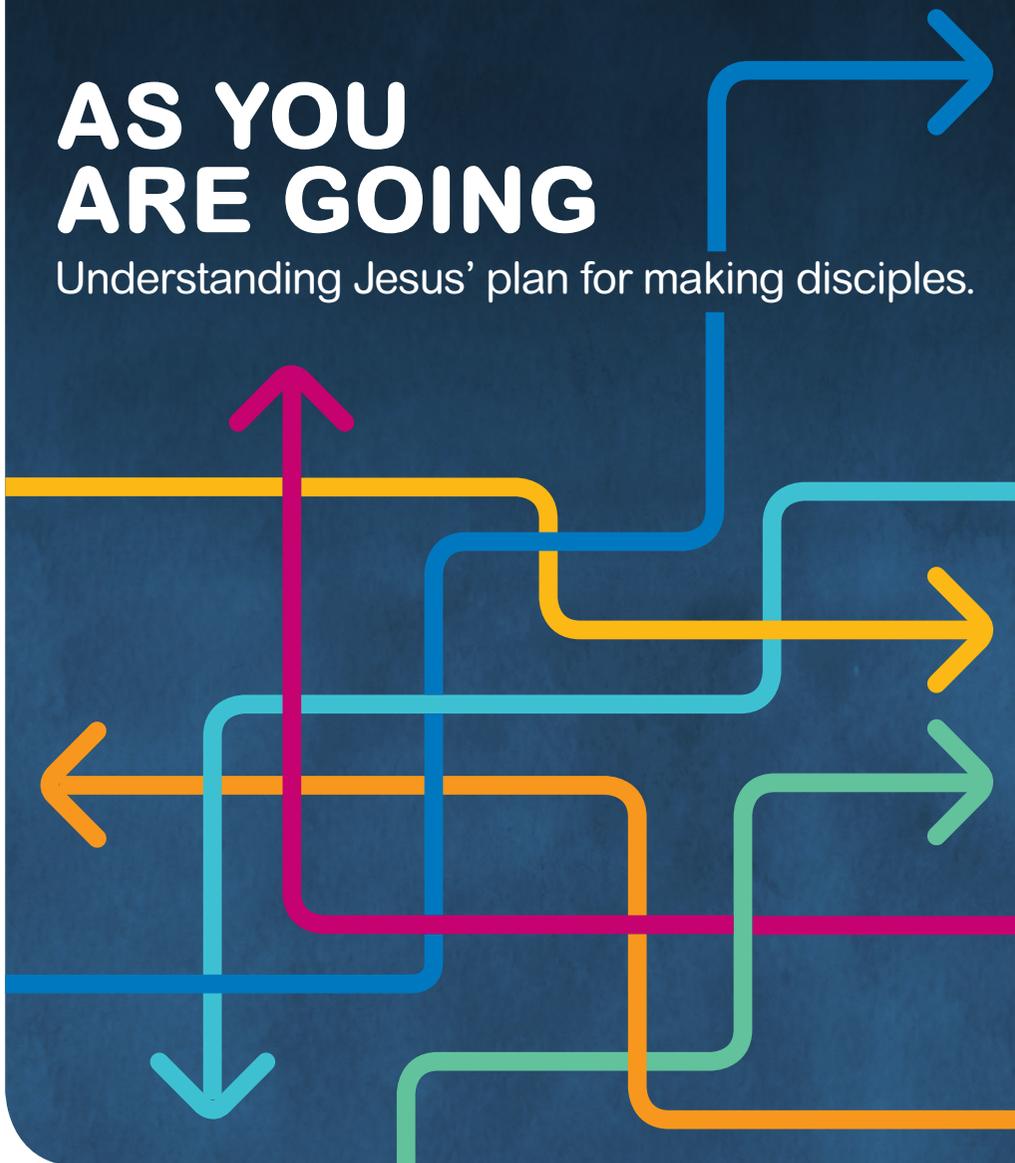




Baptist Churches  
of NSW & ACT

# AS YOU ARE GOING

Understanding Jesus' plan for making disciples.





