



Ripple
Effect

MODULE 1 | **Jesus & Me**

Leaders Guide

Course Overview

What is Ripple Effect?

Ripple Effect is a Christian discipleship course for evangelism. Ripple Effect is an accessible and comprehensive course that will help you:

- Better understand the good news about Jesus yourself
- Love family and friends who don't know Jesus by praying for them regularly
- Develop skills in talking about Jesus
- Learn how to live a life always 'on mission' and ready to serve God
- Hear what God is doing in and through others as you pray for them

Who is Ripple Effect for?

This course is for you if you want to 'dive' into evangelism or just want to dip your toe in the water. Expect God to create ripples that impact others in ways you never would have imagined.

Depending where you are on your Christian journey, you should begin with Module 1 and/or 2 to establish gospel themes and learn frameworks used in later modules.

Why does Ripple Effect work?

The course is built around small groups of people meeting weekly to engage with the brief session video and session guide. These weekly meetings are where discipleship happens and are crucial to the momentum of Ripple Effect. For each session, the group will:

SHARE

Share stories of evangelistic opportunities since the last session to encourage and seek wisdom from others in the group. God is always working.

PRAY

Praise God for his love, salvation, and the privilege of evangelism. Ask God to save our family and friends and use us to help them come to know and trust Jesus.

TRAIN

Improve confidence and competence in evangelism by learning, practicing, and reviewing skills that enable us to speak about Jesus in a natural and unforced manner.

What does Ripple Effect cover?

The Ripple Effect course is made up of 6 modules. You will find the modules cohesive as they build on gospel themes and frameworks. Each module contains 8 sessions.

MODULE 1 | Jesus & Me (This Module)*

Talking about Jesus and His impact on me

MODULE 2 | Jesus & Conversation

Talking about the gospel in everyday conversations

MODULE 3 | The Real Jesus

Reading a Gospel with someone investigating Jesus

MODULE 4 | Apologetics

Answering the questions people have about Jesus and Christianity

MODULE 5 | Knowing Jesus

Discipling a new Christian

MODULE 6 | Jesus & Mission

Sharing the gospel to everyone

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the AFES's generosity in allowing material that was developed by their staff to be turned into Ripple Effect.

We would also like to thank SOMA, Rebecca Manley Pippert, Tim Keller and Sam Chan for their work on evangelism training. They have helped shape our thinking and inspired us.

* Module 1 contains 10 sessions, other modules will contain 8 sessions.

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.

Tips for Leading

Tips for leading will be in italics in this Leaders Manual. They'll include tips about leading, possible trajectories for answers and ideas about how you could particularise the session for your group.

As you move through the material, you'll get an idea of where your group should spend more time or less time. You can shift the order of the Train, Share and Pray blocks to meet the needs of your group best. Just think clearly about how you connect these components if you do. All of them are important. Be careful not to always cut one of these sections short.

General tips for effective weekly Ripple Effect sessions

- 1. Set some group expectations. For example, listening to and not interrupting others when they are speaking. If there is disagreement, it should be expressed gently and respectfully. Keeping to the agreed start and finish time. Letting the group know if you are unable to attend a session. Etc*
- 2. Lock in a regular meeting time and place with your group and commit to it.*
- 3. Don't panic if it feels clunky at the start. People will get to know each other.*
- 4. Avoid running over time because it discourages people from attending. Set a timer if you need to and don't feel the need to cover all the material every session.*
- 5. Doing the homework each week will help consolidate what you've learnt.*
- 6. Perhaps you could encourage other groups members to lead one of the later sessions? Ripple Effect is about peer-to-peer encouragement. You don't need to be an expert evangelist to facilitate a session. You just need to be willing to prepare and share.*

Session 1

Listen and Share

Knowing Jesus changes us and our lives for the better.

Module Introduction

Watch the introduction video for an overview of Ripple Effect Module 1: Jesus and Me.

Learning to speak clearly about Jesus and our relationship with Him is important for our own understanding of the Gospel, and for that of our family and friends. When we talk about what it means to know Jesus, we give people information about, and reasons to trust, Jesus themselves.

Introduce yourself to the group and share something about why you are participating in Ripple Effect.

- What do you think of when you hear the word 'evangelism'?
- How you feel about evangelism?

Listen well to the answers people give. It will help you understand what they want from this module and any apprehension they have about evangelism. Some people may have had negative experiences with being evangelised or when evangelising. As the leader, you can set the tone for the group by being honest and vulnerable.

At the end of the discussion, set some group expectations. For example, listening to and not interrupting others when they are speaking. Giving permission for disagreement when it is expressed gently and respectfully. Keeping to the agreed start and finish time. Letting the group know if you are unable to attend a session. etc. Many of these group expectations will also be relevant in evangelism.

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 1 and listen to the impact that meeting Jesus has had on Alec's life. Jakob and Esperanza will then give you an introduction to Session 1: Listen and Share.

Share

If there are more than 4 people in your group, plan how to divide the group up for this section and set the 'timer' accordingly. Depending on the people in your group, pairs can be quite intense. You might keep the same groups for the entire module, or you could mix the groups up each session. Do what's best for your group.

