



Ripple
Effect

MODULE 1 | **Jesus & Me**

Leaders Guide

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 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?
 - *We're made in God's image. We're like Him and/or represent Him.*
 - *Connected with the idea of privileged rule. 26*
 - *Connected to the idea of being different from the rest of creation.*
 - *Connected to individual humans and also people in community. 27 God is described as a 'he' and an 'us'.*
 - *We're blessed by God and enabled to fulfil the responsibilities he has given us. 28-30*
 - *God blesses us and provides for us.*
 - *We depend on him.*

- *We have the privilege of being like Him, relating to Him, and ruling His world under Him.*

b. other people?

- *To enjoy God's blessings and fulfil his commands we need to work together. v28 is a community project; 'Individuals in community.'*
- *If others are in the image of God, we must treat them with dignity and respect because of who God made them to be.*
- *The way we treat others reflects what we think about God.*

c. the world?

- *We depend on the world we live in for food.*
- *God's world is entrusted to our care.*
- *Like the world, we are created by God. Unlike the world, we are in God's image.*
- *The way we treat the world reflects what we think about God.*

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

That we and it are very good.

Read Psalm 8:3-9.

3. Who or what are we created for?

- *We were created with glory and honour to enjoy a privileged relationship:*
 - *with God. We can know and praise him.*
 - *with His creation. We rule it under Him.*

4. What is the right response to our God and Creator?

Like the Psalmist, we should respond with amazement, praise and obedience.

5. What does it mean to be created 'in God's image'?

This is a summary question that helps pull everything together.

This following paragraph is a summary that you can use to pull things together and pick up on anything that may have been missed.

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.

Help the group to choose one of these reasonably quickly. They can always do another one at home during the week if they want to. Don't let them spend too much time choosing.

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.

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?

As you listen, choose one aspect from everyone's story that you find encouraging and tell them you find it encouraging. We want learning to talk about our relationship with Jesus to be a positive experience.

We also want to help people listen to what others are saying and engage with it. Listening is a key part of evangelism.

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.

We're asking people to think about how their friends would answer these questions so that they're better prepared for any conversations that might come.

We're asking people to consider how their friends' lives would be better if they know Jesus so that they're reminded that becoming Christian is a good thing for people.

- 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.

This question is important. It will help you start to work out how well people understand the Gospel. There's something about putting concepts in your own words that helps you understand them better.

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.
- *How easy or difficult did people find this session?*
- *What does this mean for future sessions?*

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.

Keep learning at
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