



MODULE 1 | **Jesus & Me**

# **Leaders Guide**



# Contents

Course Overview	4
Module Overview	6
Session 1	7
Session 2	14
Session 3	20
Session 4	24
Session 5	31
Session 6	37
Session 7	43
Session 8	49
Session 9	55
Session 10	60

# 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**

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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.*



## Session 2

# People and Prayer

*God provides us with opportunities to speak about Jesus. Ask Him for these.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 2 and listen to Heather's story about prayerful evangelism. Jakob and Esperanza will then give you an introduction to Session 2: People and Prayer.

### Share

- What do you find difficult about sharing your faith in Jesus with others?
  - *No judgement here. Encourage honesty. People have turned up to learn, not because they are experts.*
  - *Be the first one to share and set the tone for the group. If you're vulnerable it's more likely to be a safe place for others to be vulnerable.*

The Samaritan woman we met last week went back to town and talked to those around her about this man Jesus that she met. Using the Relationship Network Exercise at the end of this session, spend five minutes 'seeing' the people that God has placed in your life who don't yet know Jesus.

- From this exercise, choose five people that you see or could see regularly to pray for.

*Encourage group members to choose people they see or talk with regularly. For the purposes of this course, that gives everyone the best chance of making progress in sharing about Jesus. In saying that, God might well surprise us with who He's at work in!*

- Choose two of these people and tell the group a little about them, and your relationship with them. As you share, please remember to respect people's privacy!

*Keep an eye on the time. We don't need to know everything about people, just enough to start praying for them. This is early in the module. We'll get to know not just each other, but each other's friends, over time.*

- Keep a note of each other's friends so that you can pray for them.

## Train

Prayer is the starting point when it comes to sharing our faith. We ask God to be at work in people, and through us, to help them meet Jesus. In Colossians 4:2-6 Paul teaches the Colossians about evangelistic relationships.

1. What does Paul ask the Colossians to pray about?
  - *An open door for the message; opportunities to speak about Jesus; not to be released from prison!*
  - *Open door: In Acts 16:14, God opened a woman's heart so that she could respond to the gospel.*
  - *Clear, truthful proclamation about Jesus.*
  
2. How does Paul want the Colossians to live and speak?
  - *With devotion to prayer – watchful and thankful. Expectant.*
  - *To take wise actions towards non-believers; lead lives that lead to opportunities to proclaim Christ as people ask questions about why they live the way they do.*
  - *With gracious conversations; Salty; to have conversations that reflects the gospel and makes a difference; to be ready to answer questions.*
  
3. Why are prayer, conversation and Christian living all important for evangelism?
  - *Prayer: Dependence on God not yourself; for opportunities and words; reminds us of grace and takes the pressure off evangelism: This is God's work before it is our work.*
  - *Conversation: People do need to hear about Jesus so that they can trust him. God chooses to use our words in evangelism. We are prayerfully dependent on God by being prepared for the opportunities that he'll give us in answer to our prayers.*
  - *Living: By living lives that testify to the truth about Jesus, we show the difference that knowing Jesus makes by living differently. Our different lives should lead to questions about why we choose to live this way, which then gives us opportunities to speak. (The difference will often be how we depend on God's grace when we fail to be who God calls us to be!)*
  
4. How do these three things interact with each other?

5. What steps can you take to devote yourself to praying like this?
- *Make a list of people to pray for*
  - *Attach prayer times to things you do regularly. Eg on the train. (Set phone reminders!)*
  - *Pray through your diary each morning, for the people you will encounter in the day.*
  - *Ask the group to remind you to pray.*

Paul asks the Colossians to devote themselves to prayer. It is God who 'opens doors' and gives opportunities to speak about Jesus. It is God who enables Christians to speak clearly and boldly about Jesus. It is God who opens the door of a person's heart to receive Jesus as Lord.

In anticipation of God answering prayers, Paul encourages the Colossians to live and speak in ways that encourage conversations about who Jesus is, and the difference knowing Jesus makes. We can be tempted to see prayer as 'just prayer', but because it is prayer to the sovereign God, it creates ripples that end up changing people's lives.

### **Pray**

Write a prayer for yourself and your five friends based on Colossians 4:2-6. Use 'I', 'me', and their names. Pray these prayers together.

*We're hoping that, over time, people will learn to 'pray the Scriptures'.*

### **Homework**

- Finish working through the Relationship Network Worksheet.
- Use your group chat to encourage each other in prayer. Perhaps you could message the group to:
  - let them know when you prayed for them and their evangelistic contacts.
  - ask them to pray for any evangelistic opportunities you have had or anticipate having.

*As the leader, set the tone by making sure you do this during the week. If anyone else shares, make sure you respond.*

### **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?*



# Relationship Network Worksheet

Unless we pause and reflect, we may not realise the opportunities that God has given us to proclaim the gospel to others.

Use the following diagram to:

- | identify the different relationship networks in your life.
- | list the names of people who aren't Christian that you know in your network.

As you look at your relationship network, ask yourself 'Is my list broad enough?'

Here are some ideas to broaden your list.

- | someone who catches the train at the same time you do.
- | an old school friend you saw at a wedding.
- | someone who walks the dog at the same park.
- | a 'blast from the past' whose name appeared in your Facebook feed.
- | a person at the gym.

As you look at your relationship network:

