

A woman with curly hair and glasses is smiling and looking towards a blonde woman whose back is to the camera. They appear to be in a group setting, possibly a church or community event. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people.

A resource from

 a passion
for life

The Greatest Journey

21 lessons in making Jesus known

Scripture quotations taken from
The Holy Bible, New International
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Foreword

As thousands of Christians in hundreds of churches across the UK and Ireland prepare for a focussed month of mission leading up to Easter 2022, united under the banner of A Passion for Life, it's a joy to commend to you a suite of resources that I'm confident will have lasting value for many years to come.

These resources are the fruit of a collaborative engagement with local church leaders, the distilled wisdom of seasoned practitioners and the prayerful longing of both for a fresh equipping of everyday believers in making Jesus known.

I'm excited at the possibilities they contain and encouraged that these resources are freely available to the church to assist, help and inspire us to enable everyone who loves Jesus and His gospel to share Him more effectively with others.

Your servant in Jesus,

John MacKinnon

Training Director, A Passion for Life



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Introduction: The Great Evangelist



“God is the great evangelist, the great seeker and finder of people; and he’s called his followers to the same pursuit and the same emotion.” **Rico Tice, *Honest Evangelism***

Not all of us are called to be evangelists. But, as followers of Jesus Christ – the Great Evangelist who came to “seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10) – we all have a role to play as His witnesses (Acts 1:8) in loving people around us and making disciples wherever God has placed us.

Sharing the life-giving message of the gospel with others is one of the most important and urgent tasks we can engage in as God’s people – and yet, for many of us, evangelism often feels difficult and nerve-racking. Most of us want to share Jesus with our friends, but we just don’t know where to start.

The purpose of this short booklet is to introduce you to some of the key principles of personal evangelism. It will help you better journey with your neighbours, friends and colleagues to life in Christ. If you are a church leader, this booklet will provide a helpful framework to equip your church family in personal evangelism over a sustained period of time.

So, what does it mean to “journey” with people around us to life in Jesus? We’ll expand on this theme through the chapters that follow, but we’ve found that the idea of “journeying” is a helpful way of thinking about personal evangelism. Sharing the gospel with others is more than just plucking up the courage to ask them to church or going door-to-door knocking. It’s about connecting with the people we meet in our everyday lives, praying for and offering them opportunities to encounter Jesus for themselves, and helping them take a next step towards faith in Him. It’s also a journey for us as we grow as witnesses!

How to use this resource

This booklet is designed to be used alongside the video training sessions available for free at apassionforlife.org.uk.

1. Watch

View 21 sessions which aim to give you and your church the practical tools and confidence to journey with others to life in Jesus.



2. Plan

Decide which topics are most useful for your church family, and use the Training Planner on page 26 to plan your training.

3. Equip

As well as the training video, each session gives you:

- Encouraging testimonies to enthuse your congregation
- Session guides to plan engaging and interactive sessions
- Talk outlines and transcripts to adapt the content for your context



“Even in the middle of a messy situation, God can still use you.”

Hear from everyday believers like Shay by downloading the training sessions!

Making meaningful connections

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." 1 PETER 3:15

We may not all be gifted evangelists, but we're all called to witness to the hope that we have in Jesus. 1 Peter 3:15 says that we should always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope we have in Jesus. But how can we do this?

The majority of people who come to faith today do so through the witness of a friend, colleague or family member. For many, the journey of faith begins with someone taking the first step of loving and genuinely caring for them.

We are all part of much bigger networks than we think. So, a good first step towards being the witnesses God wants us to be is opening up our eyes in the midst of life's busyness and actually noticing people, paying attention and being kind to them. As we do so, we'll begin to take notice of the people we cross paths with every day: at work, out shopping, walking the dog, on the bus – the list goes on!

It might seem awkward at first, but lovingly connecting is at the very heart of the gospel. Here are a few simple thoughts to get started:

- Open your eyes to see the people God has put in your life. As you notice them, start to chat to them – introduce yourself, ask their name and how their day is going.
- Listen to what they say about their children, their dog or life in general.
- Don't try to file it away mentally, but enter it in a prayer app or write it down in a notebook. We all know how much it means when someone remembers our name or something important to us!

Keep chatting, keep befriending and be prepared for opportunities to share Jesus as you do so!



"If we are willing to swim against the tide and give time to others, to do little acts of kindness, to open up our lives and our homes to them – then opportunities to share Jesus will naturally follow." Lizzy Smallwood

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/lc1-view
Download the full session (LC1) at apassionforlife.org.uk/lc1

Loving our neighbours

"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

At the very heart of who God is, we see the relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Trinity gives us the ultimate reason to believe in the power and value of community! So, as Christians, how can we care about and build community?

Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians gives us a rich and wonderful model for how we're to live in our communities. It shows us how we should not only *speak* clearly, but also *love* dearly.

