



Ripple
Effect

MODULE 1 | **Jesus & Me**

Leaders Guide

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.

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:

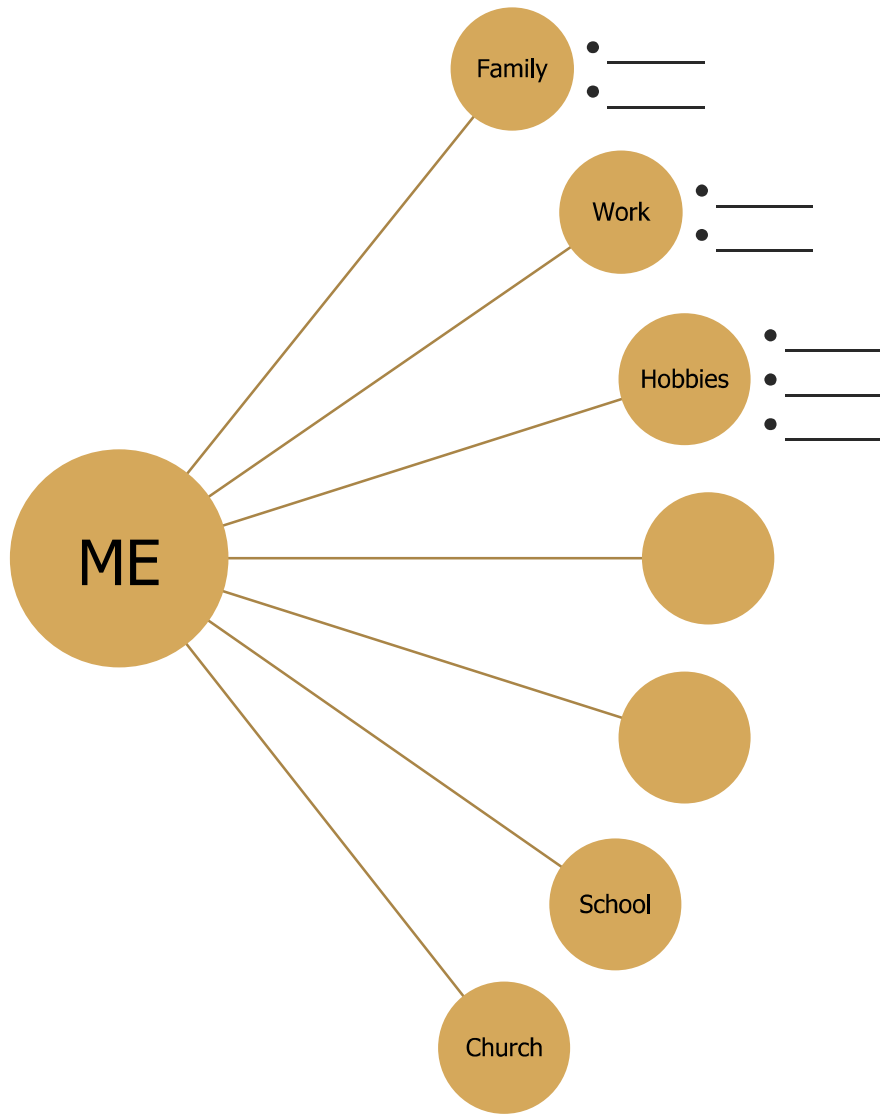
- | underline the names of people you see regularly, even if you don't know them very well yet.
- | circle the names of people you expect to see next week.

→ **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.



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