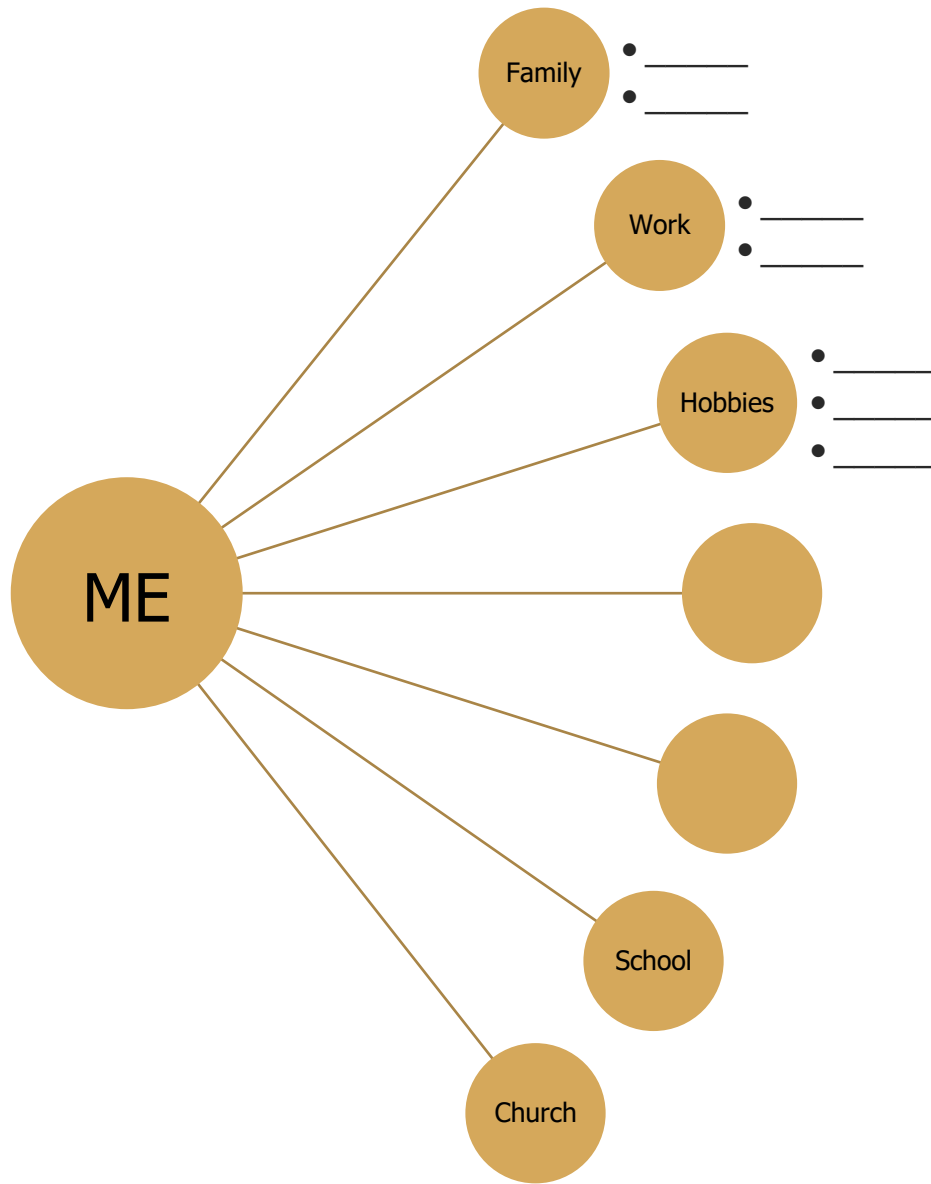
- | underline the names of people you see regularly, even if you don't know them very well yet.
- | circle the names of people you expect to see next week.

→ **Choose 5 of these people to pray for regularly.**

→ **Reflect**

1. How might their lives be better if they knew Jesus?
2. Where and when do you see them?
3. What do you talk about?
4. How can you start to be more intentional in the way you share Jesus and your life with them?

Try to be specific in your answers to these questions.





## Session 3

# Trained and Ready

*Christian has a story worth telling. Let's learn to tell it well.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 3 and listen to Brandon's story. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 3: Trained and Ready.

### Train

Every Christian has a unique story about how they became Christian and why they stay Christian. In each session of the Ripple Effect, we'll hear someone tell part of their story. What did you remember or notice about Brandon's story? Why did that stick in your mind?

Let's have a look at the way Paul shares his story. **Read Acts 26:1-29.**

*Keep an eye on the time here. We are seeking to identify key points to apply in our evangelism. We are not doing a detailed exegesis of the text.*

1. What does Paul say about:

a. himself and how he met Jesus?

*Paul was raised a Pharisee, persecuted Christians, then met Jesus on the road to Damascus and was transformed.*

b. Jesus – who He is and what He did?

- Jesus is a real person, from Nazareth.
- He is also Christ, God's King, who suffered and then rose from the dead.
- He was promised in the prophets.

c. how Jesus changes people's lives, including Paul's?

Opens their eyes; takes people from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God; offers forgiveness of sins; gives people a new beginning and new work to do. Paul literally saw the light!

d. responding to Jesus?

Repent and turn to God; have faith in Jesus.

2. What is unique about Paul's conversion experience and what is more general to all Christians?
  - *Paul has a unique appearance and task given by Jesus to him. He is one of a kind, but everyone needs to meet Jesus.*
  - *The message Jesus calls him to preach is the same one we all preach and respond to.*
  
3. Who is Paul speaking to and how does he attempt to persuade them to listen?
  - *He's in a court room, defending himself. So, he's polite and uses appropriate language.*
  - *He invites them to see the way he has changed; to look at the evidence.*
  - *He invites them to compare what he says to things they already know. In their case, to the Scriptures. Could be other things for other people?*
  
4. How successful was his evangelism in terms of:
  - a. Gospel content – was there anything missing?
    - *Return of Jesus; explanation of substitutionary atonement etc.*
    - *But you can't say everything in one conversation, so it's all good.*
  
  - b. Conversions?
    - *No one was converted and Agrippa knew he was being evangelised!*
    - *But Paul is not responsible for how Agrippa responds. God is sovereign and who knows how He will use this conversation in the future, so it's all good.*
  
5. What makes personal testimony a good way of sharing the truth about Jesus? What are its weaknesses?
  - *We often have an opportunity to share our lives and experiences with others when they share theirs.*
  - *A testimony can be quite particular and may not connect with people. Or, we might be like them and the details of our experience might resonate very strongly with theirs.*
  - *We are a 'worked example' of the difference knowing Jesus makes.*
  - *Jesus is about a relationship with a person before it is a belief framework and talking about it personally can communicate that.*

In this course we'll learn a framework for reflecting on, and articulating, the story of how we met Jesus, and how He changed us.

Every Christian has a story worth telling. Let's learn to tell it well. God-willing, we'll also get to know Jesus better as we do this. God-willing, the impact of Christ's love for us will ripple through every part of our life, and then ripple out into the lives of those God has placed around us.