1) Speak clearly. Paul, a missionary to Thessalonica, preached the gospel with conviction and power by the Holy Spirit. He spoke clearly and saw many come to trust Jesus for themselves. The new believers became sharers of the gospel message, too.

2) Love dearly. They didn't just *speak*. Paul is clear that it wasn't just the gospel they shared, but their very lives. He lived amongst the Thessalonians, for their sake. He treated them as brothers and sisters.

This familial, devoted love is the love that we are called to give out, not just to other Christians, but in our community, to our neighbours and to our work colleagues.

Just as we can't choose our blood siblings, you can't choose who God gives you to share your life with – but you can choose to love them!



"God has called each of us into a community. Whoever you are and however you're made, think through how you can love more dearly and speak more clearly about Christ."
Nay Dawson

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/lc2-view
Download the full session (LC2) at apassionforlife.org.uk/lc2

Loving through listening and questions

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” MARK 12:30-31

Our instinct is to hang out with those who are like us: those who look the same as us, share the same interests as us and watch the same Netflix shows as us!

Sadly, we often assume that those who are different to us aren't worth listening to. But this is not a gospel way to live! Jesus commands us to “Love your neighbour as yourself” in Mark 12 – so, how do we really love our neighbour?

Ultimately, it's by telling them good news about Jesus – there's nothing more loving than this! However, we also love them by listening to them. When we do this well, we find more opportunities to share the gospel!

There are two main ways we can listen well to people:

1) Pay attention. Notice what people do, where they go and what they talk about. Of course, this is a challenge when so many of us feel busy and over-committed; but we need to recognise our preoccupation with our own lives as a barrier to gospel progress, and remind ourselves that the Great Commandment is to love God and love people.

2) Ask questions. Jesus often asked people questions because questions are a powerful way to connect with someone's story. Start by asking questions that open up a conversation about their lives. Then, if you sense it's appropriate and they are open to it, start to ask questions that encourage them to think about God and the big questions of life!

As we pray and wait for opportunities to share the gospel with those God has placed in our lives, let's continue to journey with them by taking a genuine interest in their lives and asking them questions!



“Here's what God does: in His grace and sovereignty, He deliberately scatters His people amongst the unbelieving world so that we can love our neighbour.” **Lee McMunn**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/lc3-view
Download the full session (LC3) at apassionforlife.org.uk/lc3

Sharing hope in today's world

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” HEBREWS 10:23

Often, we can see suffering as a barrier to sharing the gospel. But, if God used the suffering of Christ to redeem the world, He can surely use our suffering, infinitely smaller though it is, to point others to Him!

Here are four ways we can begin to do this:

1) Empathise. When Jesus meets the grieving widow of Nain, His first reaction isn't to speak to her or even to raise her son. Instead, He feels for her pain and expresses deep sympathy: “When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her...” (Luke 7:13).

2) Listen. Let the suffering person guide you as to what they want rather than trying to seize control of the situation. Never underestimate the power of physical presence. Being with someone in the midst of trial is so helpful, and, when this is accompanied by careful listening and empathy for their feelings, it can be greatly used for God's glory.

3) Pray. If you sense that's appropriate then – and only then! – ask them gentle questions such as, “Would you mind if I prayed for you?” When you pray, be honest about how they feel – use their own words and offer them up to God. Be totally honest: God the Father knows exactly what we are feeling!

4) Turn to the Psalms. The Psalms are a great place to turn with people who are suffering, because they provide us with words to express how we are feeling, and remind us where our true hope is during difficult times. It can be as simple as reading one of the shorter Psalms (for example, Psalm 23), and then making a couple of comments about how you have found it helpful in your own life.

No matter how faltering and nervous we are, we can't go far wrong if we take our suffering friends to Jesus, the “man of sorrows” who can, and will, help them.



“It can be as if God uses our suffering as a little ‘on ramp’ onto that great ‘bridge’ that opens the way home to God – through the suffering, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.” **Jeremy Marshall**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/lc4-view
Download the full session (LC4) at apassionforlife.org.uk/lc4

Answering tough questions with Jesus

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” LUKE 24:27

What should we do when someone asks us a tough question? One of the simplest things we can do is tell them a story from the Bible that points them to Jesus!

Here’s why stories are powerful for answering tough questions:

- 1) Stories are memorable and easy to understand.** Storytelling is disarming and works very well in our culture which, for better or worse, tends to value stories and personal perspectives more than abstract propositions and philosophical arguments.
- 2) Stories from the Bible are helpful for dealing with tricky questions.** For example, when someone asks us about other faiths, we can tell the story of the Samaritan woman in John 4, showing them the tender way that Jesus breaks down barriers and explains what true worship looks like. Or, when someone tells us that they can’t believe in a loving God when there’s so much suffering in the world, we can point them to John 11, where Jesus expresses deep grief over the death of Lazarus before demonstrating His power over death and evil.

So, how can we start sharing stories with our friends?