## **PART 1: ON YOUR MARKS**

**Purpose: Skills for living our faith** **2**

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These studies have been provided by the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT. You can choose to do either Part 1, Part 2 or both. If you would like further information about how the Association can inspire and equip your church for evangelism then please contact [blakelin@nswactbaptists.org.au](mailto:blakelin@nswactbaptists.org.au)

# PART 1

## On Your Marks

Then Jesus came to them and said, “all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

**Matthew 28:18-20**

“ If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honour, how can a commission by a heavenly king be considered a sacrifice? ”

**DAVID LIVINGSTONE**

## SESSION 1:

# Alive to tell the tale

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1. Have you ever had a close encounter with death or disaster – where you “lived to tell the tale”?

Do you enjoy hearing or telling those sorts of stories?



Read Ephesians 2:1-10

2. Explain from verses 1-3 the spiritual state of people.

Can anyone claim to not have lived this way?

3. Verse 3 says we were “gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts”.

What are the immediate and eternal outcomes of living this way?



Do you ever stop to consider the spiritual reality for your friends and family who are “following the ways of this world”?

What does your friend need more than anything?

## SESSION 1: Alive to tell the tale

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4. Explain from verses 4 to 7 what God has done for people with faith in Jesus.



Take a moment to reflect on whether you have accepted God's gift of salvation to you through his son Jesus. Which words describe how you feel about being made alive with Christ?

5. What does this passage teach us about God?

6. What does it mean to be saved by grace (v8)?



The gospel means there is nothing we could do to make God love us more and no mistake we could make that would cause God to love us less – because God's love for us doesn't depend on us at all! You are completely and utterly loved. Neither success nor failure will change your identity and purpose.



## SESSION 2:

# Are you for real?

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1. Do you know someone you would describe as “the real deal”?

What do you like about that person?

“

“The first step of evangelism was not to start blabbing...it was to come to grips with Christ’s claim on my life. Lordship it was called, and I discovered the lordship of Jesus was a far more powerful tool for evangelism than any arguments in his defense.”<sup>1</sup>

– Mack Stiles, *Speaking of Jesus*.



Read Matthew 5:1-16

2. What are the eight characteristics Jesus teaches his followers will have in verses 3 to 10?

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1. Stiles, J.M (1995). *Speaking of Jesus*. Downers Grove: IVP. 22

## SESSION 2: Are you for real?

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3. What makes it difficult to live this way? What makes it worth it?

“

“To follow Jesus demands a totally different way of life, and it is vital for the people of God. Right at the outset of his ministry Jesus lays it on the line. The new age has dawned. And the Sermon shows what human life is like after repentance and commitment to the King. In a word, life is very different.”<sup>1</sup>

– Michael Green, *The Message of Matthew*.

4. Why do you think Jesus cares about the character of his followers?

5. As a group brainstorm how each characteristic could shine through in our behaviour, eg being “poor in Spirit” means you don’t need to boast about yourself because you depend on God for your value. Try and come up with at least three examples for each characteristic (you might like to divide the group up and report back).

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1. Green, M (2000) *The Message of Matthew*. Leicester: IVP. 88

## SESSION 2: Are you for real?

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6 a. As we live this way some people will see that our lives are different because Jesus is King. How could this be a powerful tool for evangelism?

b. What warning does Jesus give in v13-16?

What should we do if we realise there is an area of our lives that doesn't match Jesus' Lordship?

c. Finish reading the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7) by yourself during the week. Make a note of where you feel most challenged and ask God to help you live a real life of faith.

“

“So for Christians, how we forgive, how we live, how we work and lead, and, really, everything about our lives should be rooted in the gospel. What does this have to do with a culture of evangelism? Well, everything.

Understanding the gospel as a way of life means making sure our lives align with the gospel in every part. This helps the gospel come out of us whether we are with believers or non-believers. If we live gospel centred lives, we will find ourselves sharing the gospel.”<sup>1</sup>

– Mack Stiles, *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*.

