

**Resource Guide** 

29 videos to train Christians for personal witness



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# **Foreword**

This feels like an opportune time to be producing a suite of training resources to encourage and equip everyday Christian believers for Personal Witness to the Lord Jesus.

Something is shifting. There is a new openness to the gospel. Atheism and expressive individualism have proven spiritually bankrupt. The inevitable consequence is a 'meaning' crisis in the culture. Increasing numbers of people are waking up to the fact that the way of life that has been handed down to them is empty (1 Peter 1:18). They are searching all over the place from witchcraft to Buddhism seeking answers and something that will satisfy. But already lost, they are being led further astray, fed more lies and being plunged into greater darkness.

By God's grace, as Christians, we know the way and we have the truth because we know Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life. We can bear witness to the light because Jesus is the light of the world. What a great time to encourage and equip one another to confidently bear witness to Jesus, confident that we are offering real food to spiritually hungry people.

I trust that the Lord will use the content of the training videos summarised in this booklet to motivate and equip many thousands of Christians across the UK and beyond for compelling, unashamed and bold witness to Christ. And I pray that many will be saved eternally through their testimony.

Your servant in the Lord Jesus,

Nick McQuaker Ministry Director - A Passion for Life To be able to talk about a day when every wrong will be made right is a really powerful and moving thing. Graeme Shanks, Edinburgh





This is God's work that we are joining in with. It's the work of the Holy Spirit and he will work in his own mysterious and wonderful way with his own timing.

Anna Price, Gorleston



Being able to share something of your journey of faith as a story is a skill and practice I would recommend all Christians be able to do, and regularly exercise. Phil Knox, Birmingham



The biggest communication problem is we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply. Lizzy Smallwood, Bodmin



There is a pressing question that hangs over every human being that no superstition can answer, and that is, how to escape God's righteous judgement. Femi Kalejaiye, London



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# Introduction

"I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help him.

I ended up by asking him to do his work through me."

J. Hudson Taylor, Christian missionary to China, (1832-1905)

God is at work to save a people for his own glory. But the way he chooses to work is through weak and ordinary Christian people bearing witness to his Son. Not all of us are called to be capital 'E' 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).

Sharing the life-giving message of the gospel with others and inviting them to find out more is one of the most important and urgent tasks we can engage in as God's people. Yet, for many of us, bearing witness to Jesus often feels difficult and nerve-wracking. 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 29 video-based training resources designed to encourage and equip you and others in your church in everyday personal witness. It can also be used to reinforce the teaching from the videos and serve as a reminder of the teaching content.

Each resource consists of a video and a leader's guide with questions and practical exercises. They are designed primarily for use in a small group setting, but they can be used by individuals. If you are watching by yourself, you can still use the questions and practical exercises in the leaders' guides to help you think about the teaching content of the videos. The videos vary in length but are mostly 20 to 25 minutes in duration and you should allow 70 minutes or so for a small group session. Some leaders' guides include questions for further reflection. If you use these questions, the session will take longer to complete.

Don't feel you need to do all 29 — or at least not all at once. And you don't have to do them in any particular order. Think of these resources as a 'pick-and-mix' menu of sessions. You can pick out

the sessions that you think will be most helpful to yourself or your group or church and construct your own training series.

Another way to use these sessions is to watch all the videos, but do so over an extended period of time. In a church or small groups, you could do them all over a three-year period, doing 8 to 10 each year, maybe in two blocks of four or five each year.

Whether over a short or extended period, we've provided some recommended series at the back of the booklet to help you plan ahead.

To help you navigate so many sessions, they are divided into four categories. The **Beginning with the Bible** sessions both motivate and instruct with God's Word, building a thoroughly biblical understanding of personal and corporate witness. The **Connecting with People** sessions encourage us to be ourselves and make the most of the opportunities that the Lord gives us. The **Starting Out** sessions cover the basics of personal witness with lots of practical encouragement and guidance. Finally, the **Going Further** sessions prepare us to go further in our personal witness both in terms of readiness to help people meet, trust and follow Jesus and readiness to help different sorts of people meet Jesus.





# **How to Use our Training Resources**

This booklet is an introduction to and a summary of the content of the 29 video training sessions which are available at apassionforlife.org.uk. For each session there is a leader's guide to accompany the video, also available from the website.

#### 1. Watch

Watch the trailers on the apassionforlife.org.uk website as an introduction to the sessions available. Either watch them all, or pick out the ones of most immediate interest.

#### Browse individual training sessions



#### 2. Read

Read the summaries provided in this booklet for the sessions which you think will be most useful to you, your small group or your church.

#### 3. Plan

Choose or adapt one or more of the recommended series listed near the back of this booklet. Or finalise your own selection and plan how and when you are going to cover the sessions you have selected. You might plan an initial short series to run over consecutive weeks and then run some more later. Or you might do one each month over an extended period. Alternatively we have provided a plan to use all the sessions over a one-to-three-year period, in five blocks of 5 or 6 sessions.

<sup>1.</sup> Trailer videos for all the sessions can be viewed by all visitors to the website. A paid annual subscription is required to access and download the full length videos. Church and Individual subscriptions are available.

#### 4. Subscribe and watch/download

Sign up for a paid subscription and download the session resources (video download is only available to subscriber churches; individual subscribers can watch online).

As well as the main training video, for each session the following are available:

- A short preview video that could be shared with your group ahead of meeting together
- Encouraging video testimonies to enthuse your congregation or group members
- A leader's guide to plan each session
- Talk outlines that you can print off and share with the group
- Transcripts that enable you to adapt the material for your context and give your own talk

#### 5. Prepare

Prepare yourself and/or your group leaders to lead each session by watching the video and studying the leaders' guide. Identify which questions and/or group exercises you think will be most effective and beneficial or come up with your own questions or practical exercises.

#### 6. Review

After completing your first session or series of sessions, review how it went and develop/refine your plan for using more of these resources.



"There's never been a conversation about Jesus that I've ever regretted..."

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

# God's Great Plan

He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment — to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. **EPHESIANS** 1:9-10

Aim: to help Christians to understand and be excited about God's great plan of salvation so they are motivated in their witness.

#### 1. Knowing the Plan

God's overarching purpose is to unite "all things in heaven and on earth under Christ." Everything in the universe will submit to Jesus' reign, culminating in a new heavens and new earth free from sin. History follows this divine storyline from Genesis to Revelation. Every person will encounter Jesus as sovereign — either embracing him as friend and enjoying eternal blessing, or rejecting him and facing eternal judgment.

#### 2. Security in the Plan

Ephesians 1:3–10 overflows with assurance: those "in Christ" are chosen, redeemed, forgiven, adopted, and lavished with God's grace. Just as boarding a plane carries you to your destination, being "in Christ" secures your future. Nothing — neither death nor adversity — can sever this bond or nullify these spiritual blessings.

#### 3. Being Used in the Plan

Believers are not passive spectators but active participants. Having been sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13), we join Paul's mission of declaring repentance and faith (Acts 20:21, 24). Personal stories can demonstrate how ordinary conversations and invitations become links in a chain leading others to Christ. Prayer, hospitality, testimony, and gospel sharing are all ways we partner in God's saving work.

