



EPT BOOKLET

CITY BIBLE FORUM BRISBANE



SEMESTER 1 2019



CITY BIBLE FORUM

Ask the bigger questions

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Highlights of Events in Term 1



**HELP YOUR
COLLEAGUES
MEET JESUS**

Wed 20 February

12:30-1:20PM

143 Ann St

LIFE @ WORK

DISTINCTIVE

Fri 8-9 March

143 Ann St



**EASTER IN THE
CITY**

Thurs 18 April

12:30-1:20PM

141 Ann St



SHARING JESUS AT WORK



SHARING JESUS AT WORK



WHAT'S INSIDE

Have you noticed that people like to compartmentalise their lives? We talk about work/life balances, but we don't stop living when we work (however we might feel on Monday morning). What's going on?

Our society is structured against going deeper and asking the deeper questions – to do so requires relational engagement – or coffee, dinner, gospel.

This booklet outlines a series of action steps to build deep relationships and share the hope that we have in Christ with our colleagues

STUDIES

Coffee, Dinner, Gospel introduction

Owning Jesus

Rare love in the workplace

HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES



These studies are short modules to help readers think more deeply about different areas of your workplace witness. They are designed to be used in Evangelistic Prayer Teams (EPTs), but can also be used in any small group setting.

COFFEE, DINNER, GOSPEL: AN INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgement: This booklet is based on a series of workshops conducted by Dr. Sam Chan, from City Bible Forum. Find out more about Sam at his blog at espressotheology.com

There's a saying among Christian missionaries:
"Closed country, open hearts; open country, closed hearts."

Do think this is true for Australia?

BIG IDEA

"Our society is structured against going deeper and asking the deeper questions – to do so requires relational engagement – or Coffee, Dinner, Gospel."

Have you noticed that people like to compartmentalise their lives? We talk about work/life balances, but we don't stop living when we work (however we might feel on Monday morning). What's going on?

In Australia we often think of the world as two separate realms. On the one hand, the public, observable and secular realm; on the other hand our private sacred realm. And in this culture, religion sits firmly in the private, sacred realm. Conversations about this realm can lead to fights if raised in the public, secular realm, so we've learned to avoid religion to keep the peace.

So how do we talk about Jesus?

Coffee, Dinner, Gospel

The deeper we go in relationship, the deeper we are willing to share – it's all a matter of trust. Consider three social interactions:



COFFEE:

Coffee is public and safe. It lasts minutes and conversation is usually just small talk – topics like weather, sport, and news. If things get too deep, you can make a quick escape.

DINNER:

Dinner is more private (especially if you've invited someone into your home – your private space). Once small talk is exhausted, we move into more private issues – personal values, worldviews, politics and religion. Once we move into the private world we need to listen well. Listening well is about actively listening – asking questions, do you have faith? Do you pray? What values do you want your kids to have? How did you come to believe that? (Notice the factual way of asking a private question).

Active listening involves demonstrating that you have heard the thought, understood the concept, and accepted the associated feeling; I hear, I understand, I feel something of what you feel (note: not exactly how they feel, but something of what they feel).

GOSPEL:

The gospel touches who we are at our most central part, and so it usually takes some time for us to get to this stage with people.

What does this mean?

Sharing Jesus often today takes going deeper in relationships. Our culture resists speaking about the matters of the gospel of Jesus until we've built relational trust. Sharing Jesus takes confidence... in God

Daniel prays "He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him." (Dan 2:22). God knows the private thoughts of our colleagues – better than they do! We can trust God as we seek to draw people out. God knows their hearts and is an expert at drawing the hidden things to the light.

Prayer

Pray for the people in your workplace, pray for deepening relationships with colleagues for the sake of the gospel.

Thinking about the workplace...

When do you find it hardest to speak about following Jesus?

BIG IDEA

Jesus promises to acknowledge us before God in the same way we acknowledge him before others – that’s either a comforting thought, or a terrifying one.

From the Bible

Whoever acknowledges me [Jesus] before others, I will also acknowledge them before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown them before my Father in heaven. **Matthew 10:32-33**

Can you imagine Jesus saying “I never knew you”?