### **Share**

Choose two more of the five people you committed to praying for regularly and tell the group a little about your relationship with them. 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**

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

Romans 10:1 (NIV)

Paul is a Jewish man who loves his people. Because he loves them, he prays that they might be saved. In groups of three or four people:

- | Thank God for opening your eyes and rescuing you.
- | Ask God to help you love and pray for those around you.
- | Pray again for each other, and each other's friends. Ask for an opportunity to share your story about Jesus with them.

### **Homework**

There are many ways of explaining who Jesus is and what it means to be Christian. Some will be more appropriate for certain people or situations than others. Throughout this course we'll look at a variety of online Gospel summaries so that we can use them in our evangelism.

→ Watch the Gospel summary 'Key to Christianity':  
[graphicfaith.org.au/training-resources/key-christianity/](http://graphicfaith.org.au/training-resources/key-christianity/)

1. What do you like about this Gospel summary?
2. Is there anything you don't understand or have questions about?
3. Were there any parts of the Gospel summary that particularly resonated with your experience of God? Why?

*During the week, post the link to the gospel outline in your group chat to remind people that you'll be discussing your ideas in the next session.*



## 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.*



## Session 5

# Fall and Brokenness

*Acknowledging our brokenness. Our sin damages ourselves, others, and the world God made.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 5 and listen to Alec's conversation with his friend about the brokenness of our world. Then, Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 5: Fall and Brokenness.

We are continuing to reflect on the main stages of God's story: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Re-creation. Last session we looked at Creation and what it tells us about who we are. We looked at it from two perspectives:

- 1) God's story and what the Bible says about us and our world, and
- 2) My story, and how we know, experience, and live out these truths in our own life.

We connected Creation with everyday words like identity and purpose. You'll find a summary diagram at the end of the session.

- Share with each other the 'purpose statement' you worked on for your homework.

### Train

#### **God's Story: Fall**

This session we focus on the second stage of God's story – the Fall. This is the Bible's answer to the question 'what is wrong with the world?' and 'why is the world so broken?'

**Read Genesis 3:1-24** to discover how each of the relationships we identified last session were damaged by human sinfulness.

1. Why did Adam and Eve eat the fruit? (i.e. What was their sin?) 3:1-6
  - *The serpent persuaded them that God was lying to them and keeping good things from them. He invited them to doubt God's goodness.*
  - *The fruit looked good and would make them wise; 'someone told me to eat it'.*
  - *They wanted to make their own decisions about right and wrong. They decided to trust themselves and not God.*
2. How does sin immediately affect their relationship with God and each other? Why? 3:7-13

- *They hid from God and each other. They were afraid of being vulnerable with God and each other because their relationship was broken.*
  - *They blamed each other rather than working together.*
  - *They betrayed God and each other so their relationships become threatening.*
3. Because Adam and Eve rejected the God who gave them life, they now live under the shadow of sin and death (3:14-19). What happens to their relationship with:
- a. God?
    - *They are fearful of and distant from God. (Genesis 2 when God walked with them in the garden.)*
    - *God curses their relationships with each other and the world. Life is characterised by struggle and ends in death. (Genesis 1-2 when blessing and life predominated.)*
  - b. each other?
    - *Working together will be challenging and painful.*
    - *Bringing new life into the world is painful and dangerous.*
    - *There will be a power struggle between them.*
  - c. the world?
 

*The ground will still produce food for them but now it will be difficult and limited.*
4. How does God show grace even in the midst of judgement? 3:15, 20-24
- *It's hinted that one of their descendants will eventually crush the snake who tempted them to doubt and disobey God. (This situation of broken relationships and lives will not go on forever.)*
  - *Life still continues, even if it is more challenging.*
  - *God clothes them and prevents them from living eternally under his judgement.*

**Read 1 John 1:5-2:2.**

5. When you recognise your sinfulness what is the right response?
- *Recognise and confess our sins, so that God can forgive us and cleanse us.*
  - *Having been forgiven, decide again to walk in the light and believe God's truth.*
6. What is wrong with the world?



People trusted themselves instead of God. Being 'in the image of God' was not enough, they wanted to *be* God, and so they rebelled against Him. God treated people with dignity and took their actions seriously.

Rejecting the good and just God who gives life *can* only lead to death. God judged Adam and Eve and we now live in a world that is profoundly broken, marred by sin and death. We are out of sync with God, each other, the world, and even ourselves. The impact of human sinfulness ripples out across all people, in all generations.

### ***My Story: Brokenness – What is wrong with me and the world?***

We all live in a world effected by the events of Genesis 3. We all experience the impact of sin and brokenness. We've used the word 'broken' because it is more likely to come up in conversation than 'sin'. Broken also implies that the world is 'not what it was meant to be' and that it needs fixing. God's story tells us that the brokenness people experience flows from human sin and God's judgement.

Choose one of the following questions to reflect on. They are different angles on the topic of Fall and Brokenness. 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.

1. When has my sinfulness damaged relationships and contributed to the world's brokenness? How did knowing God's story help me to respond?
2. How does recognising my own brokenness effect the way I treat other broken people? Can I illustrate this with a specific real-life example?
3. How does knowing that the world is 'not what it is meant to be' help me respond to frustration, pain or disappointment? Can I illustrate this with a specific real-life example?
4. What do I find challenging or comforting about knowing that God judges sin? Can I illustrate this with a specific, real-life example?

### **Share**

Today we will share stories about the evangelistic opportunities God gave us this week. Some might seem like successes; others might feel like failures. Some might be interesting conversations we would like to pray about and then pick up again in the future.

- What opportunities has God given you to share Jesus with others this week?
- Which people would you like to share Jesus with next week? When will you talk with them?

*Perhaps encourage people to look at their calendar to see who they will be catching up with when. Then pray for their conversations accordingly. Or encourage them to arrange to see/phone a person they want to share Jesus with.*

## **Pray**

**Read 1 John 1:5-2:2** and use it as basis for your prayer.

In groups of three or four people:

- | Praise God for forgiving and cleansing us through Jesus.
- | Confess your sin and ask God for forgiveness.
- | Ask for opportunities to share your story about the God who mends our brokenness by judging and forgiving sin.
- | Pray for each of the conversations and friends that people shared about earlier.

## **Homework**

A few weeks ago, we watched the Gospel summary 'Key to Christianity'.

→ This week we'll look at another Gospel summary, 'Two ways to Live': [twowaystolive.com/](http://twowaystolive.com/)

How does it tell the story of:

- Creation and Identity. Who am I?
- Fall and Brokenness. What is wrong with the world?