We can only share what we have read and internalised ourselves. The more we do this, the more we have to share with both our Christian and non-Christian friends. Recalling and retelling Bible stories in our own words is a relatively simple thing to do, and when we do this naturally in our conversation with others, it can have a deeply meaningful impact upon them.



*“Sharing Bible stories in answer to tough questions is a model we see in the Bible, and it keeps us depending on God’s powerful Word.” **Jeremy Marshall***

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/lc5-view
Download the full session (LC5) at apassionforlife.org.uk/lc5

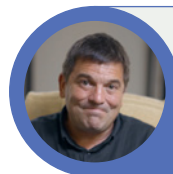
Why the journey is needed

“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.” ACTS 17:26-27

As God’s people, we’re uniquely placed to take the good news of Jesus all the way from the Creator God who made us to the streets that we live on. Our role is to help people connect their little story with God’s big story, and find their place in it. Here are four steps that are helpful for thinking, praying and journeying with people around you:

- 1) Know them.** The first thing we can do is get to know them. God made them with unique skills, temperament, intellect and experience. And evangelism begins here, in being thrilled with the fact that God has made the people around us.
- 2) Serve them.** When someone arrives on the street, knock on the door with a card and a box of chocolates. When you see them, make sure you stop and let them know you care by asking how they are. Get to know their story.
- 3) Ask a spiritual question.** This will always be a bit nerve-racking so make sure your identity and hope is in the grace of God! You could preface your question with something like, “I’m a bit nervous to say this because it can offend some people but can I ask, *What do you know about Jesus?*” Let’s remember that in the gospels, Jesus asks over 300 questions!
- 4) Know when to exit.** In Matthew 10:14, Jesus says that if anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. If they shut up, you shut up. If they start talking and discussing the spiritual issue you’ve raised, then you keep asking questions and engaging with them.

You never know who God might be creating a spiritual hunger within. So, get to know people, serve them, ask questions, and God will show you who He is calling to Himself through you as you journey others through life!



*“What’s going on in history is that God is reaching out to people so that they will meet Him. The reason your neighbour lives on your street is so that they can be reached by the gospel.” **Rico Tice***

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd1-view
Download the full session (IBD1) at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd1

How God sees people

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” GENESIS 1:27

When we begin to see people the way God sees them, we can't help but tell them about God's perfect kingdom and His free and generous grace towards all people! Here are three Biblical truths that help us capture God's heart for those who are lost:

1) We are all made in God's image (Genesis 1:27). Our dignity, value and rights as human beings all stem from the fact that we are created in God's own image. God lovingly and purposefully created men and women with the gifts and ability to rule over His creation, under His authority and in friendship with Him. We have intrinsic value since we reflect something of God's character in our interactions with one another and the world around us.

2) We are under God's wrath (Romans 1:18). The legacy of Adam and Eve's rebellion remains with us today. Human beings find themselves naturally suppressing the truth of God's existence and acting in a way that displeases Him. The Bible calls this attitude of rejection towards God “sin” – and such treatment fills God with righteous anger. Romans 1-2 tells us that people everywhere are under God's wrath, not only in the present but also in the future, when His wrath will be poured out on all those who refused to turn to Him for help.

3) No one is beyond God's grace (Romans 3:23-24). The wonderful message of the Bible is that although we are under God's wrath, no one is beyond His grace. This lavish grace is demonstrated in Jesus Christ coming to us as one of us. By pouring out His wrath upon Himself in the person of Jesus Christ, God deals with His own anger by paying the price for our rebellion. Jesus bore the punishment we deserved so that we could be reconciled to God and know His love forever. Incredibly, Jesus didn't stay dead – He rose again from death to new life, making a way through death to eternal life for us too!

That is how God sees people in the world around us. Is that how you see the people around you? And if so, with God's help, what are you doing about it?



“It is really important that you and I see people how God sees them, especially if they don't know or love Him.”
Raymond Brown

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2-view
Download the full session (IBD2) at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2

God's role and ours

“For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.” 2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-6

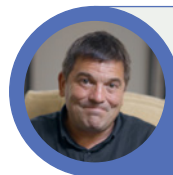
Understanding God's role and our role in evangelism is important, because it keeps us from thinking too little of God and too much of ourselves. There are three vital Biblical principles that help us understand this dynamic:

1) God's sovereignty. When we preach Christ, it is God who takes our message and makes the “light of the knowledge of God's glory” shine in the hearts of our listeners (2 Corinthians 4:6). The only reason anyone becomes a Christian is because God has graciously done a miracle by opening their blind eyes and causing them to recognise who Jesus is!

2) Gospel integrity. How do we preach Christ in a way that God would be happy with? Firstly, we *tell the truth*: by preaching Jesus as Lord, sharing the good news of God's love, while being clear about God's wrath and our need for repentance. Secondly, we *pray*: we must pray that God will do a miracle and cause individuals to have their blind eyes opened to who He is. Finally, we *trust* God to produce the results: our job is to preach Jesus faithfully as Lord and not to distort His Word. God's job is to do the miracle of opening blind eyes!