Key Truths

1. The issue at stake is the acceptance of others or of God.
2. Jesus promises to treat us as we treat him - whether we acknowledge him or disown him before others.
3. The consequence for disowning Jesus is being disowned before God – what a terrifying prospect!
4. We need to make a clear decision – whether we value the acceptance of God or others more.

Application

How well do people know you at work?

How soon after meeting you do people discover you're a Christian?

How can you most naturally 'own' Jesus at work?

Prayer

Pray for boldness to acknowledge Jesus before your work colleagues

Jesus calls upon us to be known as those who love.

What do you think Christians are known for in Australia?

Why do you think that is?

**BIG
IDEA**

In Jesus' parable of the Samaritan he shows what loving your neighbour looks like - it's costly of time and money; it means meeting the needs of the one God brings before you.

From the Bible

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³ But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'" **Luke 10:25-37**

Key Truths:

1. The person the Samaritan loved was the person he came across. He had compassion on the man.
2. In contrast to the Levite and the priest, the Samaritan stopped. He gave up whatever was on his agenda for that day and helped the man, even paying for his recovery out of his own money.
3. Love costs time and may cost money.

Application

We can get quite task focused at work, treating people as functional helps (or even hindrances!) But we need to love the people God has put before us. It can be quite hard to get to know people in the office, why not take the initiative to spend *social* time together?

Implicitly it conveys love and care, 'I care about you beyond your function for me in the workplace.' Relationship is created by time spent talking.

In the end, there can be no greater love than to risk everything to warn people of their danger of judgment and of the great love God has shown them in Jesus. What could you give up this week to show love in your workplace?

Prayer

Pray for a willingness to be open to new relationships at work and a desire to go deeper (and take on the time cost that means).



WORK IN GOD'S WORLD



WORK IN GOD'S WORLD

WHAT'S INSIDE

Work.

An obsession for some.

A terrible burden for others.

Is work a necessary evil in God's world or can it be more? Do we live to work or work to live?

These four studies look at work from God's point of view and give us hope that we can be free from much of the negativity and naivety associated with work. But also free to work God's way.

STUDIES

Work, more than a four-letter word

The teeth-grinding frustration of work

The sheer joy of work

The grace of work

HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES



These studies are short modules to help readers think more deeply about different areas of your workplace witness. They are designed to be used in Evangelistic Prayer Teams (EPTs), but can also be used in any small group setting.

WORK, MORE THAN A FOUR-LETTER WORD

1

When you hear the word 'work' what kind of other words or images spring to mind?

Do you think Australians think highly of work?

Or are they just interested in the results of work (ie income)?

BIG IDEA

Work in the Bible's view is valuable in and of itself, for work is done by God and given by God. This means your work is good and valuable (assuming it isn't ungodly!)

From the Bible

² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. **Genesis 2:2-3**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. **Genesis 2:15**

Key Truths

1. God works in making the world. The writer does not want us to miss this for he repeats the word work three times! This immediately elevates work. It is a profoundly good thing, a God thing.
2. Work is given to humanity by God! It is not a result of the curse, rather it is part of the good creation. Our work is an outworking of humanity being made in the image of God.
3. The word *work* in Gen 2:15 is the same word used for *serve* in the rest of the Bible, such as when a priest serves in the temple. This immediately moves work into a new category in our thinking; it is related to serving God.
4. This also shatters the idea of a sacred and secular divide that exists in our hearts where we don't think of our work as fundamentally part of our Christian life.
5. The word *keep* in 2:15 has the range of meaning of guard, preserve, take care of. Again, this changes how we might think of our work in the created world.

Application

How do you view your work, do you see it as valuable in and of itself?

Are you tempted to maintain a sacred and secular divide? (*sacred – special parts of life that honour God and secular – of the world and not spiritual in any way*)

Do you think of your work as service of God and others? If you do, how would that change your view of your work and how you work?

Prayer

Take time now to pray as a team for your attitude to your work.

THE TEETH-GRINDING FRUSTRATIONS OF WORK

2

What is your biggest frustration at your workplace? How do you cope with frustration and difficulty?

