayers for yourself, each other, and your friends.

## **Train** **Luke's Gospel**

*This is where you hand over to the group member who is leading the discussion on Luke 24:36-53. Invite everyone in the group to make life easier for the facilitator by offering answers, asking questions, and helping the discussion move forward. Everyone is going to take a turn at this, so invite people to make it a positive experience for everyone.*

Jesus, having risen from the dead, appears again to his disciples.

1. Read Luke 24:36-53 and discuss the three questions:
  - a. Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
    - *What does Jesus say and do? Why?*
    - *How does he persuade his followers that he is risen?*
    - *What does he promise them?*
    - *What does he command them to do?*
  - b. People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?
    - *What are we told about Jesus' followers? Why might this be important?*
    - *What are they thinking and feeling?*
    - *How do they change throughout this passage?*
    - *Who or what changes them?*
  - c. Me: What is my response to Jesus and this story?
    - *How am I like or unlike Jesus' first followers?*
    - *Why do I believe/doubt that Jesus is risen? Why?*
    - *What do I believe about life after death more generally? Why?*
    - *How does Jesus' resurrection give me hope for the future?*

## 2. Review your discussion.

*Thank your group member for leading the discussion as you start the review section. Give them helpful encouragement and feedback in this section. We want all group members to have a positive experience at leading discussion so that they are willing to read Luke's Gospel with a non-Christian friend or family member.*

- a. Think back to each of the three questions: Jesus. People. Me. What comments or additional questions helped keep discussion focused on Jesus, moving forward and going deeper?
  - b. What does this story teach us about forgiveness?
    - *Jesus needs to open people's mind so that they can respond to his offer of forgiveness.*
    - *Repentance is needed.*
    - *Forgiveness is for people from all nations.*
    - *Our new life with Jesus is characterised by peace and forgiveness.*
  - c. What aspects of the passage would you like to have discussed, or to have discussed more fully, if you had your time again?

## 3. Explain why you believe that Jesus rose from the dead and what difference this makes to your life.

*This important part of Christian belief is often a sticking point for people who aren't Christian so being able to articulate this matters. Reasons might include: eyewitness testimony of people who saw him, OT prophecy that this would happen, the transformation in the apostles, the empty tomb, you have met the risen Lord through his Spirit and know he is alive.*

**Skill: The Ask – inviting people to follow Jesus**

Giving people information about Jesus is important. It's also important to encourage people to respond to Jesus. To be saved, people need to repent, receive the forgiveness that Jesus offers, and follow him.

1. What types of things is it useful for someone to know about Jesus, and themselves, to become a Christian?
  - *Work on some dot points here. For example:*
    - *I am a sinner in need of forgiveness.*
    - *Jesus offers us forgiveness and life in God's kingdom through his death and resurrection.*

- *Jesus is risen and will return to save and to bring justice.*
  - *Following Jesus is a life-long commitment to trusting and obeying him.*
  - *Jesus gives us his Spirit to enable us to follow him while we wait for him to return. Etc.*
- *But note that some of the desperate people Jesus met didn't know much more than that they needed help and that Jesus was willing and able to help them. cf 5:27-28.*

2. If someone says to you, 'I want to become a Christian:'

- a. What questions could you ask to check that they knew what they were doing?
- *Questions that clarify what they understand about Jesus and following him. For example:*
    - *What has God taught you about Jesus?*
    - *Why do you think he died for you?*
    - *How do you think your life might change when you become Christian?*
    - *How do you feel about this?*
    - *What questions do you have about becoming a Christian?*
- b. What could you tell them about how to become a Christian? (Hint: You could formulate an answer around the words: Repent. Believe. Follow. Pray.)
- *Repent of your sin and ask for forgiveness.*
  - *Believe that Jesus' died, rose and will return. He did this because he loved you. He did this so that you could be forgiven and have new life with him.*
  - *Follow Jesus by thanking God for his love and forgiveness, and asking him to give you his Spirit so that you can love, trust and obey Jesus, forever.*
  - *Pray with them and for them. Help them know what to pray for and encourage them to pray.*
- c. If they did repent and believe, what could you advise them to do next?
- *Tell them that they are a child of God who is known, loved and forgiven. God lives in them through his Spirit and will always be with them.*