God's perfect plan is revealed, certain and secure, and we get to participate in God's plan! We know where history is headed, our personal destiny in Christ is guaranteed, and we have the privilege of inviting others into this eternal story. Go live it, share it, and watch God's plan unfold through you.

Beginning with the Bible



"In reality our plans are often messy, vague, or forgotten — God's plan is precise, perfect, and already in motion."

**Andy Rees** 

# Why People Need the Gospel

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

**MATTHEW 19:26** 

Aim: to convince Christians that ALL are sinners under God's judgment and the gospel offers salvation to ALL people.

In Matthew 19:16–26, a wealthy young man confident in his own goodness asks Jesus, "What good thing must I do to get eternal life?" Jesus gives him three chances to see that it is impossible to earn eternal life by our merit or performance.

#### The Outcome?

Tragically, the man went away sad. All he had to admit was that he had asked the wrong question. Instead of asking, "What good thing must I do to get eternal life?" he should have asked, "What can you do to give me eternal life?"

Jesus warns how difficult it is for the self-sufficient to enter God's kingdom — "easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle" (v24). When disciples ask, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus replies, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (v26). He underscores the utter necessity of divine grace.

#### Why People Need the Gospel

We need the Gospel because we are all vain, self-sufficient sinners under God's judgment. The marvellous Good News is that once we know we can't 'do' anything to get to heaven, we are on the way to the cure for sin. If we admit that it is not what we 'do' but what Jesus has 'done' for us on the cross, we can enter into a restored relationship with God and be sure of eternal life. This is the message all people need to hear.



"The Good News of Jesus Christ is a matter of grace, not works; not what you 'do' but what Jesus Christ has 'done'."

**Graham Daniels** 

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Beginning with the Bible

# What Is the Gospel?

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you ... By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-2

Aim: to encourage and help Christians to have a good grasp of the gospel so that they can easily and clearly explain it to others in simple language.

It's possible to use a word LOTS without really understanding what it means. The word 'Gospel' is in danger of being one of those.

The word itself means 'good news'. A decisive announcement, about something world-changingly important. The biblical gospel tells how God has worked in Jesus' life, death and resurrection to save all those who trust in him. That's the big thing we need to know... **the gospel is a message we hear.** And you can't share it without words!

No single outline or gospel presentation can fully capture the depth and riches of the gospel, but they are helpful. A good gospel outline always **puts people into God's big story,** and **puts the spotlight on what Jesus has done for them.** If we try to tell people about Jesus, without making sure that we're putting them into God's big story, they won't get it. But we're not just trying to offer another big-picture view of the world, or perspective on ultimate reality. We're always pointing to a **person**, the Lord Jesus Christ. We're always pointing to **what he has done**.

Consider the classic Bridge diagram. You can build a picture that is visual and which leaves people with a clear view of what God has done for them. Another example is Tim Keller's 'The manger, the cross and the crown'.

These are not the last word on the gospel. But they're not bad first words. They can help us to be clear on the message we have been given to communicate. And shared conversationally, they're a helpful way to begin. So why not practice sharing the Gospel, and see how it goes?

Beginning with the Bible



"... because the gospel is clear, and speaks about what God has done in Jesus, it is possible to share this message simply and clearly."

**Niv Lobo** 

# **Eternal Destinies**

When the Son of Man comes in his glory... All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

**MATTHEW 25:31-32** 

Aim: to motivate Christians to be eager and bold in sharing the gospel because of the reality of heaven and hell.

The world is full of confusion about death. Into this ambiguity, Jesus speaks with loving clarity — he addresses heaven and hell more than any other topic in the Gospels. Heaven promises celebration and communion with God; hell warns of agony, unending torment, and eternal separation.

In Matthew 25, Jesus readies disciples for his return with three parables. First, ten virgins await the bridegroom: five wise had extra oil and entered the wedding banquet, while five foolish did not. **Be ready for your master's return.** Second, servants entrusted with gold either invest wisely or bury it, modelling faithful stewardship. **Be about the master's business.** Third, the sheep-and-goats judgment depicts Christ separating the righteous — welcomed into the kingdom — from the unrighteous — sent to "eternal fire," underscoring final justice. Eternal life or eternal punishment. It's as binary and as final as that. It's one or the other. **Be clear on the master's authority.** 

Honest gospel warnings save lives rather than spoil joy. Four points to help us speak to people about heaven and hell:

- 1. Let's **sharpen our convictions** by wrestling with hard Scriptures on sin and judgment.
- 2. Let's **listen attentively** to people's philosophical and personal doubts.
- 3. Let's **look out for gospel connections** in universal longings for perfect justice and lasting hope.
- 4. Let's **be full of Christ's affections**, speaking truth with compassion as Jesus did.

Spurgeon urged, "If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our dead bodies." Our call is to warn, love, and guide others into eternal life through Christ, the loving King.



"Jesus speaks as a King whose love is wholly just, and whose justice is entirely loving."

**Graeme Shanks** 

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Beginning with the Bible

# God's Role and Ours

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 4:6

Aim: to motivate and encourage Christians in bold and courageous witness because God is sovereign in the whole work of salvation and uses ordinary and weak people like us.

Evangelism hinges on understanding both God's role and ours. Paul's teaching in 2 Corinthians 4:1–6 shows the dynamic: we faithfully proclaim Christ, and God sovereignly opens blind eyes.

First, **we pray**. Unbelievers are spiritually blinded by "the god of this age." Evangelism without prayer is futile. Begin each day with Bible and prayer — asking God to open specific hearts.

Second, we preach Christ. Our task is to "set forth the truth plainly," warning of divine wrath and calling people to repent. The resurrection is not only hope but warning (Acts 17:31). We must own our own sin, point to Jesus' substitutionary death, and underline that justice matters — to God and to us.

Third, we trust God with the results. Our measure is faithfulness, not conversion counts. Instead, rejoice when God shines his light in hearts.

Finally, **creativity fuels our witness**. Paul became "all things to all people" so some might be saved (1 Cor 9:22). Use your context and gifts to frame the gospel. Engage people where they are, asking, "What matters to you?" and connecting it to Christ.

In summary, effective evangelism blends three biblical fundamentals:

- Sovereignty pray for God's miraculous work in hearts.
- Integrity courageously proclaim all of Christ's message.
- Creativity serve others imaginatively for Jesus' sake.

Reflect personally and as a church: which area needs strengthening? Who is someone who could perhaps help you to grow in your witness?

Beginning with the Bible



"One of the most significant things to get clear in our thinking about evangelism is what is God's role and what is our role."

**Rico Tice** 

# **Depending on the Holy Spirit**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth

**ACTS 1:8** 

Aim: to encourage Christians that God has given us his promised Holy Spirit to empower and make effective our witness to Christ.