BIG IDEA

The curse of the fall means that work is now difficult and full of toil. This is part of the mercy of God.

From the Bible

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:17-19

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever--" ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden ...

Genesis 3:22-24

Key Truths

1. The ground is cursed by God which makes the gardening work hard. But notice work itself is not explicitly cursed. Work is still part of God's good creation...it is now just harder; damaged as a by-product!

2. The consequence of being out of the garden and out of the presence of God is death (v19). Without God giving humanity life, death is where we are headed. To dust we will return.
3. Humanity is out of the presence of God and destined for death. The frustration and difficulty of life is a perpetual reminder of this reality. This is God's mercy because God is constantly reminding us that only he gives us life in Jesus.
4. The difficulties of the working life should make us long for the new creation (See Romans 8)

Application

The world tells us that work ought to be all sweetness and light if we are the right people in the right place. However, the Bible tells us that, since the fall, we have to work hard to get the good things out of creation.

When work is frustrating and difficult remember to thank God, for he is reminding you that you are outside of his presence and that you need him.

How could you use a conversation about the difficulties of work to share your hope in Jesus?

Prayer

Praise God for making work frustrating so that we might seek satisfaction in him alone.

Pray that frustrations at work might be a signpost to God.



DISTINCTIVE LIVES



DISTINCTIVE LIVES



WHAT'S INSIDE

Christians live as strangers in a hostile world. In a sense we are best equipped to live in God's world because we know God. But we also live with those who have no love for God. How then should we live?

1 Peter was written to Christians who were living in a hostile world. Peter encouraged them to live lives proclaiming God. Christians are to live such good lives that others would join us in the truly blessed life - which may not be what you think...

STUDIES

Strangers in a Hostile World

Proclaiming God's Praises

Lives that Match our Message

The Blessed Life?

HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES



These studies are designed to help you think more deeply about different areas of your workplace witness. They are designed to be used in Evangelistic Prayer Teams (EPTs), but can also be used in any small group setting.

STRANGERS IN A HOSTILE WORLD

1

Having the grumps in Milan could land you a fine. Flushing at night in Switzerland might be illegal. Being a stranger can be hard, you don't know the language or customs. You could unwittingly get in trouble.

Think of a time when you were a stranger in a new situation.

What's it like being a stranger?

BIG IDEA

Christians are both strangers in the world and God's chosen people. So, as strangers in a world hostile to God, we should live according to our hope in Jesus.

From the Bible

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's chosen, strangers in the Dispersion, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

1 Peter 1:1

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear as you live as strangers, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

1 Peter 1:13-19

Key Truths

1. Christians are both God's chosen people and strangers in a world hostile to him. We are 'in' with God, but 'out' with our world – a source of tension as we live our lives.
2. We once lived futile and ignorant lives, but we have been ransomed from that life. So, we must embrace our strangeness; trusting in the just judge of all.
3. Our ransom was costly. We were ransomed with the most precious commodity there is – the blood of Christ. So, don't cheapen your life by obeying ungodly passions, but live God's way.

Application

The people who first received this letter lived in hostile times. Christians were distrusted by Jews and Romans alike. They were slandered, accused of cannibalism(!), and would soon face worse!

Australian culture is getting progressively less tolerant of a Christian world view. Peter's advice to Christians living in a hostile culture is "Be holy!" (1 Peter 1:16).

To what extent do you think living godly lives is valued in your workplace?

What does living God's way demonstrate to your colleagues?

How does being holy help our colleagues know Jesus?

Prayer

Pray that you would seek to live as a stranger in a world hostile to God.

Praise the Lord!

What actions and images come to your mind when you think about praising God?

What might it look like to praise God at work?

BIG IDEA

We are God's people for the purpose of declaring God's praises as we share Jesus with those who don't know him.

From the Bible

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

Key Truths

1. God has chosen us to be his own possession. We have a purpose – to declare God's praises as our rescuer from darkness.
2. Praise for God should overflow from our lips. Proclaiming God's praises is a verbal matter – it involves speaking. It means sharing Jesus, as strangers in a world hostile to him.