These are the remaining stages of God's story. We haven't studied them yet, but you're welcome to give them a go!

- Redemption and Security
- Re-creation and Hope
- Transformation and life now

1. What do you like about this Gospel summary?
2. Is there anything you don't understand or have questions about?
3. Were there any parts of the Gospel summary that particularly resonated with your experience of God? Why?
4. Choose one of the people you're praying for. Have a guess about how they would answer the question 'what is wrong with the world?'

*This week in the group chat:*

- *Let people know you're praying for them.*
- *Post the link to the Gospel summary.*
- *Share any stories of conversations.*

# Summary Table

**Key Concepts and Questions for each gospel theme.**

	<b>God's story:</b> How does the Bible answer these questions?	<b>My story:</b> How do I answer these questions? How do my friends answer these questions?
<b><i>Creation and Identity</i></b>	<p>What does it mean to be created in God's image?</p> <p>What does God think about us and the world He created?</p>	<p>Who am I? Who are we?</p> <p>What is my purpose?</p> <p>Why do I matter? Why do you matter?</p> <p>How does being created by God bring me joy or rest?</p>
<b><i>Fall and Brokenness</i></b>	<p>What is sin and what are its consequences?</p> <p>What went wrong with the world God created?</p>	<p>What is wrong with me (us)?</p> <p>Why is the world so broken?</p> <p>Why can't we fix things?</p> <p>Is God's justice something to look forward to or fear?</p>



## Session 6

# Redemption and Security

*Resting securely in God's love. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus forgives me and reconciles me to God.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 6 and listen to Karen encourage us to speak about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 6: Redemption and Security.

In previous sessions we reflected on two stages of God's Story – Creation and Fall. You'll find a summary diagram at the end of the session. To help us revise, share with each other something that stood out for you in the Gospel presentation 'Two ways to live'.

- Did you have any questions about the presentation?

### Train

#### **God's Story: Redemption**

This week we focus on Redemption. God loves us and frees us from our sin and its consequences. He does this through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the Bible's answer to the question 'how can I be safe in a broken world?'

#### **Read Romans 5:1-11.**

Answer the following questions using the table on the next page:

1. Before
  - a. How are people described *before* they become Christian?
  - b. What are their circumstances like?
2. After
  - a. How are people described *after* they become Christian?
  - b. What are their circumstances like?
3. How do people move from 'before' to 'after'?

**How and why God saves us through the death and resurrection of Jesus.** Romans 5:1-11.

<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>
<p><i>Powerless</i>  <i>Ungodly</i>  <i>Sinners</i>  <i>Loved by God</i>  <i>God's enemies</i>  <i>Under God's wrath</i>  <i>Suffering</i></p>	<p><i>Justified</i>  <i>At peace with God;</i>  <i>standing in grace</i>  <i>Hopeful</i>  <i>Suffering that produces hope</i>  <i>Knowing God loves us, by the</i>  <i>cross and Holy Spirit</i>  <i>Reconciled</i>  <i>Saved from God's wrath</i></p>
<b>How?</b>	
<p><i>By faith</i>  <i>Through Jesus</i>  <i>Christ who died for us</i>  <i>By his blood</i></p>	

- Look at the table. Try to express each idea in your own words, without using any Christian jargon.
- Does anything strike you or surprise you?
- How do people know God loves them?
  - *Christ died for them while they were God's enemies and under God's wrath.*
  - *God pours out his love into their hearts by the Holy Spirit.*
  - *Note: suffering appears on both sides of the table. Suffering or lack thereof is not evidence of God's love for you.*

Because God loves us, Jesus died for us. He took on Himself our sin, and died the death that we deserved, so that we could be justified (= declared not guilty and now right with God), redeemed (= set free from sin and death), and reconciled (= forgiven).

When we trust Jesus to save us, Jesus shares with us His resurrection life and God pours His Spirit into our heart so that we *know* we are loved. We still sin and we still live in a broken world, but Jesus fixes our relationship with God and enables us to live transformed lives of love, peace and joy.

The security we find in Jesus ripples out from us and transforms all our relationships.

***My Story: Security – Who or what saves me?***

We all trust someone or something to give us security in a broken and uncertain world. Who or what we chose to trust differs from person to person. Our choice might be wise or unwise. But we all trust something. God's story tells us that only Jesus can provide the security we want and need.

How does God's story connect with you personally? Choose one of the following questions to reflect on. Aim to illustrate your answer with a specific example or story from your life. Remember to avoid Christian jargon. Spend a couple of minutes making some notes about what to share with the group.

1. When did I first understand what it really meant to say that 'Jesus died for my sin?'. For some of us this is a conversion experience. For others it might be a moment of clarity.
2. How does trusting Jesus as my Saviour help me deal with fear, pain, regret or guilt? Illustrate this with a specific, real-life example. Make sure you say something about Jesus' death and resurrection.
3. How does knowing that God loves me bring me joy, peace or security? Illustrate this with a specific, real-life example and remember to say something about Jesus' death and resurrection.

*Perhaps play a game as you listen – if someone uses Christian jargon have a 'try again' buzzer sound.*

**Share**

Share any stories of evangelistic opportunities in the past week: successes, failures, answered prayers, and interesting conversations. Take brief notes to remind you of what to pray for. If many of you have lots to say, consider breaking up into groups of three to four people now.

- What opportunities has God given you to share Jesus with others this week?
- Which people would you like to share Jesus with next week? When will you talk with them?

**Pray**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

In groups of three or four people:

- | Praise God for loving us so much that Jesus died for us.
- | Ask God for increasing confidence that Jesus is the risen Lord who saves.
- | Ask for opportunities to share your story about the God who gives us security in a broken world.
- | Thank God and pray for the conversations or friends that people shared about earlier.

### Homework

It's important to be able to speak clearly about how Jesus saves us through His death and resurrection so we're going to practise!

→ Reflect

Which of the pictures used to describe Jesus' work on the cross – justified, redeemed, reconciled, saved – most resonates most with you at the moment? Why?

- Notice that this is not quite the same as telling the story about how you became a Christian.

This question asks you to reflect on how trusting Jesus' death and resurrection continues to impact your life now.