Jesus promised that after his departure the Holy Spirit would come to teach, remind, and convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Our own conversions illustrate this miracle: only the Spirit can **open blind eyes** and **breathe new life into those dead in sin.** 

In Acts we see **Spirit-powered witnesses** — ordinary people emboldened to proclaim Jesus to Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. Every believer is indwelt by the Spirit, who seals our inheritance until Christ's return.

Effective witness depends on daily dependence upon the Spirit. We must begin each day with the Bible and prayer, crying out for our loved ones by name. As Spurgeon warned, neglecting private prayer "devours the strength of the church." Prayer invites the Spirit to prepare hearts and empower us to speak with love and clarity.

Being filled with the Spirit is not a one-off experience but an ongoing command. The Spirit's fruit shapes our character so our witness bears authentic testimony to Christ.

In practice, the Spirit gives 'divine nudges' to start conversations, ask kind questions, or offer prayers for strangers. He grants boldness to answer tough questions with grace, even when met with hostility. **Our role is to depend on his power, not muster our own courage.** 

We cannot magnify Jesus in our own strength, but as Christ's bride indwelt by the Spirit, we are never alone. When threats once silenced the early church, they prayed, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly". May that same filling embolden us today to share the living gospel for his glory.



"The Holy Spirit has a passion for lost people and as we allow him to have his way in our lives, his passion becomes ours."

John MacKinnon

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Beginning with the Bible

# **Prayer in Evangelism**

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people ... This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1TIMOTHY 2:1-4

Aim: to encourage Christians to pray individually and corporately for personal witness and church evangelism with greater faith, urgency and persistence.

Prayer is foundational to evangelism.

Paul urges believers to "first of all" pray for everyone — leaders and lost alike — because God desires all to be saved. As A.W. Tozer noted, speaking to God on behalf of others is our highest service; speaking to people in God's name is next.

We need both *quiet places* and *corporate spaces* for evangelistic prayer. Jesus taught secret prayer and he modelled public prayer too. Practically, choose a regular spot, set aside consistent time, and approach God with a "quiet heart" by reflecting on his Word. Together, the church must also gather in prayer. There is nothing more powerful in evangelism than the church marching on her knees, praying in the company of faithful brothers and sisters and becoming fruitful by prayer.

Maintain a 'prayer list' of 'FFANS' — Family, Friends, Acquaintances, Neighbours, Strangers. Pray specifically for opportunities, boldness, and salvation. Pray that God would open doors, grant courage to speak, and soften hearts to confess Jesus as Lord.

Use biblical prayers as models for prayer, such as the plea for boldness in Acts 4. Persevere: Thessalonians tells us to rejoice, pray continually, and give thanks; Romans urges patience in prayer; Jesus told his disciples the parable of the persistent widow to show his followers that they should always pray and not give up.

May we, in private devotion and corporate gathering, earnestly pray for those we hope to reach. By prioritising prayer — for opportunities, courage, and conversion — we partner with God in his sovereign work of salvation.



"We are all eternally grateful to those who took the time to pray for us... let's follow that lead and take time to pray regularly and fervently for others."

John MacKinnon

Beginning with the Bible

# God's Word in Evangelism

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ... we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God ... by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-3** 

Aim: to give Christians confidence in the power of the Word to bring people to new life in Christ and practical instruction on how to use the Word in evangelism.

In evangelism, we often seek the perfect tool or technique to guarantee results, but God has already given us what we need — his Word. The Bible shows that God creates and saves through speaking. His words have power, bringing people to life in Christ (1 Peter 1:23, Romans 1:16). Even Jesus relied on God's Word, knowing it draws both rejection and saving faith (John 6:63, 6:68).

This truth transforms how we share the gospel. It takes the pressure off us — our effectiveness isn't about eloquence but about letting Jesus speak for himself. The Samaritan woman's testimony led many to believe, but Jesus' words secured their faith (John 4:39-41).

Our task is to set forth the truth plainly, without shame or deception (2 Corinthians 4:2), knowing God will shine the light of the gospel in darkened hearts by his Word (4:6).

In sharing Jesus, nothing could be more important than getting the person we're sharing him with to hear his words. Three ways we can do that:

- Plant small seeds in conversation introducing biblical truths naturally.
- Share how Scripture has shaped our lives, showing its relevance.
- **Invite people to read a Gospel,** allowing them to encounter Jesus directly.

Since God's Word never returns empty (Isaiah 55:11), we trust him to do the work. Our role is simple — get people to hear Jesus' words and let God's power change hearts.



"It takes the pressure off us: we can rely on Jesus speaking for himself."

Niv Lobo

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Beginning with the Bible

# **A Culture of Witness**

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

**ACTS 4:31** 

Aim: to encourage Christians to contribute to a culture of witness in their churches.

Creating a culture of witness in the church means moving from passive observation to active participation in sharing the gospel. Witnessing isn't reserved for a few gifted individuals — it's something every believer is called to do, and God works through ordinary people to grow his church.

Acts shows how the early church embraced this mission. The gospel spread not only through the apostles but through every believer, as they prayed for boldness, spoke about Jesus, and saw lives transformed. Today, we can build a similar culture of witness by prioritising five key areas:

**Praying** — asking God for courage and opportunities to share Jesus, both individually and in church gatherings.

**Welcoming** — ensuring newcomers feel comfortable, valued, and able to engage in church life.

**Bringing** — inviting people into Christian spaces, not just through casual invitations but by walking alongside them.

**Speaking** — building confidence in talking about Jesus by practicing within church settings, making gospel conversations feel natural.

**Celebrating** — sharing stories of both successes and struggles in evangelism, encouraging each other to keep going.

When churches commit to these practices, speaking about Jesus becomes normal, not occasional. As we step out in faith, we trust God to use even small efforts to bring people to himself.

Beginning with the Bible



"Wouldn't it be fantastic if our churches had an increasing culture of witness - so that speaking about Jesus wasn't only something a few keen Christians did occasionally, instead it was normal for every Christian?"

**Richard Leadbeater** 

# BB10

# Your Witness Where God has Placed You

# Your Witness Where God Has Placed You

From one man he made all the nations ... 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

Aim: to encourage every Christian that they have a unique role to play in God's great work of saving people from their sins.

Sharing the gospel starts with recognising that God has placed people in our lives for a reason. Acts 17 teaches that he determines where and when we live so that we might seek him. This means our neighbours, colleagues, and friends are not there by chance but as part of God's plan to draw them to himself.

Christians often believe God has placed them where they are — but may not realise he has also placed those around them. Every interaction is a divine appointment. When we grasp this, confidence grows, and sharing Jesus becomes exciting rather than daunting.

Four key steps guide personal witness:

**Celebrate** - Recognising each person as made in God's image, engaging in genuine conversation, and showing enthusiasm for their lives.

**Serve** - Demonstrating Christ's love through practical kindness and selflessness.

**Cross the painline** - Boldly but sensitively asking spiritual questions to gauge openness.

**Finish well** - Respecting responses while continuing to engage, serve, and pray.

Through these steps, evangelism becomes a natural part of daily life. God is already at work, and every encounter carries the potential for someone to discover the life-changing message of Jesus.