3) Our creativity. God has given us the creativity through which we can connect, serve and reach those who don't know Him. 1 Corinthians 9:22 helpfully trains us in this area: “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”

In summary: our role in evangelism is to depend completely on God, stay faithful to the gospel, and adapt to different people and changing circumstances. God's role in evangelism is to open blind eyes, through the gospel of His Son, shared by people like us.



“With our right hand rock-solid on doctrine and belief, our left hand has got to be reaching for people. Exactly how we do this is where we employ our God-given creativity.” **Rico Tice**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd3-view
Download the full session (IBD3) at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd3

What is the gospel?

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

As we talk to people about Jesus, we want to be as clear as possible. At the heart of the message of the gospel are four major truths:

1) God is Creator. The Bible doesn't try to prove the existence of God; it simply states the fact that He exists, and that He is the creative cause behind everything that does exist. We were created in God's image to know and enjoy Him, and steward His creation under His authority.

2) We rebelled against God. Because of our wickedness, our natural tendency is to suppress the truth of God's existence. We tell ourselves that our Creator God is not worthy of our worship, and instead we foolishly worship created things in place of our Creator. The Bible calls this rejection of God "sin" – and because of it, we incur God's righteous wrath.

3) Christ came to be our Redeemer. The good news is that God doesn't leave us in our sin. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place on the cross, freeing us from the penalty we were under by taking upon Himself the cost of our sin. But Jesus didn't stay dead: He rose again from death to new life, opening up the way through His death to eternal life for all who put their trust in Him.

4) Our response is faith which leads to repentance. Our greatest need is to be pronounced righteous in God's sight. This right standing with God is possible solely through faith in Jesus Christ, and we must put our trust in Him alone to reconcile us to God. Genuinely trusting in Jesus in this way always leads to repentance: turning away from sin and allowing Him to direct our lives and the decisions we make.

If we really believe these truths about God, Jesus Christ, ourselves and others, how can we do anything but share them with those who are not yet followers of Jesus?



"Getting the content right is important if we want to give people clarity in terms of who Jesus is and what He has done for them." **Raymond Brown**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd4-view
Download the full session (IBD4) at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd4

Prayer in evangelism

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." MATTHEW 9:37-38

Prayer is the engine room of evangelism. If we want to see the gospel of Christ proclaimed in every community to every generation across the UK and Ireland, the first thing we must do, as a matter of first importance, is to pray! The following four principles are helpful to guide us as we do so:

1) Pray to the Lord of the harvest. This is a prayer request straight from the lips of Jesus: that the Lord of the harvest would raise up workers – everyday believers who long to be fruitful in the service of their King (Matthew 9:37-38).

2) Quiet places. Jesus teaches us that the secret of praying is to pray in secret. The great preacher David McIntyre said that the only equipment you need is a *quiet place* (a regular place for prayer), a *quiet hour* (not strictly 60 minutes, but a set time in your day where God is prioritised), and a *quiet heart* (by listening to God's Word and seeking Him before we seek answers!).

3) Corporate spaces. Of course, Scripture places great emphasis on corporate prayer as well as solitary prayer, and Jesus Himself regularly prayed in the presence of others. A major feature of our evangelistic efforts must be the gathering together of God's people in one place for prayer.

4) Pray for the FANS. Paul asked that the church at Colossae would pray for an open door for the message of Christ (Colossians 4:3-4) – and this is a good prayer to make our own for those we are burdened for. One way we can do that is by praying for the "FANS" in our life: our *Friends and Family*, our *Acquaintances*, our *Neighbours*, and *Strangers*. Imagine the difference that praying for five minutes for five people would make to our evangelistic efforts!

As a matter of priority, let's pray that the Lord would raise up more workers for the harvest field – who could you take time to pray for regularly and fervently?



"Later in life I found out that my old school teacher whose life I had made a misery with my obnoxious behaviour used to go home and pray 'Lord, take this young man and do something special with his life.'" **John MacKinnon**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd5-view
Download the full session (IBD5) at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd5

Depending on the Holy Spirit

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” JOHN 14:16-17

As we seek to proclaim the good news of the gospel, we need to depend upon God’s personal, practical and empowering gift of the Holy Spirit. Reflect on these three vital aspects of the Spirit’s work as we share Jesus with others:

1) Empowering us for witness. In Acts 1:8, we read that we *will* be witnesses – it’s not an optional extra! So the question is whether we will be a good or a bad witness. While we can witness in many ways, we are only engaging in evangelism when we allow the Holy Spirit to empower us to proclaim the gospel, to make Jesus known and to call people to put their faith in Him.

2) Filling us daily. Ephesians 5:18 exhorts us to “be filled with the Spirit”. We need to be seeking a fresh, daily filling of the Holy Spirit in our lives, so that our witness to the gospel might be fruitful. This occurs as we spend time with God – in the quiet place, for the quiet hour, with the quiet heart.