Encourage people to stick to 5 minutes. It will be too much time for some people and not enough for others. This is only session 1. There will be plenty of time to share in coming weeks. Time constraints also reflect the reality that when it comes to evangelism, we are often working with limited windows of time.

Take notes of how each person answers these questions. It will help you know how to lead the group in coming weeks.

This is our first week so we will take some time to get to know each other. Introduce yourself to the group and share something about the story of God's work in your life. Here are some suggestions of what you might talk about:

- | How you came to trust in Jesus
- | Pivotal moments or people in your walk with God
- | How being a Christian has changed you

Don't feel like you need to cover all these areas; they are just prompts. There will be plenty of time in coming sessions to hear more about each other! Set a timer and give each person five minutes.

When people are speaking, remember to listen well. It's a privilege when people trust you enough to share their lives with you. Write down a couple of follow-up questions you would like to ask each member of the group about their story.

- How did you find that experience of listening and sharing?

Train

Now we'll learn from Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman and **read John 4:4-26**. Consider the flow of the conversation.

The leader's notes contain some ideas for possible answers and trajectories. They're not exhaustive, nor do you need to cover every point. They're just ideas.

1. What topics did Jesus and the woman talk about as the conversation progressed?
 - *Water and thirst. Physical and spiritual.*
 - *Relationships between Samaritans and Jews.*
 - *Her difficult relationship history.*
 - *Theology of worship and religious differences.*
 - *Who Jesus is and why he's so different.*
2. In each phase of the conversation:
 - a. what did Jesus offer her?

- *Welcome. He was a Jewish man, but he was talking to her.*
- *Living water. Fulfilment of her deepest longings and needs.*
- *Information about true worship of God.*
- *Himself as the Messiah she was waiting for.*

b. how did He challenge her?

- *Expectations and experience about how a Jewish man could relate to a Samaritan woman.*
- *With His honesty about the brokenness of the world and her life.*
- *Opinions about God.*
- *Assumptions about the best she could hope for.*

3. How does the 'mood' change over the course of the conversation?

- *Initially, confusion and suspicion towards Jesus.*
- *Interested in what he's offering.*
- *Surprised and challenged that he knows her life in all its mess. Yet he still talks with her.*
- *Excited that he can give her the information about God that she needs.*

Read John 4:27-30, 39-42.

4. Why do you think the woman spoke about Jesus?

- *Excited. She knew something that others needed and should want.*

5. Why do you think they listened to her?

- *Others came to find out about Jesus themselves and came to believe He was the Saviour of the world.*

6. What are you challenged by in this story?

This last paragraph is a summary of the Bible teaching. Use it to pull things together and pick up on anything that may have been missed.

In John 4 we meet a Samaritan woman who is, unusually, drawing water by herself during the day. She has a history of difficult relationships and is interested in theology. Jesus sees her for who she is, and He welcomes her. But He also challenges her with the truth about God, Himself, and her life. Meeting Jesus is both confronting and incredibly positive for the woman. The effect of this encounter ripples out to others because she can't help but tell her neighbours about this Jesus who she met. Then they come and meet Him too.

Pray

You might need to sound out how comfortable people are with praying aloud in a group. If you need to, encourage them to write down one thing to thank God for and then read and pray their one sentence prayer.

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.

Psalm 105:1-2 (NIV)

Spend some time thanking God for His work in your life. Ask Him to give you opportunities to share your story with others. Ask him to help you to listen well to the people around you when they share their stories with you.

Some members of the group may feel more comfortable praying out loud than others. Please remember that a one-sentence prayer written down and read out is just as authentic as a five-minute prayer prayed spontaneously.

As the group facilitator, please set up a group chat on social media or a messaging app so that you can communicate prayer points and encouragements to each other during the week. It would be a good idea for you to be the one initiating discussion this week by asking your question and answering any that people ask you. Perhaps ask for prayer about a conversation you had or will have. etc.

Discuss why the homework is important and how much time people should spend on it. It needs to be quick enough for people to fit it in their week, but long enough to be useful. The homework is designed to consolidate learning by approaching the session content from a different perspective. It also encourages people to think about evangelism during the week and not just in Ripple Effect sessions.

Homework

- Set up a group chat on social media or a messaging app this week. In your group chat, ask each other your follow-up questions and answer the questions people ask you.

It might feel a bit weird, but we are trying to learn how to talk more comfortably about these things with each other, so just take a deep breath and go with it.

After Session Reflection

- *How comfortable are people sharing and praying?*
- *How competent are people at reading the Bible?*
- *What went smoothly and what do I need to rethink?*
- *What can I do or change to make the sessions run more smoothly?*

As you move through the material, you'll get an idea of where your group should spend more time or less time.

- *You can shift the order of the Train, Share, Pray blocks to meet the needs of your group best. Just think clearly about how you connect these components if you do. All of them are important. Be careful not to always cut one of these sections short.*
- *You'll work out which person speaks first or longest or most authoritatively etc. As you learn more about the people in your group, consider the best way to handle group dynamics so that everyone is encouraged to share.*

Keep learning at
ripple-effect.net.au