"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 and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Beginning with the Bible

14

# **Being Yourself**

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

**EPHESIANS 4:11-12** 

Aim: to encourage believers to bear witness to Jesus naturally and confidently by identifying and embracing their unique, God-given personality and style.

Many of us hear 'evangelism' and think of sales pitches, cold calls, or megaphone preachers — images far removed from the warm, authentic influence that led us to Christ. Yet when you recall the person who shared Jesus with you, you likely remember their genuine love, consistency, and transparency. Satan's lie is that you must adopt a false 'evangelist' persona. In reality, Psalm 139:13–17 affirms that God knitted you together with your unique temperament, skills, and story. He designed you to reflect Christ through your authentic self.

Scripture presents several natural evangelism styles:

**Peter (Confrontational):** Boldly calls out sin and proclaims Jesus as Lord — Ready, Aim, Fire.

**Paul (Reasoned):** Carefully argues and defends the gospel with logic and insight.

**The former blind man (Testimonial):** Simply declares, "One thing I know — I was blind, now I see".

**The woman at the well (Inviter):** Warmly invites others to "come and see" the Messiah.

Which style fits you? Perhaps you blend elements of several. Identify your primary gifting, ask God for boldness and sensitivity, and look for opportunities to serve, speak, and invite. Evangelism isn't reserved for extroverts or academics — it's every believer's calling. As you embrace your God-given uniqueness and lean on the Spirit's power, you'll find sharing Christ both natural and transformative — for you, your church, and those you're called to reach.

Connecting with People



"Being an evangelist for Christ involves being oneself; the real me meets the real you."

**Rico Tice** 

# CP2

# Connecting with Those Around I

# **Connecting with Those Around Us**

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. **COLOSSIANS 4:5-6** 

Aim: to encourage Christians to connect with those around them and make the most of every opportunity, being ready to speak out about Jesus in a gracious way.

We naturally share good news with enthusiasm and confidence. Yet, when it comes to talking about Jesus, many of us hesitate, believing the lie that people aren't interested. How do we overcome this?

First, **recognize your 'FFANS'** — Family, Friends, Acquaintances, Neighbours, and Strangers. You cross paths daily with shop workers, bus drivers, colleagues, sports teammates, and parents at the school gate. In an age when time and privacy are prized, most people receive little genuine interest. Swimming against the tide by noticing those around you, learning names, recording them in a prayer app, and offering simple acts of kindness opens relational doors.

Next, **practice hospitality.** Invite a mix of church and non-church friends for a meal, host a coffee morning in your home, or coordinate small gatherings through church ministries — food banks, toddler groups, or debt support. Let outsiders see the gospel lived out in laughter, conversation, and generosity.

Finally, **speak with gracious, 'salty' words** that preserve and bring out truth. Listen to understand rather than to reply. When natural openings arise — "I was at church," "May I pray for you?" or "Would you like to join me this Sunday?" — share how Christ shapes your hope and worldview. Offer clear, humble gospel truths and invitations without forcing Jesus into every chat.

Authentic evangelism marries intentional living, heartfelt service, warm hospitality, and strategic, gracious speech. Pray daily for wisdom and boldness. Share your life, practise listening, and let every encounter become a divine opportunity for eternal impact.



"Opening our eyes in the midst of the busy-ness of life and actually noticing people ... is a good first step towards acting wisely towards outsiders."

Lizzy Smallwood

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Connecting with People

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# **Connecting with Neighbours**

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" MATTHEW 22:37-39

Aim: to encourage and equip Christians to get to know their neighbours and be involved in their local communities motivated by love for others and the desire for them to come to know Jesus.

Loving our neighbours can feel challenging, especially when we have little in common or face difficult relationships. But Jesus commands us to love our neighbours as ourselves. His parable of the Good Samaritan shows that being a neighbour isn't about proximity or similarity — it's about practical, sacrificial love.

This kind of love isn't just about being kind; it's radical, brave, and humble. It often goes unnoticed, yet it has immense power. Jesus calls us to be salt and light in our communities, meaning our very presence makes a difference.

So how can we connect with our neighbours?

- **1. Notice the needs.** Simple acts delivering groceries, walking a dog, or fixing a gate signal genuine care and open doors for deeper engagement.
- **2. Join in the good.** Engage in existing community initiatives litter picks, street events, clubs serving alongside neighbours.
- 3. Seek to transform the neighbourhood. Make a real difference, big or small: mowing lawns, delivering meals, joining councils, fundraising for charities.

Being salty like this and letting our light shine in our neighbourhoods, has a massive impact on the development of authentic, meaningful relationships. And the opportunities for witness and conversation become so much more natural as our neighbours rubbing alongside us are caused to want an answer for the hope that they see we have.

Connecting with People



"We may feel that we have nothing to offer, nothing we can usefully do, but just by being the one who is near, being one who is a neighbour — in God's kingdom this makes a massive difference, just like salt and light."

**Anna Price** 

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good – except God alone." MARK 10:17-18

Aim: to show Christians how to use good questions that help them get to know people and create opportunities for them to speak about Jesus.

Questions have tremendous power in evangelism. A simple question can prompt deep reflection, as seen in the testimony of a young woman whose journey to faith began with a child asking, "Do you know Jesus too?"

Jesus himself was the master of asking questions. The gospels record him asking 307 questions, often responding to enquiries with questions rather than direct answers. His questions helped people reflect on their hearts and discover the truth about him.

Jesus used both a push and a pull approach — questions that challenge assumptions and questions that invite people into the gospel. In Mark 10, He challenges the rich young ruler about his definition of goodness, ultimately exposing his misplaced priorities.

In our own evangelism, we can follow Jesus' example using the SHARE approach:

**Stop** — slow down and connect meaningfully.

**Hear** — listen carefully to people's stories.

**Ask** — use open-ended, thoughtful questions.

**Respond** — challenge worldviews with love.

**Encourage** — create spaces for honest conversation.

With increasing spiritual curiosity in the world, now is the time to ask good questions and trust God to work through them.



"(And) that's the thing about questions isn't it? They can be keys that unlock a number of doors in a person's heart. They can get us thinking in new ways about new things often through new eyes."

**Graeme Shanks** 

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Connecting with People

# **Connecting at Work**

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters

**COLOSSIANS 3:23** 

Aim: to help Christians in both paid employment and volunteer roles to think about generating and making use of the opportunities to be a witness to Christ in the place where they work.

Connecting with colleagues in the workplace is both a privilege and an opportunity. We can find joy and confidence in witnessing to Jesus in the workplace, whether that be in schools or hospitals, on building sites or working in sport and entertainment.

Putting the following biblical principles into practice can help us relax into who we are in Christ; grow in confidence in speaking about him; find real joy in walking in step with the Spirit; and join in the adventure of finding out where God is already at work.

First, our colleagues deserve respect, time, and interest. Regardless of their role, every person is made in God's image. By slowing down and engaging with those around us, we build trust and open doors for meaningful conversations.

