



Ripple  
Effect

MODULE 2 | **Jesus & Conversation**

**Leaders Guide**

# Module Overview

## MODULE 2 | Jesus & Conversation

**This module is designed to help you prayerfully proclaim the good news of Jesus by connecting the gospel to everyday conversations.**

1. Deeper Relationships
2. Deeper Conversations
3. Creation and Identity
4. Fall and Brokenness
5. Redemption and Security
6. Re-creation and Hope
7. Transformation and Change
8. Prayer and Intentionality

### **Each session includes these components:**

1. **INTRO.** Each session starts with a short training video.
2. **TRAIN.** Build our confidence and competence in evangelism by working through Biblically grounded training material.
3. **SHARE.** Talk through evangelistic opportunities in the past week, whether these are stories of successes, 'fails,' or simply interesting conversations with potential.
4. **PRAY.** Praise God for His love, salvation, and the privilege of evangelism. Ask God to save our family and friends and speak through us to them.
5. **HOMEWORK.** Revisit session content from a different angle to consolidate our learning.

### **Module Goals**

- Learn a gospel framework to help us better understand what God has done for us in Christ.
  - So that we continue to grow closer to God and more willing and able to glorify Him.
- Learn how to make connections between core gospel truths and everyday conversation.
  - So that we can naturally and organically nudge conversations to Jesus and the difference knowing Him makes.
- Pray for our family and friends who don't know Jesus yet.
  - So that they might share in knowing Jesus with us.

## Session 2

# Deeper Conversations

*Good questions encourage deeper conversations about what people really think. Learning to ask, encourage and answer questions.*

### Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 2.

- What did you learn from Jeri and Joseph's conversation about how evangelism impacts people?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Deeper Conversations?

Asking good questions, and listening to the answers people give, is a great way to encourage deeper conversations. In today's session we'll think about how to ask, encourage and answer questions in ways that enable real engagement with each other as we live life together.

### Train

Jesus spent time with all sorts of people. He wasn't picky. He spent time with outcasts (= tax-collectors and sinners) and leaders (= Pharisees etc.) While he was with them, Jesus asked all sorts of questions about what they really thought. He also did and said things that encouraged people to ask Him questions. He sometimes even answered questions with questions.

**Read Luke 7:36-50.** We see an example of Jesus asking questions to help uncover what people really think and feel.

*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 happens? Is there anything that surprises or challenges you?
  - *Jesus is at a Pharisee's house. A 'sinful' woman turns up and makes a scene. Jesus affirms her and tells a story about forgiveness that challenges the religious leaders to be like her in their response to Him.*
  - *Jesus is a little blunt! But perhaps blunt is okay when people know that it is accompanied by love?*

2. What questions does Jesus ask Simon? What do these questions reveal or challenge about Simon's attitude to Jesus, himself and others?
  - *Who loves me more? 42.*
  - *Do you see this woman? 44*
  - *Simon's hypocrisy. He invites Jesus home, but does not welcome Him.*
  - *Simon's pride. His belief is that he's better than her. She's a sinner and he isn't.*
  - *Simon's belief that he does not need forgiveness.*
  
3. Jesus could have made these points without the questions. Why is it sometimes *better* to ask questions than simply make statements?
  - *Creates conversation. Have a dialogue, not just a monologue. The questions force Simon to engage.*
  - *It challenges Simon to be honest about himself, Jesus and others.*
  - *It reveals to Simon what he's really thinking and feeling.*
  
4. What question do these events spark for the other guests?
  - *Who is Jesus to think He can forgive sins?*
  
5. Why are Jesus' words to the woman in verses 48-50 so important? What doesn't He want her or anyone else to have questions about?
  - *Jesus assures her that she is forgiven and can go in peace. Trust in Jesus creates certainty. She's welcome and safe with Him.*
  - *This could be why Jesus is so public with his challenging questions? Simon is a religious leader and his attitude and beliefs detrimentally affect others.*

Jesus already knew what Simon was thinking and feeling. Sometimes we don't even start with that.

- *Think back to some of Julie-anne and Sam's comments in the introduction video.*
- *They show we're interested in people and care about understanding what they think and feel.*
- *They help us know people better so that we know how to speak with them about Jesus in ways that might connect with them.*
- *They help people think through the implications of what they believe.*

- *They invite dialogue.*
- *They encourage people to ask questions back. Which might give us an opportunity to share about the Jesus we know and love.*
- What are some other ways that asking questions can help us in evangelism?

Jesus asks questions to engage and challenge people. His questions invite people to be honest with themselves about who they *really* are and what they *really* think. His questions seek to uncover the beliefs and values, passions and fears that drive how we relate to God, each other, our world and even ourselves. But information or self-awareness is not Jesus' end game. He wants people to see their need for forgiveness and come to Him.

In this module we'll learn to have deeper conversations by asking, answering, and encouraging good questions. Asking questions and listening to people's answers shows that we care. As does answering their questions with honesty and vulnerability. Both these facilitate trust and deeper conversations about life, Jesus and the difference knowing Him makes.

May the ripples our deeper conversations create help us know people better, so that they can know themselves and us better, and ultimately, so that we can *all* know Jesus better.

### **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. What do you talk about with each other? Take time to consider how their lives would be better if they knew Jesus.

*If someone doesn't have any non-Christian friends, then that's what you start praying for. Ask God to bring someone into their life.*

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

### **Pray**

To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.

Proverbs 18:13 (NIV)

- | Thank God for the forgiveness, salvation and peace that Jesus gives to everyone who trusts Him.

- | Ask God to give you the courage to offer conversations that go deeper, even if it feels uncomfortable initially.
- | Ask God to help you listen well so that you know what questions to ask people.

**Homework**

*During the week, post the link to the Conversation Spiral in your group chat to remind people that you'll be discussing your ideas at the start of the next session.*

Jesus was a master at asking questions that helped people wrestle with their underlying heart issues about identity, longing, fear, passions, and beliefs. Some of us do this instinctively. Many of us find it a little harder. We can all get better with practice.

- Watch the Karen Morris "Conversation Spiral.'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ybNa2rM6cc>

Choose two of the friends you're praying for. For each person:

- Make a note of some of the things you talk about.
- Choose one of those topics and try writing out a few questions for each of the three categories Karen speaks about.

OR

- Review a conversation you had this week with one of the people you're praying for. If you had your time again, think about which questions you could have asked to offer a deeper conversation.

	General question / topic	Specific Question	God Question
Person 1			
Person 2			

Tip: Gregory Koukl is a Christian apologist. He has three generic go-to questions that he finds helpful:

- What do you mean by that?
- Why do you think that?
- What difference does that make to you?

Turning these into specific questions for each conversation will help you generate some questions to get you started.

- 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 family and friends.
  - ask them to pray for evangelistic conversations you have had or would like to have.

### ***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?*





Keep learning at  
[ripple-effect.net.au](http://ripple-effect.net.au)