3) Magnifying Christ. The principle role of the Holy Spirit in the world is to magnify Jesus (John 16:14-15). Sometimes in our evangelism, we can be driven by a sense of guilt about not sharing Jesus; or we fearfully try to muster up the boldness to say something about Jesus to someone else. The good news is that we don’t need to do that, nor should we! God has given us a Helper who longs to magnify Jesus and make much of Him through our lives. As a result, we can be confident that the Holy Spirit will take our weakness and use it to magnify Christ!

So, take heart. As we seek to share the incredible gift of love that has found us in Christ, the Holy Spirit will empower us to magnify Jesus in our evangelism. We are not on our own: He is very much with us, dwelling in us for His glory!



“As we make the gospel known to others, we in the power of the Spirit are able to magnify Jesus, to make much of Him.”
John MacKinnon

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6-view
Download the full session (IBD6) at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6

God’s Word in evangelism

“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me...” JOHN 5:39

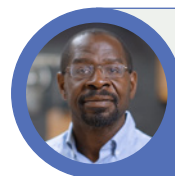
We each have a part to play in drawing others to Jesus and making disciples – and one of the best ways we can do that is by pointing them to Jesus in His Word, so that they can hear the voice of the Good Shepherd for themselves! Here’s how:

1) Draw them to Jesus. One of the main reasons that Jesus has left us here and not taken us to be with Him yet is so that we can bring people to Him! When Andrew and Philip heard Jesus described as the Lamb of God who had come to bring us into relationship with God, they immediately went and brought others to Him (John 1:41-46). After discovering who Jesus is, both Andrew and Philip go and bring others to Him – and that’s why Jesus has put us where we are. He has work for us to do: to introduce those around us to Him.

2) Bring them to Scripture. So, how do we bring people to Jesus? Through Scripture, the means by which He has made Himself known. If we want people to come to know Jesus for themselves, we have to either bring the Scriptures to them, or bring them to the Scriptures!

3) Help them hear the Good Shepherd. The same Jesus who speaks to us as His followers through the Scriptures can also speak into the lives of those who do not yet know Him. As we help them engage with what is written in the Scriptures, they will hear Jesus the Good Shepherd speaking to them (see John 10)!

Will you commit to helping those around you engage with the Scriptures, so that they too can hear our Shepherd’s voice?



“This same Jesus who speaks in the Scriptures to you and me as His followers, can also speak into the lives of those who do not yet know Him: our friends, work colleagues, neighbours, family members and others.” **Raymond Brown**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd7-view
Download the full session (IBD7) at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd7

Right expectations and crossing the pain line

"I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves." MATTHEW 10:16

It's normal for us to fear rejection in evangelism. Jesus was honest with His followers that sharing the gospel would be tough, and would result in the world hating them (John 15:18). How, then, do we "cross the pain line" and motivate ourselves to keep pointing others to Jesus?

There are four gospel realities – Grace, Gehenna, Glory and Godliness – that help us overcome fear and motivate our evangelism:

- 1) Grace.** God's grace is enough and His power is made perfect in our weakness and feebleness (2 Corinthians 12:9). It's this amazing grace that gives us confidence as we step out to tell our friends, family, neighbours and colleagues about Jesus!
- 2) Gehenna.** Jesus warns us repeatedly of the stark reality of hell, and we have a responsibility to warn others of this clear and present danger.
- 3) Glory.** We should seek to glorify God above all else – and often, our fears can reveal idols of security and reputation that we're afraid of losing if we share the gospel.
- 4) Godliness.** Most of all, if we want to become more like Jesus, His compassion and concern for those who don't yet know Him should urge us to have that same attitude.

When we accept that rejection will happen and are motivated by powerful gospel realities, we can begin to overcome fear and journey confidently with those we know towards knowing Jesus for themselves!



"Tiny beginnings produce great conclusions. Don't lose your nerve. The tiny seed of the Word produces the harvest. There's such strength in weakness as this message goes out." **Rico Tice**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw1-view
Download the full session (FW1) at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw1

Sharing God's Word one to one

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." HEBREWS 4:12

You might not think it, but one of the most exciting and effective ways we can share the gospel with those we know is by reading the Bible one to one with them! Here's why:

- 1) God's Word is powerful for evangelism.** When we read the Bible with others, we are taking them straight to God's Word so that they can hear from our Good Shepherd, Jesus. All we need to do is open it with those we know and trust that He will work in their hearts as they read it for themselves.
- 2) It takes the pressure off us.** Many of us are put off sharing the gospel with others because we're afraid that we won't have the answers to the questions. By opening up God's Word, we take the pressure away from us, putting the focus on what the Bible says rather than what we say. This releases you and your friend to have a laid-back, two-way conversation about what you're reading, as you let God's Word do the work!
- 3) It's relational and personal.** Meeting regularly, going through one of the gospels verse by verse, discussing the text and what it means for our lives together helps you engage with others on a personal, relational level, modelling what it means to journey with others to Jesus.