- Illustrate your answer with a specific, real-life example of how trusting Jesus gives you security in a broken world.
- Include aspects of both the life Jesus has saved you *from* and the life Jesus saves you *for*.
- Remember to mention Jesus' death and resurrection and avoid Christian jargon.

→ Write out a paragraph to share with the group next session.

Think of the friends you are praying for. For each friend, consider how they would answer the question: What or whom do I trust to give me security, peace and joy? Take time to consider how their lives would be better if they knew Jesus.



# Summary Table

**Key Concepts and Questions for each gospel theme.**

	<b>God's story:</b> How does the Bible answer these questions?	<b>My story:</b> How do I answer these questions? How do my friends answer these questions?
<b>Creation and Identity</b>	<p>What does it mean to be created in God's image?</p> <p>What does God think about us and the world He created?</p>	<p>Who am I? Who are we?</p> <p>What is my purpose?</p> <p>Why do I matter? Why do you matter?</p> <p>How does being created by God bring me joy or rest?</p>
<b>Fall and Brokenness</b>	<p>What is sin and what are its consequences?</p> <p>What went wrong with the world God created?</p>	<p>What is wrong with me (us)?</p> <p>Why is the world so broken?</p> <p>Why can't we fix things?</p> <p>Is God's justice something to look forward to or fear?</p>
<b>Redemption and Security</b>	<p>How does Jesus save us?</p> <p>Why does Jesus save us?</p>	<p>How can I be safe in a broken world?</p> <p>Why am I confident God loves me?</p> <p>What does Jesus save me from?</p> <p>What type of life does Jesus save me (us) for?</p>



# Session 7

## Re-creation and Hope

*Living in hope. God will restore our relationships fully and make everything right in the New Creation.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 7 and listen to Helen speak about the hope she has in Christ. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 7: Re-creation and Hope.

We are investigating the four main stages of God's story: Creation, Fall, Redemption and Re-creation. Before we look at the final stage, share with each other the paragraphs you wrote about what Jesus' death on the cross means for you personally.

### Train

#### **God's Story: Re-creation**

This week we look at Re-creation. When we trust that Jesus died for us, our relationship with God is restored. God also promises that Jesus will return to save and to judge, and that when He returns, all our relationships will be restored. God's story is one of hope for God's people.

In the last pages of the Bible, God gives us a picture of life in the New Creation, after Jesus returns to save and judge.

Read Revelation 21:1-8, 22:1-5 to discover what this says about our hope for the future.

Note: The New Testament often refers to Jesus as 'the Lamb of God', who, through His sacrificial death, takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

1. What is there to look forward to in the New Creation?
  - *Peace with God, one another and the world.*
  - *No more death or weeping.*
  - *Closeness with God.*
  - *Thirst is satisfied.*
  - *A new start.*
  - *Safe community.*
  - *Light filled life. No darkness.*
2. What pictures are we given of our relationship with:
  - a. God?
    - *Wedding celebration. God's people are a bride, dressed for the husband = the lamb. (Cf Rev. 19:7).*

- *Closeness. God dwells among his people without needing a temple. (Cf Rev. 21:22)*
  - *Satisfied. God completely satisfies every need and want.*
  - *Tree of life is again accessible. Eternal.*
  - *King and servant. God rules and we serve a good king.*
  - *Creator who is source of life and light.*
- b. each other?
- *God's people are a new Jerusalem. A thriving city full of people. 22:2*
  - *It's a city full of people who can be trusted. They won't harm you. 21:8*
  - *People from all the nations will be there. 22:2*
- c. the world we will live in?
- *New Creation where there's no curse.*
  - *A restored creation to replace the broken creation.*
  - *Flourishing and fruitful tree that heals divisions among the nations.*
3. How does this future address the deep longings for identity, healing and security that we discussed in the first three stages of God's story?
- *Picture of a new creation and restored relationships with God, one another and the creation. Genesis 1-2.*
  - *Identity. We are God's child, Christ's bride, citizens of the New Jerusalem, God's servants who reigns with Him.*
  - *Healing. Death, sickness, pain, sin are no longer present.*
  - *Security. We're at peace with God through Christ so there's no need for a temple to mediate God's presence. Judgement has come and gone.*
  - *Thirst. Remember the Samaritan woman of John 4.*
  - *Light. Remember Paul's testimony and John's comments about God being light.*
4. When you imagine life after Jesus returns, how closely does it correspond to the vision in Revelation 21?

*People often forget about the intimacy with God part and focus on the other aspects of relationship that are healed. But repairing our broken relationship with God is central.*

God promises a future where all things will be restored to a right relationship with God their Creator. Sin and its effects (brokenness, death, pain, fear, and judgement) are gone. Christians wait for the day when

Jesus returns, and we'll experience this new life with God and each other, in all its fullness.

Having this hope ripples out and shapes the decisions we make in our lives.

***My Story: Hope – What hope is there for the future?***

In a world where news stories often focus on looming destruction, people need hope. We need a future that we can dream about, plan for and look forward to. God's story presents us with a beautiful and optimistic future.

How does God's story connect with you personally? Choose one of the following questions to reflect on. 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.

1. When has knowing Jesus and the future He promises given me hope even though other dreams have disappointed me?
2. Why is the vision of 'world peace' in the New Creation a better, stronger and bigger hope than any other vision of peace offered by the world?
3. How does putting my hope in Jesus' return change the way I make decisions about work or money or relationships or health or ...? What are the 'costs' of doing this and why are they worth it?
4. When I imagine life in the New Creation, what do I look forward to most? Why?

**Share**

Share any stories of evangelistic opportunities in the past week: successes, failures, answered prayers, and interesting conversations. Take brief notes to remind you of what to pray for.

- What opportunities has God given you share Jesus with others this week?
- Remind each other of the five people you're praying for. For one of them, consider how trusting Jesus will give them a better hope for the future than the one they have now.

**Pray**

The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave

us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10 (NIV)

- | Praise God for a future of perfect relationships with Him and each other, in a world free of sin, suffering and death.
- | Ask God to rescue your family and friends from the coming wrath and for a relationship with Jesus.
- | Ask for opportunities to share your story about the God who offers us a beautiful future.
- | Thank God and pray for the conversations or friends that people shared about earlier.