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1. Stiles, J.M (2014) *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*. Wheaton, Illinois. Crossway. 90

## SESSION 3:

# Answered prayer

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1. Who were the people who helped you to learn about Jesus?



Read Matthew 9:35-10:8

2. What does v35 say Jesus has been doing?

3. What does Jesus feel as he looks out on the crowds?

Why does he feel this way?



Sheep are notoriously helpless. They are hard to keep alive. When they are harassed they have no way of protecting themselves. All that lies between them and the teeth of a wolf is a soft coat of wool. But they are so helpless they are also a danger to themselves. They do things like wander away and get lost, walk off cliffs or eat poisonous plants. They need protecting.



## SESSION 3: Answered prayer

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8. What restrictions are placed on the disciples on their first mission?  
Are these restrictions permanent (see Matthew 28:16-20)?



It was always Jesus' plan to use *people* to tell other *people* about his kingdom and Lordship. You are part of that plan too!

9. Do you see yourself as a worker in the field?  
What does your "field" look like?

Fill in the following sentence by writing in the places you spend time.

**I have been sent as a worker to** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you already involved in good works in these places?

If not, how can you begin?



Share with the group how you feel about being a worker and pray for each other.

## SESSION 4:

# Our first conversation

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1. What prevents us from praying more?



Read Colossians 4:2-4

2. What does Paul want the Colossians to do in verse 2?

3. Why would Paul want the Colossians to be “devoted” to prayer?

“

“It means pray, and pray a lot! Pray when you’re alone. Pray when you’re with a lot of people. Pray when you’re in small groups. Pray on your way in; pray on your way out. Pray in your closet, in your car, at your desk. Pray your morning prayers, pray mealtime prayers, pray in between mealtimes. Pray fervently, expectantly, and unselfconsciously. Pray when you’re burdened, worried sick or broken-hearted. Pray when you’re soaring, setting records, or dancing on a mountaintop.”<sup>1</sup>

– Bill Hybels, *Just Walk Across the Room*.

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1. Hybels, B (2017) Just Walk Across the Room. ePub Format. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan. p345

## SESSION 4: Our first conversation

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4. What prayer does Paul ask for himself? Why do you think it is important to pray for these things?



Can you develop a partnership where you ask someone to pray for your opportunities and you pray for theirs? It could be as simple as text messages before a work lunch or party.

5. Where is Paul when he writes these verses (v3)? How would his circumstances make it hard for him to proclaim the gospel clearly, as he should?

6. What pressure is there on public proclaimers of the gospel in our context (eg ministers\evangelists\SRE teachers)?

How can you support them with prayer?

## SESSION 4: Our first conversation

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7. What would an open door for the gospel message look like in your context? Do you feel pressure to “open doors” by your own efforts, rather than ask God to open them?
8. Share something about your circumstances (health/work/relationship/culture) that makes sharing faith difficult or impossible. Pray for each other that doors will be opened.



In each circle below write the name of at least one person you will devote yourself to praying for. Then write a time you will pray for that person. It may be during your quiet time or you might like to set an alarm on your phone to remind you. Watch for signs that God is working and give thanks to God for his great love for them and you.

FAMILY

FRIEND

WORK/  
STUDY

SOCIAL/  
COMMUNITY

9. Spend the remainder of your time praying.
- Share a door you would like to see opened.
  - Pray for a public proclaimer of the gospel.
  - Share the name of one person you would like to see saved

# PART 2:

# Go!

Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.

**Matthew 13:3-9**



You take care of the sowing,  
God will take care of the growing.



**Anon**

## SESSION 5:

# Story snippets

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1. Have you ever been stuck listening to a sales pitch that you knew you were going to say no to?  
How did that make you feel?



Read John 4:1-30, 39-42

2. What does the woman learn about Jesus from their time together at the well?
3. What message does she take back to her town?  
How does this message compare to the conversation she had with Jesus?