So, where do you start? Resources like The Word One to One (theword121.com) are designed to help any Christian become a Bible sharer, taking you through the text of the Bible verse-by-verse alongside helpful notes. Why not try it for yourself?



"The national average is that 1 in 5 people, or 20% of the people in the UK, would like to take a look at God's Word – they are just waiting to be asked!" **Carl Porter**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw2-view
Download the full session (FW2) at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw2

Making the most of courses and events

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes..." ROMANS 1:16

God has given us so many ways to share His good news with those around us – and in order to be as effective as possible in our witness, we need to have an array of evangelistic tools and approaches, so we can pick the right one for the right occasion.

Events and courses are two tools that we have at our disposal to share the gospel with others:

1) Events. The great thing about events is that there is huge scope for creativity and variety, meaning that you and your church family can invite every kind of person to come along. The important thing is to ensure that every event you plan communicates some part of the gospel message. You can do this in many different ways: through a short presentation, a video or interviewing someone from your congregation.

2) Courses. Like events, courses come in all shapes and sizes, and can be hosted either in-person or online. The benefit of courses is that they offer the opportunity for longer engagement with God's Word. In Mark 4:24, Jesus says, "Consider carefully what you hear ... With the measure you use, it will be measured to you – and even more." By inviting people to courses, we help them to discover more of Jesus by engaging with His Word.

When we invite those we know either to an event or course, we don't need to overthink it or fall into the trap of saying "no" for them. We're not God – all we're called to do is invite, and trust that He will work!



"Not only has God given us a significant mission, He has also given us a wealth of resources and opportunities to help us share the greatest news in the universe – our evangelistic tool bag is overflowing with many gospel tools." Lee McMunn

Gospel outlines and personal stories

"For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" ROMANS 10:13-14

As we start to have conversations about Jesus with others, there are two tools which are really useful to have at hand: a memorable outline of the gospel, and our personal testimony of God's ongoing work in our life.

1) A gospel outline. Having a gospel outline to hand is incredibly helpful when it comes to telling someone else about the good news of Jesus. Having or drawing a simple diagram and explaining it as you go along helps you to be clear and concise in your communication of the gospel, and visually reinforces what you're saying, making it more memorable. It also provides a point of reference for further conversation, and you can give it to them to take away to think about further in their own time!

2) Your testimony. We each have a compelling story of grace, even in our seemingly ordinary lives. So we can be confident, honest and clear as we tell others about how Jesus has saved us and changed our lives! To help you prepare to share your story, why not try writing it out in 500 words? This helpful exercise will bring clarity to what we share and keep us from unnecessary waffle!

It's important to remember that our testimony isn't an alternative to explaining the gospel – instead, the gospel should always go with our testimony. We must share how our story fits into His story. And while our testimony is powerful, it doesn't definitively show that the gospel is true. We only know the gospel is true because of Jesus and His Word – so it's vital that we share both alongside each other.



"His gospel must always go with our testimony. We don't want to just tell our story on its own, but rather how our story fits into His story." Marcus Nodder

Being a witness at work

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

Have you ever wondered where our regular, "9-5" work fits in with God's purposes? Five Biblical truths encourage and challenge us to see how God is at work through our work:

1) Work is a gift. In Genesis, we see that work has been part of what we were created to do since the beginning – to worship God. Work is a gift through which we are called to serve and worship God.

2) Work is *not* God. We live in a world which worships work. But work was never designed to be the source of our ultimate security, identity and meaning – God is.

3) Work is a grind. As a result of the Fall (Genesis 3), work is marred by sin and falls under God's judgment. So, in every job, we'll have to deal with pressure, frustration and the effects of sinful pride, all of which makes work a grind. Through it all, we can remain realistic, persevere in prayer and support one another.

4) Work is a godliness challenge. Paul encourages the slaves in Colossae to work "with all your heart, as working for the Lord" (Colossians 3:23), and we are to do the same. When we realise that we're working for the King of Kings, it makes every task – no matter how hard or dull it is – incredibly significant!

5) Work is an opportunity for the gospel. As Christians, our ultimate work is the work of the Lord – including sharing His gospel with others. Our work offers us a unique opportunity to introduce others to Jesus!

So, be encouraged – no matter what you do, God has placed you in your workplace to fulfil His plans and purposes!



"When we do our different jobs, we are not wasting our lives. We are doing what God created us to do. It's part of how we are to serve and worship Him – the Hebrew word for work also means 'worship'." **Marcus Nodder**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw5-view
Download the full session (FW5) at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw5

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." ROMANS 10:9

We all long for that day when, after journeying with someone towards life in Jesus, they finally ask us: *"What should I do to be saved?"* When that day comes, there are three questions we will need to help our friend answer as they respond to Jesus' call to follow Him:

1) What will it mean to say that Jesus is my Lord? We should be clear with our friends that putting their trust in Jesus involves both a *demand* as well as an *offer*. Jesus offers us full and free salvation – but He also demands from us full and free submission – our worship, our obedience, our *all*. We should also explain, and exemplify, the *beauty* of giving our whole lives to Him who first gave His for us!

