

Helping people become Christians

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

This session guide outlines suggested elements you might use to help answer the key question below and achieve the aim of the training session. The time allocations can be adjusted according to the amount of time you have.

Key question: How should I help someone who decides they want to become a Christian?

Aim: To equip Christians to explain to someone what’s involved in following Jesus as Lord, how the Holy Spirit helps and transforms and how to pray to put their trust in Jesus.

Pre-video ice breaker / discussion starter (3 min)

Imagine a friend asked you to help them become a Christian. What would you want to make sure they have understood?

We would recommend people split into pairs or triplets to discuss this and further questions. If you are doing more than one session over a period of time, it may be helpful for people to stick to the same pairs/groups so that they can build trust and support one another consistently.

We’d also recommend you either print the list of questions or display them on a screen if meeting in person. Put them into the chat feature before you head into breakout rooms if you’re meeting online.

Play video by Lizzy Smallwood (approx. 15 min)

Download here: apassionforlife.org.uk/fw6-vid-download

Practical exercises and discussion questions (15 min)

Below is a list of questions to consider using. You will not have time for all of them, so select those that you think will be most helpful for people to internalise and apply what they’ve just heard. Maybe you can think of others.

1. Have you had the joy of being used by God to lead a family member or friend to Jesus? If so, share the experience with your group as an encouragement to them

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2. Can you remember a point at which you prayed a prayer of commitment to Christ? Share what happened - did you use a prayer in a booklet? Were you with a friend? Did you sense an immediate change or was it gradual?
3. What traps or dangers might we fall into when we explain to someone what it means to be a Christian?
4. Take turns to practise explaining what it means to take up your cross and follow Jesus as a true disciple (Mark 8:34-35). You may like to give examples from your own experience/journey. Give each other helpful feedback on what was good and what could be sharpened.
5. Once your friend has prayed a prayer of commitment – what advice would you give them on their next steps, and what they should expect?
6. What discipleship course have you been involved with? Which do you like? Why?

Prayer time (12 min)

We would recommend leaving some time for people to pray in their pairs or groups. You may like to ask them to reflect and pray about what has encouraged or challenged them from this session. They may like to include these points:

- Praise God for the work He has done in your life to lead you to follow Jesus as Lord and gain eternal life that cannot be lost.
- Confess and repent of times when you have forgotten, ignored or been ashamed of the demand for us to give our full and free submission in response to God's offer of full and free salvation.
- Ask God to be leading your friends to the point of making a decision to give their lives to Jesus. Pray that God would help you to lovingly walk alongside them and be ready to help them across the faith line and beyond.

Further Bible Reflection (10 min)

This is an additional Bible reflection to go deeper into the main theme. You may choose to use it as part of the training session. Alternatively, you could hand it out on a printout / email it around for reflection during the week, along with the "take home" questions.

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“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

Context: John's letter is cyclical in its style rather than linear. He often repeats and revisits his big themes of true doctrine, true living and true devotion, with particular emphasis upon the fruit of the Spirit which is love.

Commentary: In the opening chapters we see clearly that Jesus Christ is God incarnate and the only advocate who is able to forgive our sin when we repent and believe in him. In this little verse we see the importance of the confession of our sin, firstly in coming to faith and then as we continue to walk with God.

Comment: Share together your understanding of what it means to repent and confess your sin and to live for God in the power of the Spirit. Share with each other your first memory of doing this and also your ongoing experience of walking with God in this way.

Take home

You may like to print out / email around this section so that people can re-watch the video and reflect further.

Why not re-watch the video with a notebook open, praying that God will root these principles into your heart. Watch here: apassionforlife.org.uk/fw6-view

We often only tell our Christian story in terms of the circumstances that led up to the point at which we became a Christian. Find some time to reflect on the early stages of your Christian life and how God graciously helped you grow in loving Him and living for Him. How could your experience help not-yet-Christians relate to you and see following Jesus as a realistic path they too could choose?

There are many resources out there to help you introduce people to Jesus in the Scriptures. Lizzy Smallwood mentioned The Word One to One. If you haven't already, we'd recommend you do the A Passion for Life Training Session FW2 – Sharing God's Word One to One. It is a very practical session showing how the resource The Word One to One works. In several places through the series, there are points where people can put their trust in Jesus.

The Word One to One can also provide further training for your church - visit theword121.com for more information as well as to access free digital copies of the books.

The training video is available for anyone to watch at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw6-view

More stories from everyday believers can be viewed and downloaded at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw6