



MODULE 4 | **The Real Jesus**  
**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 entrusting them to God in prayer.
- Develop skills in talking about Jesus.
- Learn how to live a life always 'on mission' and ready to serve God.
- Encourage each other to trust God as you hear about and pray for His work in and through each other.

## Who is Ripple Effect for?

This course is for you whether you want to dive into evangelism or just 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 the session guide. These weekly meetings are where discipleship happens and their regularity is crucial to the momentum of Ripple Effect. In 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, practising, 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**

Talking about the Gospel in everyday conversations

### **MODULE 3 | Tricky Questions**

Answering the questions people have about Jesus and Christianity

### **MODULE 4 | The Real Jesus (This Module)**

Reading a Gospel with someone investigating Jesus

### **MODULE 5 | Walking with Jesus**

Describing what it means to follow Jesus day-by-day

### **MODULE 6 | Jesus & Mission**

Sharing the Gospel with everyone

## **Acknowledgements**

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

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

# Module Overview

## MODULE 4 | The Real Jesus

**This module is designed to help you read Luke's Gospel with someone investigating Jesus and Christianity.**

1. Why read Luke's Gospel?
2. Reading Luke's Gospel with three questions
3. Inviting people to read Luke's Gospel
4. Loving your neighbour
5. Which passages in Luke's Gospel?
6. How we are forgiven
7. Inviting people to follow Jesus
8. The costs and benefits of following Jesus

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

1. **INTRODUCTION.** Each session starts with a short training video.
2. **SHARE.** Talk through evangelistic opportunities in the past week.
3. **PRAY.** Praise God for Jesus and His forgiveness. Ask God to save our family and friends and speak through us to them.
4. **TRAIN.** Learn to read Luke's Gospel with people investigating Jesus and Christianity.
5. **REVIEW.** Revisit session content at home to consolidate our learning.

## Module 4 Goals

- Learn to read Luke's Gospel with someone who is investigating Jesus.
- Pray regularly for our family and friends who don't know Jesus yet.
- Develop a heart for evangelism by reflecting on Jesus' forgiveness.

# Session 1

## Why read Luke's Gospel?

**Key idea:** Luke records eye-witness accounts of Jesus so that people might know Jesus and the forgiveness He brings, and that they might choose to follow Him.

**Key encouragement:** Trust God to speak about Jesus, through His word, as you invite people to read Luke's Gospel with you.

**Practical challenge:** Pray regularly for people to become Christian.

**Session goals:**

- Orientation to Ripple Effect 4.
- Consider who you could ask to read Luke with you and pray for them.
- Discuss reasons to read Luke with someone investigating Jesus.
- Know that God speaks through His word and Spirit about Jesus.

## Session Introduction

**Watch the Ripple Effect Module 4 introduction video.**

In this Ripple Effect Module (RE4 – The Real Jesus) you will learn how to read Luke's Gospel with someone who is not yet a Christian. Why read Luke's Gospel with someone investigating Jesus? Because in the pages of Luke's biography of Jesus they will meet the 'real Jesus' and be able to make an informed decision about whether to trust and follow Him.

## Share

This is our first session so we'll spend time getting to know each other. Since we are learning to invite people to read Luke's Gospel with us, we'll share our favourite Gospel story with each other.

- Introduce yourself to the group.
- Why are you participating in RE4?
- What is your favourite story about Jesus or told by Jesus? Why is it your favourite?

Setting group expectations.

- How can we make our group a safe and comfortable place to Share, Pray and Train together?

Many of these group expectations will also be important when reading Luke's Gospel with someone investigating Jesus.

Pray.



**Watch the introduction video for Session 1.**

In his introduction and conclusion, Luke tells us what to expect from his biography of Jesus.