2) What will be the role of the Holy Spirit in my new life as a believer? While Jesus calls us to surrender and follow Him, He doesn't just leave us to figure it out for ourselves! We should explain to our friends that Jesus gives us His Holy Spirit to help us live out our new life in Him. The Holy Spirit opens our minds and hearts to the truth of God's Word. He assures us that we belong to Jesus, no matter what we feel. He helps us trust Christ's promise of salvation. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit produces the character of Jesus in our lives.

3) What is the next step I need to take to put my trust in Jesus? When we've explained what it means to put their trust in Jesus, and what the Holy Spirit does to help us follow Him, we can also lead our friends through a simple prayer of acceptance, following the "teaspoon" outline of "thank you", "sorry" and "please". It's important to remember that this is just a good starting point – but there's still a lifelong journey of faith ahead of them, and we need to be there journeying with them as they grow into their new life in Christ.

So, let's be praying that God will give us the opportunity to help someone cross the faith-line, and that He will help us get ready for that moment!



"That moment when someone crosses the line of faith is something we all should be earnestly praying for – for those connected to us personally and those connected to our church." **Lizzy Smallwood**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw6-view
Download the full session (FW6) at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw6

Engaging with different cultures

"Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all." COLOSSIANS 3:11

The good news of Jesus is for all people, in all places, at all times. When it comes to sharing the gospel with people from other cultures, we can learn much from Paul's example in Acts 17. Here, Paul identifies who he is speaking to and tailors his presentation, so that they can understand the gospel message easily – a practice we call "translation". Paul sought to understand some of the ideas, symbols and stories which had shaped Athenian culture, and he used this understanding to make his words have an impact.

Just like Paul, we need to be good gospel "translators", so that we can communicate the gospel to those around us in a way that they can understand. To help us do this, we need to prayerfully pursue three distinct qualities:

1) Humility. In order to share the gospel cross-culturally, we need to listen carefully and get to know people well: how they see themselves, how they see the world, and what they think of Jesus and Christianity. We need to be humble and willing to change how we communicate the gospel, so we can meet people where they're at.

2) Patience. Good communication takes time because getting to know people takes time. Who do you need to be patient with, sharing the gospel with them bit by bit, day by day, and maybe even year by year?

3) Courage. Once we get to know people, and have found ways to translate the gospel effectively, at some point we're going to need to say hard things that they might find challenging or even offensive. While we need to communicate the gospel in ways which resonate with those listening, we also need to disclose the challenge of the message and make it clear that they need to respond to Jesus.

As we seek to share the gospel with people from all kinds of backgrounds, let's make sure that the only barrier preventing them believing in Jesus is the gospel itself, rather than misunderstandings and other cultural barriers!



"One of the big surprises for the first followers of Jesus was that the good news of Jesus was for non-Jews as well as for Jews: it was for people from every nation, ethnic group and language." Felix Aremo

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw7-view
Download the full session (FW7) at apassionforlife.org.uk/fw7

Welcoming people into the church

"But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other." 1 CORINTHIANS 12:24-25

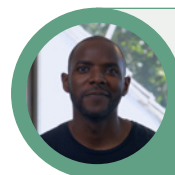
As we step out to share the gospel in our communities, our hope and prayer is that many people will come to know the Lord Jesus and step into His family. But the question we need to ask ourselves is this: how ready are we to receive new people within our churches? Here are three qualities the Bible urges us to adopt to ensure that our churches are welcoming gospel communities:

1) Equality. We often form stereotypes of people based on their external qualities, such as their skin colour, beauty and wealth – and this anti-gospel prejudice can creep into our churches. The Bible states that we are all equal: equally sinful, but equally accepted in God's grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. As God's church, we need to go out of our way to love, honour and respect those that are treated like dirt in society as a whole.

2) Relationality. Alongside repenting of and working to remove our prejudice, we need to work at building strong, inclusive, relational church communities – ones that are void of isolated social cliques and full of deep, intentional, generous relationships with one another, as displayed in Acts 2.

3) Accessibility. Finally, we need to make our churches accessible for everyone. While practical measures are important, we also need to make every part of our church services and activities accessible for a diverse range of people! That means making every aspect as clear, inclusive and encouraging as possible, so that anyone – especially those who have never been to church before – feel like they are part of our family.

As we consider how we can reach our communities with the good news of Jesus, it's vital that we also consider how we can welcome and integrate people into our church families in the best possible way!