### **Homework**

→ Watch the Gospel summary '321':

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf94J3xGIOs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf94J3xGIOs)

How does it tell the story of:

- Creation and Identity. Who am I?
  - Fall and Brokenness. What is wrong with the world?
  - Redemption and Security. How can I be safe in a broken world?
  - Re-creation and Hope. What hope is there for the future?
  - Transformation and Change.
1. What do you like about this Gospel summary?
  2. Is there anything you don't understand or have questions about?
  3. Were there any parts of the Gospel summary that particularly resonated with your experience of God? Why?
  4. Would this Gospel presentation be a good 'fit' for any of the friends and family you are praying for?

# Summary Table

**Key Concepts and Questions for each gospel theme.**

	<b>God's story:</b> How does the Bible answer these questions?	<b>My story:</b> How do I answer these questions? How do my friends answer these questions?
<b>Creation and Identity</b>	What does it mean to be created in God's image?	Who am I? Who are we? What is my purpose?
	What does God think about us and the world He created?	Why do I matter? Why do you matter? How does being created by God bring me joy or rest?
<b>Fall and Brokenness</b>	What is sin and what are its consequences?	What is wrong with me (us)? Why is the world so broken? Why can't we fix things? Is God's justice something to look forward to or fear?
	What went wrong with the world God created?	
<b>Redemption and Security</b>	How does Jesus save us?	How can I be safe in a broken world? Why am I confident God loves me? What does Jesus save me from? What type of life does Jesus save me (us) for?
	Why does Jesus save us?	
<b>Re-creation and Hope</b>	What is the New Creation like?	What hope is there for the future? What does real peace look like? Is hope naïve or necessary? What do I look forward to when Jesus returns?
	Who is in the New Creation?	





## Session 8

# Transformation and Change

*Transformed lives. Knowing God's love for us in Christ changes us and our lives now.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 8 and listen to Remy speak about being a Christian in the Arts. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 8: Transformation and Change.

The Gospel summaries we have been looking at for homework present God's story in different ways. What reflections do you have on the Gospel summary '321'?

### Train

#### **God's Story: Transformation**

We have investigated God's story in four stages – Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Re-creation – and have found that it is, in fact, our story. This week we reflect on how knowing God's love for us in Christ changes us and our lives now.

In his first letter, John urges his readers to live radically transformed lives because they have met Jesus. **Read 1 John 4:7-21** and unpack what it tells us about how knowing Jesus transforms our lives and relationships.

1. How do we know God loves us?
  - *God sent his Son to die as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. We didn't deserve this. It was an act of self-giving love. 4:9 Note the comment here on historicity. John actually met Jesus and witnessed these events. 4:14.*
  - *God gives us His Spirit who shares the resurrection life of Jesus with us. Jesus' life is the life of a Son loved by his Father. Jesus shares with us his Sonship so that we too can know that we are dearly loved children of God. 4:7, 13-16.*
2. Why does God love us?
 

*Because God is love. Not because we are loveable. 4:10*
3. List the reasons this passage gives us to love others.
  - *We have been loved by God and so we should love each other. 4:7-8, 19*
  - *If we love God, we must love the people God loves. 4:20-21*
  - *God tells us to love. 4:21*

- *God's love is made complete in us when we love each other. Part of the way we*
  - *experience and express God's love is through Christian community. 4:11-12*
4. How does being loved by God encourage and enable Christians to love others?
- *We have a model of true love because God shows us what love is. Love is selfless not selfish. 4:9-10*
  - *We know the goodness of being loved and so we should love. 4:10-11*
  - *We love because we are already loved by God, not trying to earn God's love. Our love can be genuine because we are not doing it out of fear of judgement. 4:17-18*
  - *Knowing we are loved by God addresses all the fears that hinder our love of others. Fear of rejection, failure etc. Having been loved, we're set free to love. 4:16-18*
  - *God makes other Christians our brothers and sisters and tells us to love each other. We become better at loving as we experience giving and receiving love in Christian community. 4:19-21*
5. Write out a definition of what it means to be a Christian, and live as a Christian, using this passage.

### ***My Story: How can I change for the better?***

Most people know they are 'not perfect', and this gives us an opportunity to talk about how Jesus has and is changing us. It could also give us an opportunity to talk about the Jesus we are becoming like.

The way we treat others *should* give people around us an experience of the difference that knowing Jesus makes.

How does God's story connect with you personally? Choose one of the following questions to reflect on. 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.

1. How does knowing Jesus make me a 'better version of myself'?
2. How is God helping me become more loving and more like Jesus?
3. How do I respond when I fail to love in the way God calls me to?
4. How have I experienced Christ-like love through Christian community?

### **Share**

Share any stories of evangelistic opportunities in the past week: successes, failures, answered prayers, and interesting conversations. Take brief notes to remind you of what to pray for.

- What opportunities has God given you to share Jesus with others this week?

- Remind each other of the five people you are praying for.
- Think of one of the friends you are praying for. How would they answer the question: How can I be 'better'? Take time to consider how their lives would be better if they knew Jesus.

## Pray

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:9-12 (NIV)

Use 1 Peter 2:9-12 as a basis for prayer for yourself and your friends.

- | Pray for opportunities to testify to God's love in words and actions

## Homework

→ Watch the Gospel summary 'Back to God's Village':  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLQmgPT-xOU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLQmgPT-xOU)

How does it tell the story of:

- Creation and Identity. Who am I?
  - Fall and Brokenness. What is wrong with the world?
  - Redemption and Security. How can I be safe in a broken world?
  - Re-creation and Hope. What hope is there for the future?
  - Transformation and Change. How can I change for the better?
1. What do you like about this Gospel summary?
  2. Is there anything you don't understand or have questions about?
  3. Were there any parts of the Gospel summary that particularly resonated with your experience of God? Why?
  4. Would this Gospel presentation be a good 'fit' for any of the friends and family you are praying for?