- 1. Read Luke 1:1-4. Why did Luke write this book?**
  
- 2. Read Luke 24:13-35.**
  - a. 'What things' (v19) had Cleopas and his friend learnt or heard about Jesus?**
  
  - b. How did Cleopas and his friend recognise that they were speaking to Jesus?**
  
- 3. What encouragement do these passages give us to read Luke's Gospel with someone investigating Jesus?**
  
- 4. What additional reasons to read Luke's Gospel can you think of that would encourage someone to read it? Be creative.**
  
- 5. Who would you like to invite to read Luke with you?**
  - a. Why them?**  
(As you share, please remember to respect people's privacy.)
  
  - b. How do you feel about inviting this person? What are you excited or hesitant about?**

Jesus is still a recognisable name today. Millions of people love and follow Him. People die for Him. Whether or not people believe in Him, they feel the influence of His life and teaching in many cultural values and institutions. The themes Luke addresses — love, hope, joy, suffering, betrayal, evil, transformation, forgiveness (just to name a few!) — still resonate with us today. There are all sorts of reasons for someone to read Luke's Gospel.

We invite people to read Luke's Gospel so that they can see Jesus through the eyes of people who knew Him. As they read Luke, we pray that God will open their eyes to see and stir their hearts to love Jesus, just as God has graciously done for us.

## Pray

What thanksgiving and prayer points flow out of:

- our Luke passages?
- our time of sharing?

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.



## Review

After each session there will be review activities to complete at home. They are designed to consolidate learning and to keep evangelism on our agenda throughout the week.

- Complete the Relationship Network Worksheet attached to this session.
- Start reading Luke's Gospel. Each week we'll read through a section of Luke's Gospel so that by the end of the module we have read the whole book.

This week, read Luke 1:1-4:13 in one sitting. In these passages Luke tells us about Jesus' birth and His life before He began His public ministry. After you have read it, answer the following questions about:

- a. **Jesus:** What do we learn about Jesus?
  - b. **People around Jesus:** How did Jesus impact the lives of those around Him?
  - c. **Me:** What particularly stood out for me in this story?
- Connect with other group members during the week. Share with each other your response to the Me question. When someone else shares, spend a few minutes praying for them.



# 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:

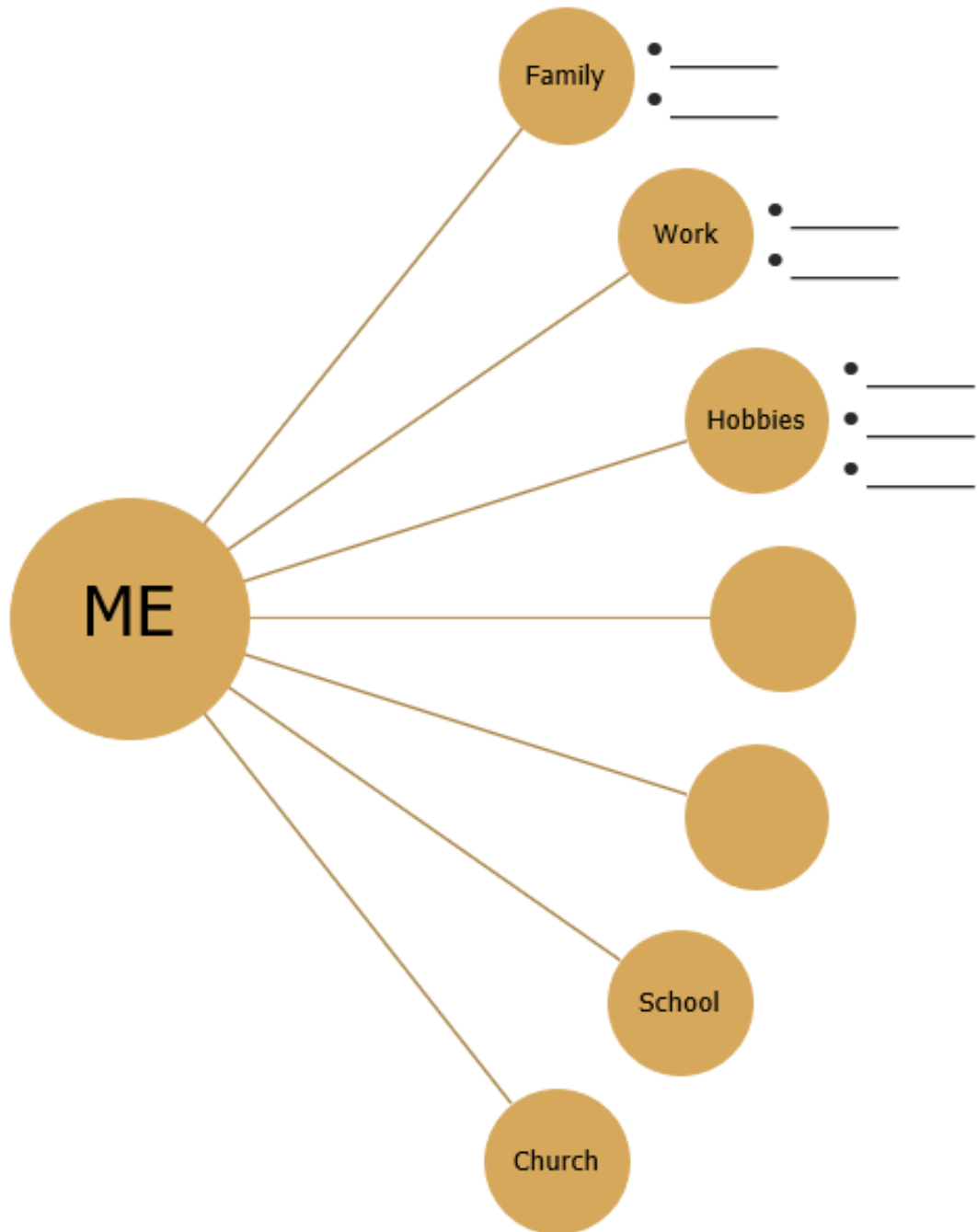
- underline the names of people you see regularly, even if you don't know them very well yet.
- circle the names of people you expect to see next week.