"We need to be willing to listen to God's Word, be willing to listen to other people, and be willing to make changes to the way we do things in our local church." Felix Aremo

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/ed1-view
Download the full session (ED1) at apassionforlife.org.uk/ed1

Helping new Christians grow

“For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.” 1 THESSALONIANS 2:11-12

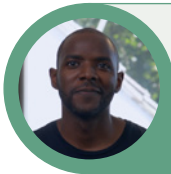
As brothers and sisters in Christ, we have a great responsibility to care for one another and to encourage each other to grow in Christian maturity.

In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul uses three metaphors that help us think about how we can draw alongside new Christians to help them become strong followers of Jesus:

- **He related to them as little children.** Paul knew and treated the Thessalonian Christians like fellow siblings. He understood that they were young in their faith, teaching and helping them accordingly.
- **He cared for them like a nursing mother.** He and his team loved and genuinely cared for them; they fed them with the gospel and by opening up their lives to them.
- **He encouraged them like a purposeful father.** He intentionally pointed them to Christ and encouraged them to live a life worthy of Him.

A vital aspect of helping new Christians grow involves helping them cultivate and express love for God and His people. That’s because we cultivate and express our love for God through loving His people, and we also cultivate and express our love for people by encouraging their love for God.

The local church is the safe, secure and stable environment that God has ordained to nurture, grow and mature believers. And we, with great patience and constant prayer, should seek to do all that we can to encourage our brothers and sisters as fellow children of the living God!



“It is wonderful to be a member of a Christian family and to realise that we are responsible both for welcoming new family members and helping them to grow up in Christ. It’s an immense privilege.” **Felix Aremo**

Watch the training video at apassionforlife.org.uk/ed2-view
Download the full session (ED2) at apassionforlife.org.uk/ed2

Train your church in personal evangelism

In this short booklet, we’ve introduced 21 key areas for more effectively sharing Jesus with our friends, family and colleagues.

But, if you’re a church leader or part of your church’s evangelism team, you might be wondering: how can I bring these principles to my church family, so that I can train and equip them to share the good news of Jesus with those around them?

Working with experienced evangelists and church leaders, A Passion For Life has developed a “bespoke menu” of free training resources, designed to give you the flexibility to train your church family in the areas where they need it most.

By registering for free at apassionforlife.org.uk/train-in-evangelism, you’ll be able to access 21 stand-alone training sessions for personal evangelism. Each session corresponds to the chapters of this booklet, and provides:

- An inspiring, Biblically faithful training video from an experienced trainer.
- Encouraging stories from everyday believers.
- A suggested passage of Scripture to reflect on, discussion questions and practical exercises.

This is not designed to be a one-size fits all course but rather a menu with various choices so that you can select whatever is most helpful to your church. In response to some requests for a set-menu we have designed three mini-series that are tailored to various contexts based on three key questions.

- Is your church theologically confident but needing help to connect with its community? Then we would recommend the series titled **Connecting and Journeying**.
- Is your church active in the community but needing help to communicate the gospel? Then we recommend the series titled **Communicating the Good News**.
- Does your church need help to welcome and involve people in the life of the church? Then we recommend the series titled **Welcoming and Discipling**.

Ready to get started? Register now at apassionforlife.org.uk, and plan your training using the table on the next page!

Session		Download Link	Your Notes (When and Who)
LOVING CONNECTION		LOVING CONNECTION	
LC1	Making meaningful connections	apassionforlife.org.uk/lc1	
LC2	Loving our neighbours	apassionforlife.org.uk/lc2	
LC3	Loving through listening and questions	apassionforlife.org.uk/lc3	
LC4	Sharing hope in today's world	apassionforlife.org.uk/lc4	
LC5	Answering tough questions with Jesus	apassionforlife.org.uk/lc5	
INTENTIONALLY BIBLE-DRIVEN		INTENTIONALLY BIBLE-DRIVEN	
IBD1	Why the journey is needed	apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd1	
IBD2	How God sees people	apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2	
IBD3	God's role and ours	apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd3	
IBD4	What is the gospel?	apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd4	
IBD5	Prayer in evangelism	apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd5	
IBD6	Depending on the Holy Spirit	apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6	
IBD7	God's Word in evangelism	apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd7	
FAITHFUL WITNESS		FAITHFUL WITNESS	
FW1	Right expectations and crossing the pain line	apassionforlife.org.uk/fw1	
FW2	Sharing God's Word one to one	apassionforlife.org.uk/fw2	
FW3	Making the most of courses and events	apassionforlife.org.uk/fw3	
FW4	Gospel outlines and personal stories	apassionforlife.org.uk/fw4	
FW5	Being a witness at work	apassionforlife.org.uk/fw5	
FW6	Helping people become Christians	apassionforlife.org.uk/fw6	
FW7	Engaging with different cultures	apassionforlife.org.uk/fw7	
ENCOURAGING DISCIPLESHIP		ENCOURAGING DISCIPLESHIP	
ED1	Welcoming people into the church	apassionforlife.org.uk/ed1	
ED2	Helping new Christians grow	apassionforlife.org.uk/ed2	



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