Second, **Jesus is worthy of honour in our work**. Our conduct — whether through integrity, diligence, or the way we respect authority — reflects our faith. Even when work is unsatisfying or bosses are difficult, every moment is an opportunity to serve Christ.

Third, **leading with Jesus liberates us.** Speak calmly and confidently about knowing him, share your testimony, and learn to use the Bible in evangelism.

Finally, **God is already at work in people's lives**. By paying attention and being available, we join in his work and invite others to encounter Jesus.

Witnessing at work is not about striving but recognising that God is active and inviting us to participate.

Connecting with People



"Opening the Bible with colleagues in my office was a transformative experience."

Le Fras Strydom

# **Right Expectations**

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves.

**MATTHEW 10:16** 

Aim: to prepare Christians to be ready for rejection and motivate them with biblical incentives to 'cross the pain line' and risk speaking about their faith in Jesus.

Evangelism is an incredible opportunity to participate in God's work, sharing the message of Jesus with those around us. The greatest barrier is our fear of rejection.

While rejection is inevitable, Jesus encourages his followers to remain steadfast, knowing that the gospel will bear fruit. The parable of the sower teaches that some will turn away, but others will receive the word and experience life-changing transformation. Recognising both challenges and the potential for impact strengthens our perseverance and keeps us focused on the hope that God is working through us.

Considering the following four points helps us overcome fear and keep sharing Christ:

- **1. God's Grace** Our identity is found in Christ, not in others. Remembering that salvation is by grace builds confidence and security, making rejection easier to bear.
- 2. God's Judgment Jesus consistently spoke about judgement, urging people to recognise the reality of hell. We need to know the consequences of rejecting God.
- **3.** Our Idols The fear of losing status, comfort, or relationships can hold us back. Examining what truly drives our decisions will help reveal obstacles to faithful witness.
- **4. Our Godliness** Being like God means caring for the lost. If evangelism is missing, so is a vital part of godly living.

Ask yourself: Do you believe this? Do you love people? Will you warn them? Which truth have you neglected? Let God's grace, judgement, exposure of idols, and godliness stir you to share Jesus boldly, trusting the Holy Spirit to bear lasting fruit.



"Whether you accept or reject me doesn't make me valuable; what makes me valuable is that Christ died for me."

**Rico Tice** 

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Starting Out



# **Telling Your Story**

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."... And because of his words many more became believers.

JOHN 4:39-41

Aim: to encourage Christians that they have a wonderful story to tell that can engage others and communicate the gospel.

Sharing our personal story is one of the most effective ways to witness for Jesus. One of the best **questions** to ask is this: "Can I tell you my story?"

Personal testimonies are both biblical and powerful — just as the blind man in John 9 and the Samaritan woman in John 4 shared their stories, leading others to believe in Jesus.

We are story people. Our brains are wired that way. Jesus himself taught through stories, using parables to communicate profound truths. We, too, can use storytelling to communicate the difference Jesus makes in our lives. So, be ready to tell your story.

These are some questions that are helpful to answer when mapping out your story...

- When were the times you knew God was real?
- What would your life be like without Jesus in it?
- How does faith give you a way of understanding the world?
- When have you known God to be close?
- If you wrote a timeline of your journey of faith, what have been the standout crossroads and landmarks?
- What words describe the difference Jesus makes?

Then write out your story (making sure you point to Jesus and his story); condense your story and practise telling your story — first to yourself; then to a Christian friend; and then to a not-yet-Christian friend. Colossians 4 invites us to pray for a door to open for our message and to make the most of every opportunity. Writing, readying and rehearsing your story will massively help you do this.

Starting Out



"We are story people. From blockbuster movies to music videos, fairy tales to murder mysteries, Lord of the Rings to Thomas the Tank Engine, we love a good story."

Phil Knox

# **Explaining the Gospel**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**ROMANS 5:8** 

Aim: to help Christians to be clear and confident in explaining the gospel to others.

Explaining the gospel leads to varied responses — some eager, some resistant, and some indifferent. This was true even for those we think of as 'great evangelists', like the Apostle Paul, and it remains true today. Only God can soften hard hearts and open blind eyes. What we can do something about is what we say and how we say it. How can we explain the gospel, so that God might use us and our words to change people's lives for eternity?

First, **talk about Jesus.** The gospel is about him — his identity, his cross, and his resurrection. We must also highlight the gospel's call to repent and believe and its consequences, including forgiveness, peace, and hope.

Second, **open the Bible**. Instead of debating opinions, let Scripture speak for itself. The Bible is the Word of the living God. If we want to cut through the lies of our culture and the devil, then we need to get the Spirit's sword out!

Third, **pray for help.** We need to pray for courage, wisdom and clarity for ourselves, and for open hearts in those we speak to.

Fourth, **have a go.** There's something wrong if we're always training and never playing. Conversations don't need to be perfect; stepping out in faith matters more than waiting until we feel fully prepared.

Finally, **work with others.** Evangelism is a team sport. Connect seekers to church groups or friends who can continue the conversation and demonstrate gospel community in action.

Have a go and work with others. Who knows how the Lord might use us as we put these things into practice and explain the gospel!



"Explaining the gospel isn't just downloading information from one brain to another! ... I've found, the better I know the person I am speaking to, the more accurately I can speak about Jesus to that particular person." Richard Leadbeater

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Starting Out



# **Inviting People to Church**

A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

JOHN 13:34-35

Aim: to help Christians to understand why the church is so significant in God's plan of salvation, and encourage them to invite friends along, on any Sunday.

Inviting someone to church can feel daunting, but it's one of the most effective ways to help them encounter Jesus. When we're bringing people to church, we're bringing them to a space where God is active, speaking through his Word read and preached, magnified in worship and prayer, and visible in the love and fellowship of his people, serving him and one another.

There is something distinct and beautiful about church communities when they are working well, and this should be visible to visitors. And don't worry that they might find it all a bit weird. They're often expecting it to be weird! And that might just be the thing that draws them in.

A simple way to start is by mentioning church in everyday conversations. When asked about weekend plans, instead of just saying "I went to church," we can share what makes it meaningful.

Introducing friends to other Christians before inviting them helps ease social barriers. Mixing friend groups allows non-Christians to experience Christian love naturally, making church feel less intimidating, and helping them make the connection between Christian behaviour and the Christian faith.

If you're already talking openly about church, it can be natural to extend an invitation. What's the worst that can happen? For most of us, it's a polite "no, thank you". But far worse is that we say their 'no' for them, by never asking at all, and assuming they won't come. And if they do say "no", that doesn't mean that we drop them, but rather we persevere in friendship and witnessing. There might be a moment in the future where it's appropriate to try again.



"Allow God to open your eyes to the wonder of the church, of people loving one another as Christ loved them, as he speaks each week. That was visible to me when I came to my church."

Alex Hillman

# Making the Most of Courses and **Events**

As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. ACTS 17:2-3

Aim: to help Christians grow in their confidence in using courses and events as part of their personal witness.

