



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

<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 boarder 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?*



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