## SESSION 5: Story Snippets

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4. Do you think we need to share every detail of our faith journey for it to be effective?  
Why/why not?  
Why is it hard to be brief?

“

“The vast majority of faith stories I hear are way too long. Not to be cruel, but when I sign on to listen to what ought to be a three-minute story..I expect my clothing to still be in fashion when you finish...

Keep your story brief and allow your listener the chance to ask a few follow-up questions. Leave them wanting more, and trust God to open up a dialogue if you are meant to say anything further about your journey.”<sup>1</sup>

– Bill Hybels, *Just Walk Across the Room*.

5. How did the woman's testimony bring others to Jesus?

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1. Hybels, B (2017) Just Walk Across the Room. ePub Format. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan. p201

## SESSION 5: Story Snippets

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6. What do we learn about testimonies from the following research<sup>1</sup>?  
Why could a testimony attract someone to a religion?



### TOP ATTRACTORS TO RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY (strongly attract)

- 16% Seeing people who live out a genuine faith
- 13% Experiencing a personal trauma or life event
- 12% Stories or testimonies from people who have changed due to their faith



“It’s as simple as this, friends. Who were you before, and who are you now, as a result of Christ’s passionate intervention in your journey? I was striving... but now I’m grateful, I was self-destructive... but now I’m healthy, Despairing... but now hopeful” <sup>2</sup>

– Bill Hybels, *Just Walk Across the Room*.

There are times when you can share your testimony in detail – but this is usually a church gathering. If you want to share your testimony in a conversation with an unbeliever it will need to be brief. You are only sharing a snippet of what God has done for you. Imagine you are answering the question “Does it work?”

**Answering the following questions may help.**

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1. ‘Faith and Belief in Australia’ by Mark McCrindle, used by permission McCrindle Research.

2. Hybels, B (2017) *Just Walk Across the Room*. ePub Format. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan. p21

## SESSION 5: Story Snippets

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**STEP 1:** Choose three words that described your life before you met Jesus.

- How would your family describe you before?
- What did your life revolve around?
- How were you trying to find meaning?
- What motivated you?
- What made you feel good about yourself?

**STEP 2:** What made you want to follow Jesus OR why have you always followed Jesus?

- What made you change your mind?
- Was it an easy choice, or did you struggle?
- Did you wrestle with any questions?
- Was there something about Jesus you found attractive?
- What convinced you to keep following Jesus?

## SESSION 5: Story Snippets

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### STEP 3: Choose three words that describe your life now you follow Jesus.

- What change has been there to your attitude?
- What has brought you comfort?
- Where do you find meaning?
- Has change been gradual or instant?
- Has Jesus helped you conquer a fear or forgive?
- Why would you never go back?

### STEP 4: Put it together

Imagine you are asked “Why do you bother with Jesus anyway?”  
Your answer might look like this:

- “Well there was a time in my life when...
- “But then I found out that Jesus...
- “Since then it’s really changed how I feel\think about...

## SESSION 5: Story Snippets

If you have chosen three words you now have three different snippets you can share! Choose the best snippet based on the person you are talking to.

### Examples

“My whole life up until the point that I met Jesus Christ was slowly self-destructing. I was caught up in this terrible downward spiral or self-destructive behaviour. But then I met Christ. He gave me the power to begin to live a healthy and constructive life. And I’m immensely grateful.”

“There was a time in my life when I was absolutely certain the only way to gain God’s favour was to perform, achieve, and strive. But then I met the Son of God in a powerful way and learned that the only way to gain his favour is to accept his gift of grace. Almost immediately, it brought an overwhelming peace to my soul, an end to my useless striving, and a revolutionary change to my entire world”

“As a child I worried a lot, even though I had nothing to worry about. Like many people, I was a born worrier. My parents brought me up to believe the bible and I became a Christian but when I was 17 years old I got glandular fever and I missed a lot of school. I could have got really worried, but I felt God’s presence and I learned not to get worried about things. I had this amazing sense of peace. I went to university and could easily have turned my back on Jesus, but I found I didn’t want to. God had done something real in my life. I was a born worrier, but God gave me peace.”