# Summary Table

**Key Concepts and Questions for each gospel theme.**

	God's story: <b>How does the Bible answer these questions?</b>	My story: <b>How do I answer these questions? How do my friends answer these questions?</b>
<b>Creation and Identity</b>	<p>What does it mean to be created in God's image?</p> <p>What does God think about us and the world He created?</p>	<p>Who am I? Who are we?</p> <p>What is my purpose?</p> <p>Why do I matter? Why do you matter?</p> <p>How does being created by God bring me joy or rest?</p>
<b>Fall and Brokenness</b>	<p>What is sin and what are its consequences?</p> <p>What went wrong with the world God created?</p>	<p>What is wrong with me (us)?</p> <p>Why is the world so broken?</p> <p>Why can't we fix things?</p> <p>Is God's justice something to look forward to or fear?</p>
<b>Redemption and Security</b>	<p>How does Jesus save us?</p> <p>Why does Jesus save us?</p>	<p>How can I be safe in a broken world?</p> <p>Why am I confident God loves me?</p> <p>What does Jesus save me from?</p> <p>What type of life does Jesus save me (us) for?</p>

<p><b><i>Re-creation and Hope</i></b></p>	<p>What is the New Creation like?</p> <p>Who is in the New Creation?</p>	<p>What hope is there for the future?</p> <p>What does real peace look like?</p> <p>Is hope naïve or necessary?</p> <p>What do I look forward to when Jesus returns?</p>
	<p><b><i>Transformation and Change</i></b></p>	<p>Who are we in Christ?</p> <p>How does God transform us and make us like Christ?</p>



## Session 9

# Telling My Story

*Turning your testimony into a story.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 9 and listen to Sarah share why and how she 'tells her story'. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 9: Telling My Story.

Share with each other something that stood out for you in the Gospel presentation 'Back to God's Village'. Did you have any questions about the presentation?

### Train

Every Christian has a story about how they became Christian and why they stay Christian. It will *always* be a story about how God, in Christ, transforms our identity, brokenness, security and hope. But it will always be a *unique* story because people are different, our experiences are different, and how Jesus meets us in the particulars of our life is different.

No two stories will be exactly the same.

Further, our story has many chapters because our relationship with God is multifaceted and dynamic. When we share our story with others, sometimes we share one chapter and at other times we share a different chapter. Some chapters are yet to be written so it helpful to reflect regularly and update our stories.

### God's Story

God's sovereign kindness: it might be your particular story about Jesus that someone needs to hear so that they can call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

In Romans 10:9-15 Paul speaks about God sending people to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

1. How does someone become a Christian (9-13)?
  - *By declaring that Jesus is Lord. We recognise that Jesus is Lord by acknowledging our relationship with Him.*
  - *By believing that God raised Jesus from the dead so that we might be justified and made right with God. True faith is heart faith.*
2. What is the flow of logic in 13-15? How does each phrase lead into the next?

- *People who call on Jesus will be saved.*
  - *To call on Jesus they need to believe that He can and will save them.*
  - *To believe in Jesus they need to hear about Jesus.*
  - *To hear about Jesus they need someone to tell them about Jesus.*
  - *People will only tell them about Jesus if God sends them to speak.*
  - *God entrusts his people with the beautiful privilege of sharing the Good News about Jesus with people.*
3. What encouragement does this passage give us to share our story with those around us?
- *People become Christian through the preaching of the Gospel about Jesus. This is how God wants it and plans it.*
  - *Preaching the Gospel so that people might be saved is a beautiful thing.*
  - *The message of Jesus is Good News.*

People need to hear about Jesus so that they can believe in Him. People hear about Jesus because God sends people to preach about Jesus. The message about Jesus is Good News and those who speak about Jesus give people around them a beautiful opportunity to know Jesus.

### ***My Story***

Choose one chapter of your story with God to reflect on and write about now. Look back at the Summary Table if you want to jog your memory about the key ideas and questions that were raised in each stage.

As you write, use specific, real-life examples to show clearly the difference that knowing Jesus makes to your life, and why knowing Him makes life better. Remember to avoid Christian jargon. Bonus points for a clear connection to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

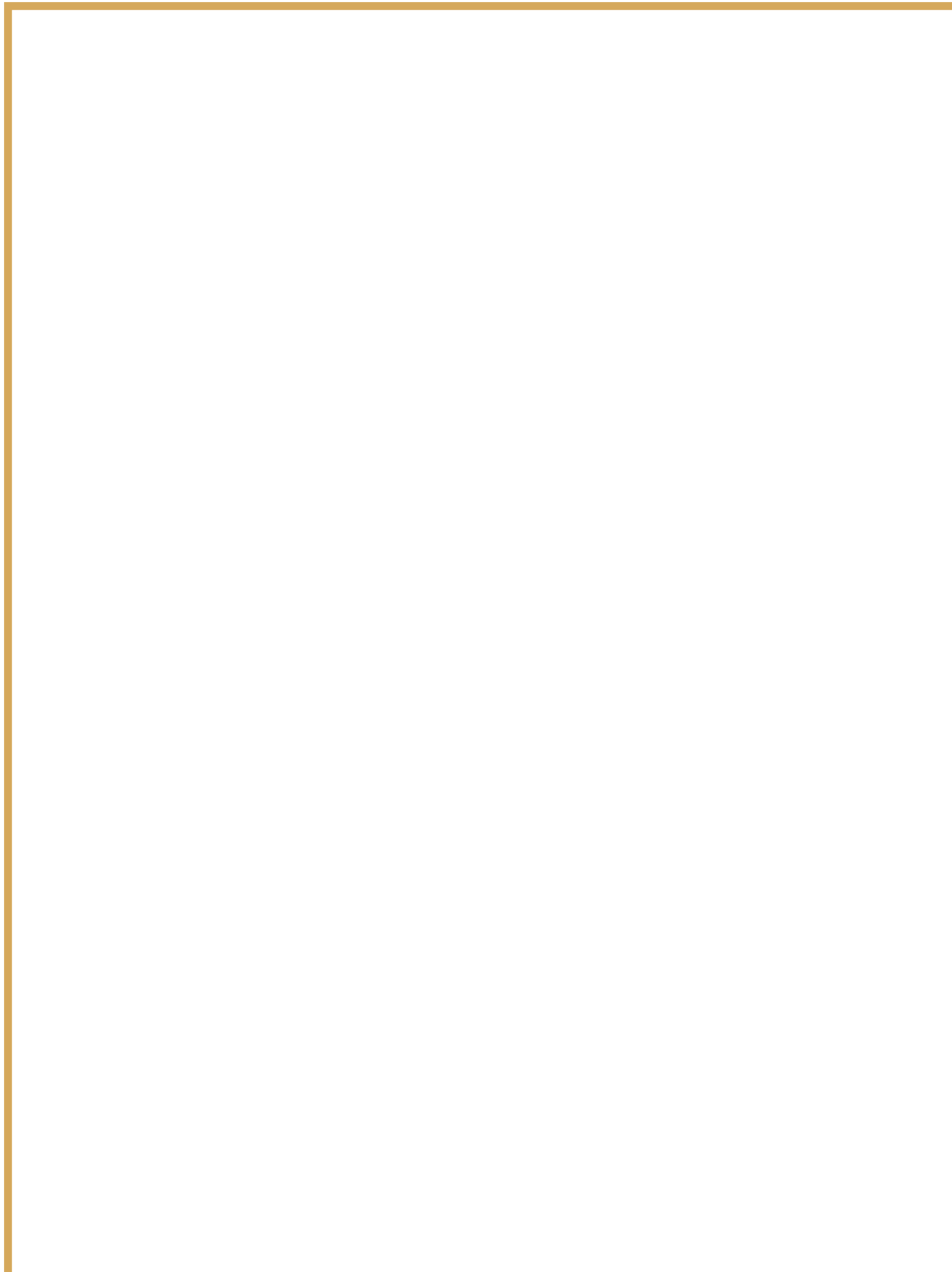
If you are struggling to come up with a topic or story to write about, have a look at the following questions and see what comes to mind.

