



MODULE 2 | **Jesus & Conversation**

# **Training Guide**



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# 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**

Talking about Jesus and His impact on me

### **MODULE 2 | Jesus & Conversation (This Module)**

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 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 1

## Deeper Relationships

*We all have unique, God-given opportunities to share Jesus and our life with people. Prayerfully making the most of them.*

### **Module Introduction**

We may not all be gifted evangelists (although some of us are!) but we all have a unique set of opportunities to share our lives and Jesus with those around us.

In this module we seek to make the most of these God-given opportunities by learning how the gospel connects with everyday conversations in ways that are organic and natural. God-willing, it will also help us grow in our own faith as we better understand how knowing Jesus intersects with all aspects of our lives.

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 do you feel about evangelism?

### **Session Introduction**

Watch the introduction video for Session 1.

- What did you learn from Martine's experience of evangelistic conversations?
- What encouraged you about what Sam and Julie-anne said about Deeper Relationships?

Everyone has unique opportunities to share Jesus and life with the people around them. In today's session we will ask God to help us 'see' the people he has placed in our lives, commit to praying regularly for them, and start intentionally seeking to deepen our relationship with them.

### **Share**

This is our first session so we will spend some time getting to know each other. Introduce yourself to the group and share something about the key people God placed in your life to help you become or grow as a Christian. They might be family, friends, church leaders, etc.

- What did they say to you about Jesus?
- How did they live for Jesus in ways that were striking?

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.

God placed *these* people in *our* lives to help us come to know and love Jesus. God also places *us* in *other* people's lives to help them come to know and love Jesus. Using the Relationship Network Worksheet 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 worksheet, choose five people that you see or could see regularly to pray for.
- Choose one of these people and tell the group a little about them, and your relationship with them. What do you talk about with each other? As you share, please remember to respect people's privacy!
- Keep a note of each other's friends so that you can pray for them.

### **Train**

We'll now turn to the Bible and read Paul's description of how and why he shared the gospel with the Thessalonians. **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13.**

1. Why did Paul live with them and speak to them about Jesus?
2. What images does Paul use to describe how he feels about the Thessalonians?
3. How do Paul's words and life demonstrate his love for the Thessalonians?
4. What was Paul's role in the Thessalonians becoming Christian? What was God's role? (See also 1 Thessalonians 1:4-6.)
  - a. Paul's role
  - b. God's role

5. What do you find encouraging about this passage? What do you find challenging?

Because Paul wanted to please God and because he loved the Thessalonians, he shared the gospel and his life with them. As Paul spoke the words God gave him, with the help God gave him, God's Spirit worked in the Thessalonians to bring them to faith. God changed Paul and the impact of that rippled through every relationship and conversation he was in.

In this module we will ask God to do the same things in and through us, as we intentionally share our lives with the people God places around us.

We will seek to share the gospel with integrity and gentleness as we build real relationships of trust and love. God-willing, we will discover that our unique histories and experiences, in our unique network of relationships, give us unique opportunities to lovingly share our lives and Jesus with others.

May the gospel of grace ripple through our words and lives, and then out from us to the people around us.

### **Pray**

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

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

- | Thank God for those who shared their life and the gospel with you.
- | Thank God for those who you can share your life and the gospel with.
- | Ask God to help you so say with Paul: Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.
- | Pray for each other and each other's friends.

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.

### **Homework**

- Complete the Relationship Network Worksheet.



# 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:

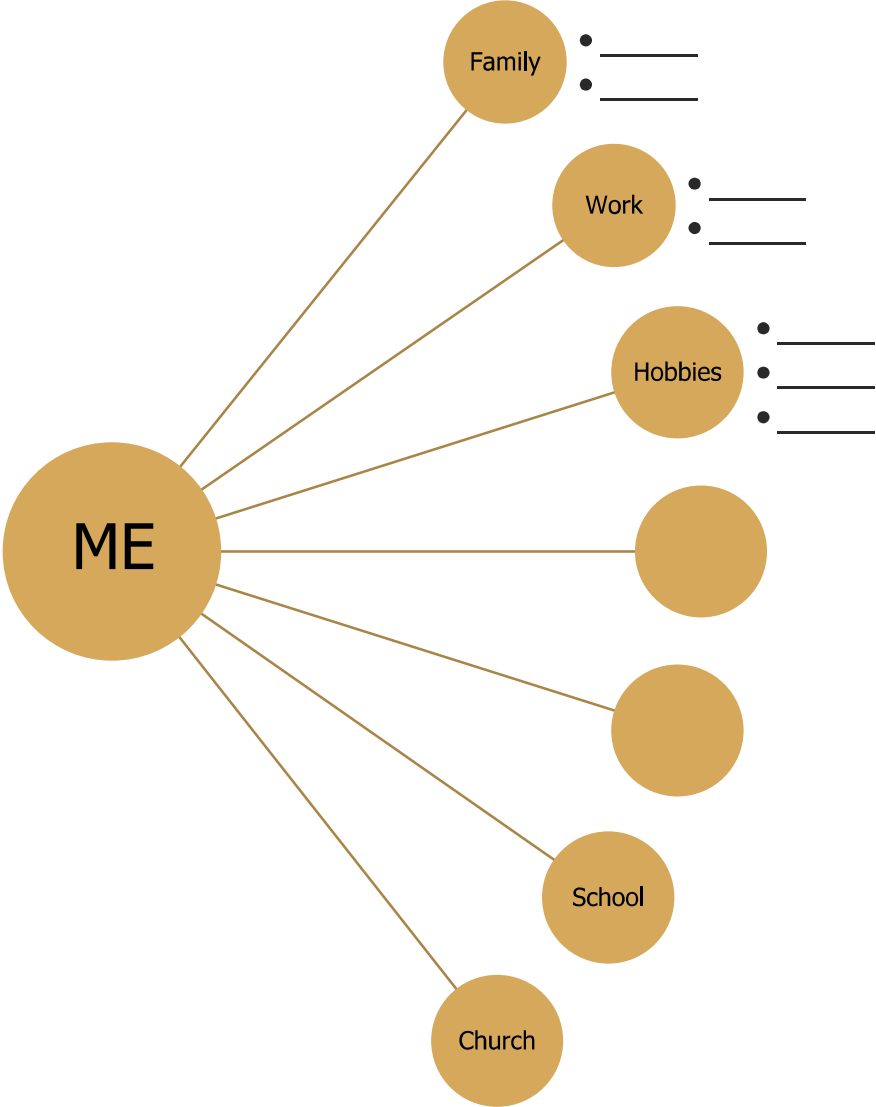
- | underline the names of people you see regularly, even if you don't know them very well yet.
- | circle the names of people you expect to see next week.

→ **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 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.

1. What happens? Is there anything that surprises or challenges you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What questions does Jesus ask Simon? What do these questions reveal or challenge about Simon's attitude to Jesus, himself and others?



3. Jesus could have made these points without the questions. Why is it sometimes *better* to ask questions than simply make statements?
  
4. What question do these events spark for the other guests?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
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 already knew what Simon was thinking and feeling. Sometimes we don't even start with that.

- 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.
- 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

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.

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