



Ripple
Effect

MODULE 3 | **The Real Jesus**

Training Guide

Session 7

Inviting people to follow Jesus

Key idea: *Jesus' resurrection is true news and good news that people need to respond to. The risen Jesus offers people forgiveness and new life, which they can accept or reject.*

Key encouragement: *People become Christian from all sorts of backgrounds and beliefs when they meet the risen Jesus in the pages of the Bible with the help of God's Spirit.*

Practical challenge: *Ask people what they think about Jesus and where they stand with Jesus. Give them time and space to make an informed decision, but encourage them to make one.*

Session goals:

- *Discuss why Jesus' resurrection is true news and good news.*
- *Learn how to invite people to respond to Jesus.*
- *Pray for each other and each other's friends.*

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 7.

Jesus' resurrection is true news and good news that people need to respond to. The risen Jesus offers people forgiveness and new life, which they can accept or reject. Some people decide quickly. Other people need more time or information to make an informed decision, though long-term indecision is itself a choice with consequences.

Share

Choose one of the following to share about.

- Share stories of evangelistic opportunities God gave you this week. These might be conversations you are grateful for or ones that didn't go as you hoped. They might be interesting conversations with potential or clear answers to our prayers.
- How did your plans to love your neighbour go?

Pray

Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. ...

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:27-28, 31-32 (NIV)

- | Use this passage and the sharing time to guide your prayers for yourself, each other, and your friends.

Train***Luke's Gospel***

Jesus, having risen from the dead, appears again to his disciples.

1. Read Luke 24:36-53 and discuss the three questions:
 - a. Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
 - b. People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?
 - c. Me: What is my response to Jesus and this story?
2. Review your discussion.
 - a. Think back to each of the three questions: Jesus. People. Me. What comments or additional questions helped keep discussion focused on Jesus, moving forward and going deeper?
 - b. What does this story teach us about forgiveness?
 - c. What aspects of the passage would you like to have discussed, or to have discussed more fully, if you had your time again?
3. Explain why you believe that Jesus rose from the dead and what difference this makes to your life.

Skill: The Ask – inviting people to follow Jesus

Giving people information about Jesus is important. It's also important to encourage people to respond to Jesus. To be saved, people need to repent, receive the forgiveness that Jesus offers, and follow him.

1. What types of things is it useful for someone to know about Jesus, and themselves, to become a Christian?

2. If someone says to you, 'I want to become a Christian:'
 - a. What questions could you ask to check that they knew what they were doing?

 - b. What could you tell them about how to become a Christian? (Hint: You could formulate an answer around the words: Repent. Believe. Follow. Pray.)

 - c. If they did repent and believe, what could you advise them to do next?

3. How could you respond to someone who says that they didn't want to become a Christian?

4. How could you help someone who 'needed more information' before making a decision?

5. As we practice inviting people to respond to Jesus, why is it important to remember that it is only through God's Spirit that people see their need for Jesus and respond to Jesus?

Asking people where they stand with Jesus can be uncomfortable, but it is important. People don't need to pass a doctrine exam or holiness test to become a Christian, but they do need to know 'enough' to trust and follow Jesus. Some people already know that they need help and will trust Jesus quickly. Other people wrestle with understanding things like the Trinity and Substitutionary

Atonement before becoming Christians. For others, admitting that they are sinners who need to change will be a real challenge.

People become Christian from all sorts of backgrounds and beliefs when they meet the risen Jesus in the words of Scripture with the help of the Spirit. So, pray for people and invite them to read Luke's Gospel with you. Ask them what they think about Jesus and why. Give them time and space to make an informed decision, but encourage them to make a decision. And let them know that whatever they decide, you will continue to care about them – as does Jesus!

6. Pray. Thank God for opening your eyes and enabling you to repent and believe in Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to be at work in your friends to help them turn to Jesus in repentance and faith.

Revise

Consider two of the five people you are praying for.

- What do you think stops them from following Jesus? If you don't know, how could you find out?
- How could you start to address these barriers?
- Are there any parts of Luke's Gospel that might help?

Invite another person to read Luke's Gospel with you.

- Look back at the Session 3 Skill: Questions 3-4. Choose another one of the five people you are praying for that you will either see or speak with this week and work through these questions.
- Pray for an opportunity. Plan for an opportunity. Take a deep breath and invite them to read Luke's Gospel with you.

Look back at the Loving your Neighbour tables in Session 4.

- Act on another of these ideas this week.

Connect with other group members during the week.

- Share with each other your plans to love your neighbour, or invite someone to read Luke with you, or how God has been answering our prayers.

Keep learning at
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