Choose 5 of the people you see or speak with regularly to pray for throughout RE4.

- Include the person you shared about in Session 1.
- These are the people we will be seeking to invite to read Luke's Gospel with us.

Reflect on and pray over these questions:

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 be more intentional in the way you share Jesus and your life with them?



## Session 2

# Reading Luke's Gospel with three questions

**Key idea:** As we read Luke's Gospel, we will focus on Jesus and how people responded to Him.

**Key encouragement:** You don't need to be an expert Bible teacher to read Luke's Gospel with others.

**Practical challenge:** Familiarise yourself with three questions that will help us read Luke's Gospel well.

**Session goals:**

- Learn to use three questions to read Luke's Gospel with someone investigating Jesus: Jesus. People. Me.
- Gain confidence that Jesus is willing and able to meet our needs, the most important of which is our need for forgiveness.
- Pray for each other and each other's friends.

## Session Introduction

**Watch the introduction video for Session 2.**

In each session we will read one passage in Luke's Gospel and discuss it using three questions. The stories we've chosen draw attention to Jesus' offer of forgiveness. By the end of the module, we'll have eight passages ready to read with a person investigating Jesus.

## Share

From the Relationship Network Worksheet, share about two more of the five people you hope to invite to read Luke's Gospel with you.

- Share a little bit about your relationship with them and the conversations, if any, that you have had about Jesus and Christianity.

## Pray

The first few chapters of Luke are filled with people singing with joy about the birth of Jesus. Zechariah sings of his son John's privileged role in pointing people to Jesus.

you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
because of the tender mercy of our God

Luke 1:76-78 (NIV)

- Thank God for Jesus and the mercy and forgiveness He offers to all who trust Him.
- Pray for your family and friends. Ask God to help them receive and rejoice in Jesus' offer of mercy and forgiveness.
- Ask God to use us in this process, in any way He chooses, including by inviting them to read Luke's Gospel with us.



