



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 8

Prayer and Intentionality

*Making the most of our God-given opportunities to share Jesus.
Prayerful and intentional relationships.*

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 8.

- What did you learn from Bronwen's experience of evangelistic conversations?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Prayer and Intentionality?

God's story is the Gospel – that is, the Good News of Jesus. Christians have a God-given *identity* as children of God; an honest understanding of how we contribute to, and are harmed by, the world's *brokenness*; eternal *security* in Christ whatever circumstances face us in this life; and a sure *hope* that Jesus will return and restore our bodies, relationships, and world.

This Good News *changes* us. It is Good News that others need to hear.

Consider your homework exercise:

- Which gospel summary did you like most? Why?
- Did any make you feel uncomfortable? Why?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a gospel summary?

Train

In this session, we circle back to where we started:

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

Read Colossians 4:2-6 and 1 Peter 3:15-16.

1. What do these passages tell us about intentional conversations, which seek to share the gospel with people who are not Christian? Consider attitude, manner and content.

a. Colossians 4:2-6

- *Prayerful and watchful.*
- *Dependent on God to open doors and give people boldness.*
- *Making the most of every opportunity that God gives.*
- *Wise in our actions. Gracious in our speech.*
- *Which should lead to questions that we can answer.*
- *Talk about Christ.*
- *Sometimes we'll initiate and other times we'll answer.*

b. 1 Peter 3:15-16.

- *Revere Christ the Lord. Remember He is Lord.*
- *Be ready to give an answer for the hope we have.*
- *Speak with gentleness and respect.*
- *Which means people have no valid reason to slander us.*

These passages assume that the way we live and speak will lead people to ask questions about the Jesus we follow. For this to happen, we need to be involved in people's lives and invite them to be involved in our lives. So that they can see and experience the difference that knowing Jesus can and does make, not just in our lives, but in the lives of Christians more generally.

Intentionality in on-going relationships

The following table invites you to think through ways you can deliberately and intentionally relate to people as a Christian who genuinely loves them. The first three rows are about spending time with people. The last three rows are about conversations with people. In real life the categories overlap.

Work through the following table with one of the people you have been praying for in mind. Try to come up with some specific ideas for how to progress your relationship and conversations prayerfully and intentionally.

	Me Individually	My Christian Community
<p>Love: Acts of service.</p> <p>How can I show love to them in practical ways that they will appreciate?</p>	<p><i>Meal? Message?</i> <i>Drive them to the airport?</i> <i>Remember their name.</i></p>	<p><i>Is there a church program they might be interested in?</i> <i>Mainly Music?</i> <i>Food hampers.</i></p>

<p>Social: Casual and fun hangout.</p> <p>How can I spend time with them in everyday ways?</p>	<p><i>Things we have in common.</i> <i>Exercise? Dog park?</i></p>	<p><i>Who might they connect with that I could introduce them to?</i> <i>Parenting group?</i></p>
<p>Community: Connecting them.</p> <p>How could I help them get to know my Christian friends?</p>	<p><i>Dinner with a mix of Christian friends and those who are not?</i></p>	<p><i>Social event?</i></p>
<p>Questions: Answering questions.</p> <p>How can I answer the questions they have about Jesus?</p>	<p><i>Book or website?</i></p>	<p><i>Apologetic Event?</i> <i>Evangelistic course?</i> <i>(Alpha etc.)</i></p>
<p>Jesus: Talking about Jesus.</p> <p>How can I introduce them to the life and teachings of Jesus?</p>	<p><i>Gospel summary?</i> <i>Prep. answers that point to Jesus in my conversations.</i></p>	<p><i>Evangelistic course?</i> <i>(Alpha etc.)</i></p>
<p>Bible: Reading the Bible</p> <p>How can I encourage them to read the Bible for themselves?</p>	<p><i>Invite them to read a gospel with me?</i> <i>Share a verse with them.</i></p>	<p><i>Bible Study? Small Group?</i></p>

Given what Jesus said about love and Christian community, connecting people to Christians and Christian community is significant. Inviting people to join you in Christian community is important. It gives people a variety of models of Christian living. It shows them the beauty of a community characterised by self-sacrificial love.

- Can you think of more reasons?
 - *Other people might be better answering their questions about Jesus than I am.*
 - *They can see that this is not just about me and what I think.*

Spontaneous conversations

Not all our relationships are long-term. Sometimes you find yourself in conversations with a stranger, or with people you will only see a couple of times.

- What could prayerful intentionality look like for spontaneous and one-off conversations?
 - *Make the most of every conversation.*
 - *Think about interesting ways to answer questions like 'How are you?'*
 - *Know what the current 'water cooler' conversations are and plan questions and conversation trajectories around them.*
 - *Understand that you may play a part and be one of many Christians that God brings into their life and your role is to take the opportunity you have and trust God with the results.*
 - *Have a Bible passage or gospel outline to leave them with so that they can keep thinking about it. Connect them with a local church or Christian group.*

Share

This is the final session of Ripple Effect **MODULE 2: Jesus & Conversation**.

1. How has Ripple Effect MODULE 2: Jesus & Conversation influenced the way you think and feel about evangelism?
2. Do you see yourself as an evangelist? Why/Why not? Does it matter?
3. What would a 'successful' evangelistic conversation look like?
4. What one regular habit could you incorporate into your life to help you be more intentionally evangelistic?

What happens next?

Here are some ideas:

- Move on to the next module of Ripple Effect together.
- Keep gathering each month to pray for your evangelism

- Find a few other Christians and take them through Ripple Effect
- 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!

Keep learning at
ripple-effect.net.au