- *Invite them to come to your church with you.*
  - *Help them start to develop a regular Bible reading and prayer habit.*
  - *Offer to keep reading the Bible with them and praying for them while they discover what being a Christian means.*
  - *Encourage them to tell someone else — this can help make it real.*
3. How could you respond to someone who says that they didn't want to become a Christian?
- *Thank them for their honesty and the time they have invested in reading Luke's Gospel.*
  - *How did you come to that decision?*
  - *Who do you think Jesus is?*
  - *Reassure them that your friendship is not contingent on them becoming Christian. You will continue to care about them and you are ready to talk with them about Jesus if they change their mind.*
4. How could you help someone who 'needed more information' before making a decision?
- *Discuss their questions or concerns. Identify a next step that they can take with you or by themselves.*
  - *A relevant Bible passage, podcast, website or book?*
  - *A Christian with relevant experience for them to talk with?*
  - *A church they can join to keep learning about Jesus?*
  - *A table weighing up the pros and cons of becoming Christian that you can talk through together?*
5. As we practice inviting people to respond to Jesus, why is it important to remember that it is only through God's Spirit that people see their need for Jesus and respond to Jesus?
- *We learn to trust that while God uses our evangelism, he is the one who reveals himself to people.*
  - *We don't need to pressure people to respond or to respond now. We can trust God's timing, which may be different from our own.*
  - *God's work changing a person's heart might be slow and deep and not always visible to us immediately.*

Asking people where they stand with Jesus can be uncomfortable, but it is important. People don't need to pass a doctrine exam or holiness test to become a Christian, but they do need to know 'enough' to trust and follow Jesus. Some people already know that they need help and will trust Jesus quickly. Other people wrestle with understanding things like the Trinity and Substitutionary

Atonement before becoming Christians. For others, admitting that they are sinners who need to change will be a real challenge.

People become Christian from all sorts of backgrounds and beliefs when they meet the risen Jesus in the words of Scripture with the help of the Spirit. So, pray for people and invite them to read Luke's Gospel with you. Ask them what they think about Jesus and why. Give them time and space to make an informed decision, but encourage them to make a decision. And let them know that whatever they decide, you will continue to care about them – as does Jesus!

6. Pray. Thank God for opening your eyes and enabling you to repent and believe in Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to be at work in your friends to help them turn to Jesus in repentance and faith too.

*Remind people that the next session is our last one for RE3: The Real Jesus.*

*For Session 8: Ask a group member to lead discussion on Luke 9:18-27 using the three questions. Ask them to spend 20 minutes preparing using the three questions and the Expansion Questions document attached to Session 2. Share the Leader's Guide for Session 8 with them so that they have access to the expansion question ideas for the three questions.*

*Even though they are only leading Luke's Gospel Question 1, encourage them to read the whole session so that they see how the passage connects to the 'forgiveness' theme and the Skill.*

## Revise

Consider two of the five people you are praying for.

- What do you think stops them from following Jesus? If you don't know, how could you find out?
- How could you start to address these barriers?
- Are there any parts of Luke's Gospel that might help?

Invite another person to read Luke's Gospel with you.

- Look back at the Session 3 Skill: Questions 3-4. Choose another one of the five people you are praying for that you will either see or speak with this week and work through these questions.



- Pray for an opportunity. Plan for an opportunity. Take a deep breath and invite them to read Luke's Gospel with you.

Look back at the Loving your Neighbour tables in Session 4.

- Act on another of these ideas this week.

Connect with other group members during the week.

- Share with each other your plans to love your neighbour, or invite someone to read Luke with you, or how God has been answering our prayers.

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

- *Send encouraging feedback to the person who facilitated discussion this session.*
- *Contact the person facilitating discussion on Luke 9:18-27 next session and check they understand their role.*
- *Send them a copy of the Leader's Guide for Session 8 to help their preparation.*
- *Offer to chat through the passage and the three questions.*
- *Remind them to use the Expansion Questions document attached to Session 2.*
- *Do whatever you can to help them have a positive experience when they lead.*
- *Pray with them.*



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