### STEP 5: Finish with a question

As you share your snippet look at the person you are talking to and gauge their reaction. Are they interested? Do they look sceptical? Asking a question gives them an opportunity to keep the conversation going if they are interested. Some examples are:

- Can you relate to any of that?
- Do you think Jesus could make a difference in your life?
- Have you ever had a spiritual experience?
- Have you ever had that struggle?

## SESSION 5: Story Snippets

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### STEP 6: Practice

In pairs take turns share your snippet. Limit each other to 3 minutes. This will be hard to begin with, but you will get better. Then swap with another pair.

- Your partner should alert you to any language that might not make sense to an unbeliever such as “accept his gift of grace”, “born again”, “repented” “Son of God”
- Remember to finish with a question!

**Begin with the question “Why do you bother with Jesus anyway?”**

## SESSION 6:

# Start by opening your ears

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1. Are you ever frustrated that people won't listen to your point of view? How does that make you feel?



Read James 1:19, Proverbs 18:13, Proverbs 18:2

2. What does James say about listening and speaking?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does being “quick to listen” mean? What helps us do this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How is the verse in James like the verses in Proverbs?

“

“I’m willing to bet the farm that in our post-modern Christian society the most important evangelistic skill is listening.”<sup>1</sup>

Todd Hunter (former CEO of Alpha USA)

– Doug Pollock, *God Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally*.

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1. Pollock, D (2009) *God Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally*. USA: Group. p54

## SESSION 6: Start by opening your ears

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5. Why would listening be an evangelistic skill?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What can we learn from listening to our unbelieving friends, workmates and culture?



“Historically, much of the outreach training Christians have been exposed to has said very little about the Art of Listening. Far too many Christ followers have been taught to give gospel presentations rather than to engage in spiritual conversations”<sup>1</sup>

– *The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversation: Walking Alongside People Who Believe Differently.* Mary Schaller & John Crilly

7. If you started following Jesus as a teenager/adult share with the group a spiritual conversation that you had with a friend as a non-believer and what you liked or didn't like about it. How did God use that conversation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. When is it appropriate to give a gospel presentation?

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1. Schaller, M & Crilly, J *The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversation: Walking Alongside People Who Believe Differently.* EPub Format Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale. p182

## SESSION 6: Start by opening your ears

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9. What kind of listener are you? Answer often/sometimes/rarely to the following:
- a. I cut people off when they are talking
  - b. I give my opinion first in conversation
  - c. I get restless
  - d. I lose track of what is being said
  - e. I give advice
  - f. I constantly contradict what other people are saying
  - g. I ask questions so I can answer them
  - h. I want to impress the other person with my knowledge
  - i. I talk for long times about what interests me
  - j. It is difficult for other people to talk whilst I'm around
  - k. I am known as a "talker"
  - l. I daydream when people talk to me
  - m. I find other people boring

If these behaviours describe you, you could benefit from improving your listening skills.

10. Is there someone you need to apologise to for failing to listen well?



Practice listening. Play a game of "Table Talk" (it can be downloaded for free from an app store). Choose the original version and then "spiritually". If it is not your turn to speak, you may only ask questions. If it is your turn to speak practice giving a short answer.

How hard were either of these things for you?

Can you think of a group of friends who would enjoy playing this? Perhaps the Christmas version would work at a Gingerbread night or Christmas party.

# SESSION 7:

# SALTY CONVERSATIONS

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1. What makes a conversation great?



Read Colossians 4:5-6

2. What does Paul say about how we should live?

3. Is Paul warning us away from outsiders, or encouraging us to engage with them?  
How well do you follow his instructions?

4. *“The best spiritual conversations usually occur in places where others feel comfortable.”* – Doug Pollock.

Where do your friends feel comfortable? Are there places for you that would be unwise to go to? Share with the group where some of your best conversations with friends have happened.