Events and courses are powerful tools for sharing the gospel, helping people take meaningful steps towards faith. Conversations about faith often begin naturally — through friendships, curiosity, or small invitations but structured opportunities can provide clear explanations and deeper exploration. Well-run events draw curiosity and explain topics we're not qualified to teach — like a scientist speaking on science and God.

Inviting someone to a special event offers a comfortable way to introduce them to the Christian faith. Whether a Christmas service, a talk on faith and science, or a discussion about life's big questions, events create engaging spaces for people to listen, reflect, and ask questions.

Courses allow people to explore Christianity at their own pace, often working through gospel passages and video input in an informal setting. Many assume church will feel cold or unfamiliar, but stepping into a welcoming environment can challenge preconceived ideas.

As we think about making best use of courses and events, here are five important things to keep in mind:

- 1. You're not alone!
- 2. Our God is a God who wants people to know him and has revealed himself, so we can know him
- 3. Trust God's Word to work
- 4. Don't say people's "No" for them
- 5. Keep the conversation going

Trust the God who loves to save and extend an invitation. God might just use it as the first step in someone's journey to knowing him.



"We're a body, working together, and we can witness to Jesus together too. Inviting non-Christians to special events and evangelistic courses means doing it together."

**Bev Dubberly** 

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Out

# **Keeping Going**

I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

**MATTHEW 16:18** 

Aim: to encourage Christians to keep on going with their evangelism, in both the good and the tough times.

Keeping going in evangelism can feel daunting, especially when conversations seem fruitless. But in Matthew 9:36–10:1 Jesus shows us three key reasons to persevere.

First, his compassion gives us strength. When Jesus saw the crowds, he saw them as harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Often, we hesitate to share the gospel, worrying people won't be interested. But Jesus sees beyond appearances — he knows their spiritual need and has deep compassion for them. When we struggle to care, we can trust his heart and ask him to renew our love for others.

Second, his sovereignty assures us. Evangelism is not about our ability—it is God's work. Jesus calls it a harvest, and he is the Lord of the harvest. If we rely on our own skills, discouragement will follow. But Jesus is the one who draws people to himself. Instead of feeling pressure, we can trust that he is at work, even when results are unseen.

Third, his approach gives us confidence. Jesus' method is simple — he uses ordinary people to share his message. We don't need perfect words or impressive strategies. We simply live among people, speak about Jesus, and trust that, in our weakness, he is strong.

The Lord of compassion, the Lord of the harvest, knows exactly what he's doing. So, you and I are to go and share the Good News, confident that in our great weakness, he is strong. In our lack of compassion, he is compassionate, and in our inability to save anyone, he will reap a great harvest.



"He is the one with great compassion and when we fail to care enough to carry on, we can trust him to care and to help us to care when we ask for his strength."

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**Graham Daniels** 

Granam Danie

Starting Out

# **Helping People Meet Jesus in His** Word

"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?"

**ACTS 8:30-31** 

Aim: to encourage Christians to have the confidence to read the Bible together with an individual, whether an unbeliever wanting to find out more, or a new believer.

It's great to share the gospel with people with the Bible front and centre. There are lots of fantastic resources available to help us do this. This video focuses on using **The Word One to One**.

#### Why use the Bible to help people meet Jesus?

Jesus commands us to make disciples who follow and learn from him so people need to meet him first. We can bring people to meet Jesus and get to know him, by bringing them to the Bible, the Word of God breathed out by him. Let God's Word, by his Spirit, do the work.

Would people who aren't Christian be interested in looking at the Bible? The Talking Jesus Report in 2022 found that 1 out of 3 people who had a conversation with a Christian about their faith were interested in finding out more. Asked how they would go about finding out more about the Christian faith, one of the top answers was "read the Bible"!

#### How can The Word One to One help us do this?

The Word One to One is an easy, verse-by-verse guide to John's Gospel. Each 20-30-minute 'episode' covers 18 verses with clear notes and definitions. You sit side by side, read together, pause to chat, and simply turn pages — no teaching experience required.

### **Practical tips:**

- Pray for God to lead you to people he's preparing.
- Invite friends with a low-pressure offer ("Coffee and 18 sentences from the Bible?").
- Practice first with a Christian to get comfortable.
- Admit when you don't know an answer and look it up together.
- Accept "no" but keep asking.
- Encourage a local church connection.



"Any Christian can be a loving page turner, relying on God to do his work through his Word to help people meet Jesus."

**Christine Armstrona** 

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Going **Further** 

# **Answering Tough Questions with Gospel Stories**

The word of God is living and active, sharper than even a two edged sword.

**HEBREWS 4:12** 

Aim: to encourage Christians to use gospel stories as a way of responding to tough questions.

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 of 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.



"I've had many people ask me lots of questions and for each question that they ask I always respond by telling a gospel story."

Jeremy Marshall

# Helping People Who are Ready to Trust Jesus

# to Trust Jesus If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in

Helping People Who Are Ready

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 confess and are saved. ROMANS 10:9-10

Aim: to instruct Christians on how to help people who are ready to trust Jesus.

When a friend asks, "What must I do to be saved?", we don't need to fear we'll ruin their chance — God, by his Spirit, brings new life. Our role is like that of a spiritual midwife, gently guiding a new believer.

Three key things are helpful to explain:

First, what it means to say that Jesus is Lord. Salvation is free, but following Jesus requires full submission. He is both Saviour and King, calling his followers to deny themselves and take up their cross. Repentance means turning from sin and following him fully.

Second, what changes in life as a follower of Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes to live within believers, assuring them of their faith and transforming them to be more like Christ. Growth happens as believers read the Bible and cooperate with the Spirit's work.

Third, what steps to take next. Romans 10:9-10 explains that salvation comes through believing and confessing Jesus as Lord. Use a simple gospel tract — such as "The Choice We All Face" — to help check understanding. Encourage them to pray the "TSP" prayer: Thank You, Sorry, Please.

This is just the start of a lifelong journey for the new believer. We continue caring for them by encouraging baptism, church involvement, Bible reading, prayer, and sharing their faith with others. Above all, we pray for ourselves and for them at every stage of the process.



"It is such a privilege to help someone become a Christian and to help them understand what it means that Jesus is their Saviour and their Lord."

Lizzy Smallwood

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Going **Further** 

# Helping New Christians to Follow Jesus

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit... **EPHESIANS 1:13** 

Aim: to equip and encourage Christians to help their friends who have recently made a commitment to Christ.

Helping new Christians grow in their faith is a privilege and responsibility. Like a newborn baby needs care, they need guidance to develop spiritually. We are their family now, and we support them as they mature in Christ.

**Firstly, we help them understand the Holy Spirit's role.** He assures them of their salvation, transforms their character through Scripture, and equips them for serving others. We reassure them that growth takes time, but the Spirit is at work.

**Secondly, we introduce them to God's Word.** Just as babies need nourishment, new believers need spiritual food. One-to-one Bible study, good reading notes, and follow-up courses help them engage with Scripture and build a strong foundation.