- When we prayed for your friends and family, was there one part of your story with Jesus that you really wanted to share with them? If so, work on that.
- When we explored each stage in God's story, was there one stage that particularly resonated with you? Or was there one 'My Story' question that you wanted to spend more time on? You could start there.
- We have all heard a lot about each other's stories over the past few sessions. Ask the group which aspect of your story they would like to hear more about and work on that.



- Answer the question 'what do I enjoy about life with Jesus'? This question highlights why you 'stay' a Christian and why following Jesus makes life better. Just unpack one aspect of this, with a specific, real-life example.
- Answer the question 'why did I become a Christian?' While this question overlaps with 'how' you became a Christian, it focuses attention *more* on personal motives and impact, and *less* on the timeline of events. Just unpack one aspect of this, with a specific, real-life example.

Take ten minutes to sketch out your story. Then use your notes to tell your story to each other. Try to keep it to three minutes each so that you focus on the key points.



**Give each other feedback.**

- Point out any use of Christian jargon.
- Where and how did Jesus come up?
- Which part of each story really spoke to you, or encouraged you, or challenged you? Why?
- What part of the story would you like to hear more about? Why?

**Share**

Share any stories of evangelistic opportunities in the past week: successes, failures, answered prayers, and interesting conversations. Take brief notes to remind you of what to pray for.

**Pray**

**Read Romans 10:9-15** and use it as a basis for prayer. Thank God for His work in your life and ask Him to send you to share the Good News with others. Pray for each other's family and friends.

**Homework**

- Listen to Sam Chan tell his story. Listen from 6:10 mins to the 9:40 min. mark: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfXnVkpmsyI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfXnVkpmsyI)
- Which of our themes (identity, brokenness, security, hope, change) comes up?
- What does Sam tell us about Jesus?
- How did he use specific stories to illustrate the points he was making?
- Read through the 'My Story' questions that we looked at in previous weeks. What other stories can you tell about knowing Jesus and the difference that knowing Him makes? Write out two more chapters of your story.



# Session 10

## Living My Story

*Evangelism is a natural outworking of who we are in Christ.*

### Session Introduction

This is the final session of Ripple Effect: Jesus and Me. Watch the introduction video for Session 10 and listen to Jeri speak about why she shares the Gospel. Then Jakob and Esperanza will give you an introduction to Session 10: Living out your story.

### Train

The Bible gives us many reasons to evangelise and they all matter. In different ways, they are all natural outworkings of what we believe and who we are in Christ. Have a look at some of them by reading the following passages. Perhaps group members can take a few passages each to read and report back on.

- **Matthew 9:35-38** and **Romans 10:1-4**
  - *Compassion and love for people. They are lost, ignorant and harassed. Even if they don't know it.*
  - *Evangelism is a blessing to people. Knowing Jesus makes life better now, not just in the future.*
- **John 4:28-30** and **1 Peter 2:9-10**
  - *When we have met Jesus and experienced his grace and mercy, we have to speak. People just talk about the things they love. How could we not speak?*
  - *Evangelism should just bubble up out of us. Having been loved, we love.*
- **Philippians 2:5-11** and **Revelation 7:9-12**
  - *God is worthy of worship. When we evangelise, we call people to treat God as he deserves to be treated.*
  - *We evangelise because we love God and want to see him honoured.*
- **2 Corinthians 5:14-21**
  - *Christ's love compels us. In love, Christ gave up his life to save people. God invites us to be His ambassadors, working with Him to implement His plans for His world.*
  - *Evangelism is a privilege where God invites us to share his heart and be involved in His plans to bring in a New Creation in Christ.*

- **2 Peter 3:4-9, 15** and **1 Thessalonians 1:8-10**
    - *Judgement is coming but it has been delayed so that people have an opportunity to repent and escape the coming wrath.*
    - *We evangelise because people's eternity rests on their response to Jesus. It's the only reason this world keeps going as it does.*
1. Which of these reasons for sharing the Gospel particularly resonate with you? Why?
  2. Which of these are missing from your understanding of evangelism? Why?

God's story is the Gospel – that is, the Good News of Jesus. As you've reflected on how this intersects with your story, God-willing, you've seen that it is Good News for you.

Christians have a God-given *identity* and dignity as His image bearers; 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 God will one day make everything new. This Good News *changes* us. It is Good News that others need to hear.

### Share

Share any stories of evangelistic opportunities in the past week: successes, failures, answered prayers, and interesting conversations. Take brief notes to remind you of what to pray for.

This is the final session of Ripple Effect MODULE 1: **Jesus & Me**

1. What are your key takeaways from Ripple Effect: Jesus and Me?
2. What one thing would like to keep working on?

### What happens next?

Here are some ideas:

- Move on to Ripple Effect MODULE 2: Jesus & Conversation
- Keep gathering each month to pray for your evangelism
- Find a few other Christians and take them through Ripple Effect MODULE 1: Jesus & Me
- 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](http://ripple-effect.net.au)