## SESSION 7: Salty conversations

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“

“Any and every situation is one in which we *are* to witness, by the way we live, to the fact that Jesus is our Lord. Equally, any and every situation is one where we *may* be able to witness, by speaking of that same Lord.”<sup>1</sup>

– John Chapman. *Know and Tell the Gospel*. (my italics)

5. Do you think Paul is more concerned with what we say or how we say it? Which are you more concerned with and why?

6. Many Christians are concerned they will get into a spiritual conversation where they won't know how to answer. What can we do when we feel we get stuck or put on the spot?

A great way of answering people is to ask them more questions about what they believe. Research has shown asking questions is more influential in changing behaviour than giving information.<sup>2</sup> Good questions arise from curiosity about the other person and what they believe – they are not a way for you to start a monologue about what you believe. They go hand in hand with listening to their answers. Good questions will help us have salty conversations.

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1. Chapman, J (2005) *Know and Tell the Gospel*. Matthias Media. p94

2. Research by Joseph Grenny and David Maxfield. *The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations*. p189

## SESSION 7: Salty conversations

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7. Look at the following list of questions and discuss whether you think the question is a good one or not. What makes it a good or bad question?

Can you imagine asking it?

If you could ask God one question what would it be?	How on earth can you believe that?
Have you seen God working in your life?	Have you always believed that?
Haven't you heard that's been proven wrong?	Do you have any spiritual beliefs?
What do you find hardest to believe about Jesus?	Are you too lazy to make it to church?
Could we talk about this some more over coffee?	What do you think about imputation?
If you were to die tonight do you know where you would go?	Have you been born again?
Have you ever had an experience you couldn't explain?	What are you doing for Easter?

8. Think of three questions you could ask your friends about their spiritual beliefs. Share your questions with the group and pray for an opportunity to ask them.

“

“Once again I think it is worth stating that we are in conversation which is dialogue not monologue. At all times during the conversation we should be seeking to be sensitive to the signs which show when the other person no longer wishes to continue the discussion... Remember God is well able to keep the conversation going for as long as we have everything to say which he wants us to say on that occasion. Sometimes we may be the first link in a chain of events which will lead that person to Christ.”<sup>1</sup>

– John Chapman, *Know and Tell the Gospel*.

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1. Chapman, J (2005) *Know and Tell the Gospel*. Matthias Media. p134

## SESSION 8:

# STUMBLING

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1. Have you ever seen a foot race where a competitor stumbled, but kept going?  
Do you find that inspirational?



“Evangelism, like swimming can only be learned by getting in and striking out. It is impossible to learn to swim if your swimsuit never gets wet... Once you are in the water we can begin to refine your style, but not before.”<sup>1</sup>

– John Chapman, *Know and Tell the Gospel*.



Read Galatians 2:11-14

2. Why did Peter stop eating with the Gentiles (v12)?
3. What was wrong with his behaviour (v14)?
4. Did this mistake disqualify Peter from testifying about Jesus?  
How could that be?

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1. Chapman, J (2005) *Know and Tell the Gospel*. Matthias Media. p216

## SESSION 8: Stumbling

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5. Who puts pressure on us to compromise our witness?

What should we do about it?

“

“Oh, I blew it, I blew it, I blew it! Came my sister’s wail of despair through the phone. “Slow down Linda” I said. “Blew what?”

“Oh, I blew it with Nancy...she asked me what I believe now, and I started telling her all kinds of stuff besides what’s important” <sup>1</sup>

– Mack Stiles, *Speaking of Jesus*.

6. What do we need to remember about the gospel (see Ephesians 2:1-10 or session 1) and God’s plan (see Matthew 9:35-38 or session 3) when we really do blow it?
7. Fear of making mistakes can prevent us from even starting. Make a list of all the things that people fear could go wrong.
8. Has anyone in your group worked through one of the fears you listed? What did they learn?