Thirdly, we encourage them to be part of a church family. The early church in Acts modelled teaching, fellowship, prayer, and service. Connecting new believers to a church allows them to grow through preaching, communion, relationships, and hospitality.

Ultimately, we need to reflect Christ's love through patience and encouragement. God is the one transforming lives, and we simply join in his work — guiding, supporting, and celebrating their journey with Jesus.

Going Further



"God's Spirit takes God's Word and transforms God's People into the image of God's Son."

Lizzy Smallwood

# **Helping Those Who Say They Are** Spiritual but Not Religious to Meet Jesus

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness.

COLOSSIANS 2:9-10

Aim: to help Christians to understand how best to engage with and share Jesus with friends who say they are spiritual but not religious.

Many people describe themselves as 'spiritual but not religious', seeking meaning through energy, astrology, or nature. In one sense, it's good to see people around us wanting a sense of transcendent meaning in life. But without knowing Jesus, the Bible says they're spiritually dead, cut off from the very source of life.

Paul's letter to the Colossians offers insight into this mindset. He warns against beliefs disconnected from Christ, comparing them to a body without a head — seemingly active but ultimately lifeless. Spirituality without Jesus may feel fulfilling, but it lacks true life and ultimately amounts to mere superstition. Real spiritual life only comes when God forgives sin and makes his home within us by his Spirit.

Many find comfort in defining spirituality on their own terms, blending ideas from social media, personal experiences, and ancient traditions. But no man-made route to being spiritual can answer our deepest need: forgiveness. Only Jesus, who took the penalty for sin, offers full forgiveness and true freedom.

Practically, we can engage by:

- 1. Talking about Christ coming to judge the world, showing them their greatest need is forgiveness from God.
- 2. Telling them what you are thankful to God for, helping them to see how God has made a tangible difference in your life.
- 3. Inviting them to meet the people of God, so they can see the difference God makes in Christian community.

As we live as believers in the Lord Jesus and speak with clarity, we offer something far greater than vague spirituality — a relationship with the living God.



"A consistent reason why superstitious people divide spirituality and religion is because they can finally define spirituality on their own terms."

Femi Kalejaiye

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Going Further

# Helping People From Other Cultures to Meet Jesus

Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"...The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans). JOHN 4:7-9

Aim: to help Christians overcome cultural barriers as we seek to witness to people from a different culture.

Helping people from different cultures meet Jesus requires us to overcome barriers that might prevent meaningful gospel conversations. Cultural norms, personal comfort zones, and deeply held beliefs can make it difficult to connect with those who are different from us, but we are called to step beyond those boundaries for the sake of the gospel.

Drawing on John 4, Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman illustrates three barriers we must overcome to share Christ across cultures:

First, we need to overcome territorial barriers by going to people rather than waiting for them to come to us. Instead of relying solely on church events, we intentionally engage with unbelievers in their spaces — whether in coffee shops, workplaces, or community gatherings. Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19 is clear: we are meant to go and make disciples.

**Second, we need to break social barriers** by choosing to relate to people who are different from us. Rather than remaining in comfortable social circles, we embrace diversity, recognising that the gospel is for people of all backgrounds, languages, and cultures.

**Third, we need to address barriers to belief** by listening well and responding thoughtfully to the worldview of those we engage with. Understanding where people are coming from helps us communicate the gospel in ways that connect with their questions and concerns.

Reaching across cultures takes courage, but it is a vital part of fulfilling Jesus' mission to make disciples of all nations.



"How often does my own culture keep me in a comfort zone and hinder those around me from hearing the gospel?"

**Alex Brito** 

# **Helping Hindus to Meet Jesus**

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**JOHN 14:6** 

Aim: to encourage Christians to grow in their confidence in engaging with Hindus and in sharing the Gospel with them.

Hindus, like all people, need Jesus — not because their devotion is lacking, but because only he offers forgiveness, assurance, and eternal life. Though Hinduism boasts rich traditions — paths of karma, knowledge, devotion, or meditation — it never secures salvation. Only Jesus, who lived, died, and rose again in history, offers real forgiveness and eternal life.

Key differences to understand:

- Many gods vs. one God (Father, Son, Spirit)
- Cyclical reincarnation vs. linear life ending in judgment
- Mythical deities vs. a historical Saviour witnessed by eyewitnesses

Before speaking, listen and love: ask about your Hindu friend's beliefs, build genuine friendships, and show respect. Begin conversations around shared values — family, devotion — and gently introduce Jesus through stories like the Prodigal Son, personal testimony, and by offering prayer.

Avoid common pitfalls:

- Don't mock idols or festivals ask, "What does this mean to you?"
- **Don't rush the process** trust the Spirit's timing.
- **Avoid Christian jargon** explain 'sin' as turning from the one true God, and 'God' as Creator.

Remember, we're Christ's ambassadors. To witness to Hindus, you don't need to be an expert. You just need to love well, listen well, and speak simply about Jesus.



"Our Hindu friends, like everyone else, need the Gospel because only Jesus saves."

Joseph Pandian

Watch the training video and download the session at apassionforlife.org.uk

Going **Further** 

# **Helping Muslims to Meet Jesus**

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. **HEBREWS 1:1-2** 

Aim: to encourage Christians to grow in their confidence in engaging with Muslims and in sharing the Gospel with them.

Muslims often admire stories of divine mercy — like the serial killer whose sins are wiped away simply by nearing a holy town. Yet such tales expose a troubling tension between Allah's justice and forgiveness. In contrast, Romans 3:25–26 reveals a God who is both just and justifier. Justice is fulfilled because Christ bore our punishment on the cross, and his resurrection is our 'receipt' showing there is nothing left to pay.

When you ask Muslim friends how they can be sure of paradise, "Inshallah" ("if God wills") is a common but uncertain reply. This opens the door to talk about the assurance found only in Jesus.

It is important to build trust and genuine relationships. It can be good to begin by affirming your Muslim friends' commitment (prayer, fasting, almsgiving) before gently explaining Christ's unique provision. Knowing that Muslims are meant to have a belief in Jesus, the Bible, and judgement day can really boost our confidence when it comes to talking about these topics that could be so foreign and awkward in other contexts.

Be confident in God's Word, and pray for the Spirit to bring life as you share the words of eternal life with Muslims and others. Use simple analogies and highlight Hebrews 1:1–3 showing that Jesus is God's ultimate revelation, fully divine and fully human, whose sacrificial work is finished.

Remember Acts 17:26: God has placed Muslims in our communities. Our task is to love them earnestly, listen patiently, and pray for wisdom. As Christ's ambassadors, we sow and water, trusting God to bring the growth.

Going Further



"I commend all of you to hold up Christ, his person, his love, his work in the hope that more Muslims will echo the crowd in John 12:21 – 'We want to see Jesus'."

**James Tredgett** 

# **Recommended Series**

Here are some recommended series of differing lengths that we think would work well. You might want to add or swap some sessions for your context. We have also provided a plan for delivering all 29 sessions in 5 blocks over a 1-to-3-year period.