### **Skill: Three questions**

Our three questions are about Jesus, the people who encountered Him, and how Jesus relates to us 2,000 years later. They can be used for discussing almost any passage in any Gospel. The questions, in their most general form, are:

**Jesus:** What do we learn about Jesus in this story?

**People:** What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?

**Me:** What is my response to Jesus and this story?

These questions keep us focused on Jesus and how He affected the people around Him. They start with the primary historical documents about Jesus, not secondary or personal opinions. They challenge us to consider the relevance of Jesus to us personally today.

### **Luke's Gospel**

In Luke 4-9 we meet all sorts of people with all sorts of needs coming to Jesus for help. We will read one of their stories today.

#### **1. Read Luke 5:17-31 and discuss the three questions:**

- Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus in this story?**
- People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?**
- Me: What is my response to Jesus and this story?**

## 2. Review your discussion.

In each session we will review our discussion so that we notice how it evolved and what questions or comments moved it forward or deeper. We might also notice questions and comments which distracted us or took attention away from Jesus. Noticing these things will help us become better skilled at reading Luke's Gospel with others.

- 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 story would you like to have discussed, or to have discussed more fully, if you had your time again?**

Attached to today's session is a resource titled **Expansion Questions**. These questions can help keep discussion flowing and help people think more deeply about the passage. Which and how many of these we use depends on the passage, people's reading comprehension, their familiarity with Jesus and the Bible, whether they are an internal or external processor, how much time you have, etc. We're aiming for our discussion to feel more like a peer-to-peer conversation than a teacher-student conversation.

## 3. Pray. Thank God that Jesus is willing and able to forgive us. Ask God to help our family and friends see their need for forgiveness too.

RE4 is about ordinary Christians prayerfully trusting God to use us as we read Luke's Gospel with others. It is not about running the 'perfect' Bible study. If God has given us an opportunity to read Luke's Gospel with someone, then it's been a good day, even if it didn't go exactly the way we hoped it would.



## Review

Read Luke 4:14-7:35 in one sitting. In these chapters we hear Jesus' teaching and see some of His miracles. Both give us glimpses of what life is like in God's kingdom. After you have read these chapters answer the three questions.

- **Jesus:** What do we learn about Jesus?
- **People:** What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?
- **Me:** What is my response to Jesus and these stories?

Read the Expansion Questions attachment.

- For each of the three questions, choose one expansion question that you find interesting. Use it to add to your answers above.

Connect with other group members during the week.

- Share with each other your response to the Me question. When someone else shares, spend a few minutes praying for them.

# Expansion Questions

RE4 uses three questions to structure discussion on Luke's Gospel. They focus on Jesus and how He affected the people around Him. The last question encourages us to see how Jesus could affect us. For some people and groups these questions by themselves will be enough for fruitful discussion. Other people or groups might need more prompting. That's where expansion questions come in.

## **Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus in this story?**

- What does Jesus say and do? Why does He say and do these things?
- Who does Jesus think He is? What evidence does He offer?
- What do we learn about Jesus' character and motives?
- What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with God? His relationship with people?
- What does Jesus want people to understand about Himself, themselves, God, and their world?

## **People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?**

- Who are the people in the story? (Don't forget the crowd who watch and assess Jesus but have not committed to following Him.)
- What do they say and do? Why?
- What do they think and feel about Jesus? Why?
- What are we told about them and why might this be important?
- What do we learn about their circumstances, character, values and motives?
- What is their relationship with God like? With Jesus? With other people?

## **Me: What is my response to Jesus and this story?**

- What stood out for me in this story?
- Who do I connect with in the story? Who am I most like or least like? Why?
- What questions do I have about Jesus and this story?
- How do I feel about this story?
- What do I think about Jesus? Do I agree with Jesus? Why?
- What does this tell me about trusting and following Jesus?

When preparing to read Luke's Gospel with someone it can be helpful to think through the Me question not only from your own perspective but also from their perspective. This helps you to love them well as you seek to view life from their perspective and better understand their joys, fears, hopes and griefs. God-willing, it will give you an opportunity to share with them how knowing Jesus could meet their deepest needs.

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