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1. Stiles, J.M. (1995). *Speaking of Jesus*. Downers Grove: IVP56

## SESSION 8: Stumbling

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9. If we can't answer a question someone asks us, have we "blown it"? How can we get better at answering questions?



“When we're not sure what to say or do in the moment, “nothing” always seems like the best option. Most missed opportunities fall into this category. Although it felt like a failure at the time, I've since come to the conclusion that this may be the best thing that could happen in these situations...This gives you time to prayerfully consider what to say later on.”<sup>1</sup>

– Doug Pollock, *God Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally*.

10. If somebody is uninterested, mocks us or rejects the gospel have we “blown it”? What did Jesus tell us to expect? (See Matthew 5:9-10 or Session 2)
11. When we are insensitive, rude or hostile have we “blown it”? What should we do to restore the relationship?

**Are you ready to Go! Pray for each other to be aware of opportunities to witness through word and deed.**

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1. Pollock, D (2009) *God Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally*. USA: Group. p102

## SESSION 9:

# COACHING TIPS

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- 1. My friend asks me a question I don't know the answer to. What should I do?**

Pray! Point out it's a really great question, and ask if you can get back to them. Ask if they would be willing to read something on it and find a book, article or website that talks about it.
- 2. My son prayed "the prayer" when he was a child, but now he has walked away from the faith. How can I bring him back?**

God does not need or want you to "bring him back" - that is his work. However he does want you to pray! Love him! Repeat! Pray for Christian friends to love him and share with him. Avoid arguing and nagging and resist the temptation to mention it all the time.
- 3. I mentioned church and my friend rolled her eyes. Should I bother talking about it again?**

I know that feeling well. Pray! When the time is right you could ask your friend why they rolled their eyes. Did they used to go to church? Have they always felt that way? What changed their mind? Most importantly – listen! You might like to ask for permission to talk about it: "I understand it's not something you want to talk about much right now, but it's such an important part of my life. Do you mind if I mention something from time to time about that part of my life?" When you do, keep it short and don't be preachy.
- 4. My friend is completely uninterested in Jesus. We never talk about spiritual stuff at all, how do I get her to have a spiritual conversation?**

Firstly pray! Secondly don't try and manipulate your friend into having a spiritual conversation. You could be upfront and ask her "We never seem to talk much about spiritual stuff. Do you ever wonder if there is more to life?"
- 5. My work colleague is really hostile towards me and is making it hard for me to fit in at work.**

I am sorry to hear that. Remember the words of Jesus about persecution. Pray for your work colleague and look for as many ways as possible to love them. Can you talk to your boss about workplace bullying? Read 1 Peter – it's written to Christians in a similar situation.

**6. I had an opportunity to mention Jesus, but I was so nervous I didn't say anything. How can I not be so nervous?**

I've been so nervous I thought I was going to faint! If you aren't in the habit of mentioning Jesus, it will be really hard to do with your non-Christian friends. Start talking to your Christian friends about Jesus. Ask them why they follow Jesus or what their favourite story of Jesus is. This will help you be more natural in other situations. This won't stop you being nervous though – sometimes we just have to keep going even though we are nervous. Don't forget to pray and ask God to help you with your replies. It's God's plan to use people to tell other people so he will help you!

**7. I tried telling my friend about Jesus but it was so awkward. I don't think I can do it again.**

I try and reflect on why it was awkward and learn from it. Did I say too much? Was I forcing the door open? Should I have been listening instead of talking? If I realise how awkward it is at the time I acknowledge it "Oh man – that was awkward! I'm so sorry about that. I wanted to share something that's really important to me, but I can see that was just weird."

**8. My friend has heard the gospel, but just doesn't care. I don't know what else to say.**

Pray! Can you immerse your friend in Christian community? Can they join you in a church service project (like organising carols, playtime or feeding the poor). Have they met your friends over a BBQ? Community is a powerful way for people to experience the gospel and see the beauty of living with Jesus as Lord. Remember you can't save your friend, but as long as you are friends you have the opportunity to show them the love of Jesus and answer questions when they come.



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