#### **Essentials (6 weeks)**

A basic 6-week series covering the bare essentials of personal witness.

| BB1 | God's Great Plan          |
|-----|---------------------------|
| BB3 | What Is the Gospel?       |
| SO2 | Telling Your Story        |
| SO3 | Explaining the Gospel     |
| SO4 | Inviting People to Church |
| S06 | Keeping Going             |

#### Essentials+ (12 weeks)

A longer version of Essentials that could be done in two 6-week blocks or 3 4-week blocks.

| BB1 | God's Great Plan                      |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| BB2 | Why People Need the Gospel            |
| BB3 | What Is the Gospel?                   |
| BB5 | God's Role and Ours                   |
| CP1 | Being Yourself                        |
| CP2 | Connecting with Those Around Us       |
| SO1 | Right Expectations                    |
| SO2 | Telling Your Story                    |
| SO3 | Explaining the Gospel                 |
| SO4 | Inviting People to Church             |
| SO5 | Making the Most of Courses and Events |
| S06 | Keeping Going                         |

### Equipping (8 weeks)

A series focussed on practical equipping that could stand alone or follow on from Essentials or Essentials+ (omitting the BB3 and SO2 which are included in Essentials)

| BB3 | What Is the Gospel?                           |
|-----|---|
| SO2 | Telling Your Story                            |
| CP4 | Listening and Asking Questions                |
| SO3 | Explaining the Gospel                         |
| GF1 | Helping People Meet Jesus in His Word         |
| GF2 | Answering Tough Questions with Gospel Stories |
| GF3 | Helping People Who Are Ready to Trust Jesus   |
| GF4 | Helping New Christians to Follow Jesus        |

#### **Connecting (7 weeks)**

A series focussed on motivating and equipping Christians to connect with those around them.

| BB2  | Why People Need the Gospel            |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| BB10 | Your Witness Where God has Placed You |
| CP1  | Being Yourself                        |
| CP2  | Connecting with Those Around Us       |
| CP3  | Connecting with Neighbours            |
| CP4  | Listening and Asking Questions        |
| CP5  | Connecting at Work                    |

#### **Building a Culture of Witness (12 weeks)**

A series incorporating the sessions that will help build a healthy and effective culture of witness in a local church.

| BB4  | Eternal Destinies                     |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| BB5  | God's Role and Ours                   |
| BB6  | Depending on the Holy Spirit          |
| BB7  | Prayer in Evangelism                  |
| BB8  | God's Word in Evangelism              |
| BB9  | A Culture of Witness                  |
| BB10 | Your Witness Where God has Placed You |
| CP1  | Being Yourself                        |
| CP2  | Connecting with Those Around Us       |
| CP3  | Connecting with Neighbours            |
| SO1  | Right Expectations                    |
| SO6  | Keeping Going                         |

### Witness in a Cross-Cultural Context (8 weeks)

A series that covers biblical teaching and practical instruction especially relevant for churches in communities with people belonging to different cultures and faiths.

| BB1  | God's Great Plan   |
|------|--|
| BB2  | Why People Need the Gospel   |
| BB4  | Eternal Destinies  |
| BB10 | Your Witness Where God as Placed You                                     |
| GF5  | Helping Those Who Say They Are Spiritual but Not Religious to Meet Jesus |
| GF6  | Helping People From Other Cultures to Meet Jesus                         |
| GF7  | Helping Hindus to Meet Jesus   |
| GF8  | Helping Muslims to Meet Jesus  |

#### **One-to-Three-Year Plan**

A plan to cover all 29 sessions in 5 blocks of 5-6 sessions. The five blocks could be delivered in a year or spaced out over a 2-or-3-year period.

#### Half-term 1

| BB1 | God's Great Plan                      |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| BB4 | Eternal Destinies                     |
| CP2 | Connecting with Those Around Us       |
| SO4 | Inviting People to Church             |
| SO5 | Making the Most of Courses and Events |
| SO6 | Keeping Going                         |

#### Half-term 2

| BB5 | God's Role and Ours                   |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| BB6 | Depending on the Holy Spirit          |
| CP1 | Being Yourself                        |
| SO1 | Right Expectations                    |
| GF1 | Helping People Meet Jesus in His Word |

### Half-term 3

| BB2 | Why People Need the Gospel                    |
|-----|---|
| BB3 | What Is the Gospel?                           |
| CP4 | Listening and Asking Questions                |
| SO2 | Telling Your Story                            |
| CP5 | Connecting at Work                            |
| GF2 | Answering Tough Questions with Gospel Stories |

#### Half-term 4

| BB9 | A Culture of Witness                        |
|-----|---|
| BB7 | Prayer in Evangelism                        |
| BB8 | God's Word in Evangelism                    |
| SO3 | Explaining the Gospel                       |
| GF3 | Helping People Who Are Ready to Trust Jesus |
| GF4 | Helping New Christians to Follow Jesus      |

#### Half-term 5

| BB10 | Your Witness Where God Has Placed You                                    |
|------|--|
| CP3  | Connecting with Neighbours   |
| GF5  | Helping Those Who Say They Are Spiritual but Not Religious to Meet Jesus |
| GF6  | Helping People From Other Cultures to Meet Jesus                         |
| GF7  | Helping Hindus to Meet Jesus   |
| GF8  | Helping Muslims to Meet Jesus  |

# **Training Planner**

| Module | Title   | Date Planned |
|--------|---|--------------|
| BB1    | God's Great Plan  |              |
| BB2    | Why People Need the Gospel  |              |
| BB3    | What Is the Gospel?   |              |
| BB4    | Eternal Destinies   |              |
| BB5    | God's Role and Ours   |              |
| BB6    | Depending on the Holy Spirit  |              |
| BB7    | Prayer in Evangelism  |              |
| BB8    | God's Word in Evangelism  |              |
| BB9    | A Culture of Witness  |              |
| BB10   | Your Witness Where God Has Placed You                                       |              |
| CP1    | Being Yourself  |              |
| CP2    | Connecting with Those Around Us   |              |
| CP3    | Connecting with Neighbours  |              |
| CP4    | Listening and Asking Questions  |              |
| CP5    | Connecting at Work  |              |
| SO1    | Right Expectations  |              |
| SO2    | Telling Your Story  |              |
| SO3    | Explaining the Gospel   |              |
| SO4    | Inviting People to Church   |              |
| SO5    | Making the Most of Courses and Events                                       |              |
| SO6    | Keeping Going   |              |
| GF1    | Helping People Meet Jesus in His Word                                       |              |
| GF2    | Answering Tough Questions with Gospel Stories                               |              |
| GF3    | Helping People Who Are Ready to Trust Jesus                                 |              |
| GF4    | Helping New Christians to Follow Jesus                                      |              |
| GF5    | Helping Those Who Say They Are Spiritual but Not<br>Religious to Meet Jesus |              |
| GF6    | Helping People from Other Cultures to Meet Jesus                            |              |
| GF7    | Helping Hindus to Meet Jesus  |              |
| GF8    | Helping Muslims to Meet Jesus   |              |

| Notes |
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