3. Does it feel too hard to praise God? Want some reasons? How about:
- God is generous
 - God has brought us out of darkness
 - God has chosen us to be his
 - God has brought us into his light
 - God has made us holy
 - God is merciful
 - God has given us a new identity
 - God has included us in his royal priesthood
 - Can you think of more?

Application

We'll see next week that our proclamation (and godly living) has the aim of seeing others join with us in our praise. We're supposed to do it around unbelievers – in hope that they will join us.

How can we proclaim God's excellencies at work?

Here's some ideas:

Has something gone well? Why not thank God out loud?

"Thank the Lord! I found a backup"

Has someone thanked you for your work? Why not give God the glory?

"Thank you, God has been very kind to me..."

Has God answered your prayers? Why not let people know?

"I'm so grateful, God has really answered our prayers..."

By just changing how we speak, we can normalise praising God in the workplace so that when we do start talking about God, it's not strange – we've been doing it already. It might feel strange at first, but it will feel less so as you continue to praise God.

What words or phrases could you start using in the workplace to start acknowledging him at work?

Prayer

Praise God for what he has done and continues to do at work.

Ask God for help to proclaim his excellencies today at work.

Pray that your colleagues will notice your praise and may one day join with you in praising God.

When it comes to sharing Jesus with our colleagues, what's more important – a great message, or a great life?

**BIG
IDEA**

As strangers in the world we need to ignore our worldly passions and instead live lives that lead others to also glorify God.

From the Bible

Beloved, I urge you as strangers and temporary residents to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:11-12

Key Truths:

1. We are in a war. The passions of our flesh wage war against our soul. As strangers in this hostile world, we need to abstain.
2. Instead we need to conduct ourselves so well that those who don't know God may also declare God's praises.
3. Look at v9 from last week. Those who are called out of darkness are those who are called to praise God. So here, those who praise God with us are probably doing so because they have become Christians.
4. We have a great message and our lives need to match it.

Application

A great message with lousy living or great living with a lousy message are both disastrous. One is a turn off, the other leaves people without God. Which is your greater danger?

If you behave Christianly in the workplace it will be noticed. How would you respond to the comment, "I noticed you act differently to the rest of us"?

Prayer

Pray for each other that your lives will match your message about Jesus.

Pray for your work colleagues. Pray they will see your good deeds and one day glorify God.

Think of the last time you suffered.
What brought you hope at that time?

In what way could you consider a time of suffering to be a blessing?

**BIG
IDEA**

You are blessed if you suffer for doing good. So do not fear, instead trust Jesus and tell people why you have a hope beyond suffering.

From the Bible

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but set apart Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being prepared to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who denounce your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

1 Peter 3:13-16

Key Truths:

1. Do not fear those who can hurt the body, but not the soul, you are blessed if you suffer for righteousness sake – like Jesus did.
2. If you consciously make yourself aware that Jesus is Lord, there's nothing to fear.

3. Instead be prepared to explain your hope beyond anything you may suffer in this life - Jesus.
4. Our sharing of Jesus must come with gentleness and respect, so those who do slander us are shamed.
5. In the end, we should want those who slander us or who might cause us suffering to trust in Jesus.

Application

When we go for a new job, we pray asking God for it. When we have the interview, we ask God to help us. When we receive the offer and accept, we thank God for getting the job. On our first day, we ask God that it would go well. However, sometime after our first day we start thinking that keeping our job is based upon our performance – and not on God’s sovereign control. We forget everything is God’s, and every good gift comes from him (James 1:17). We begin to fear. We fear our bosses, we fear restructures, we fear HR.

If you fear your boss, or HR, or that colleague, you’ll never share Jesus at work.

But if you determine in your heart that Christ is Lord, you will fear nothing. You will share Jesus at work (with gentleness and respect), gladly accepting suffering for Christ’s sake if it should come.

What do you fear in the workplace?

How do you respond to unfair accusations?

Prayer

Pray for each other that your lives would be so obviously good that people would ask you for the reason for your hope.

Pray for particular colleagues that they would notice our good behaviour and want to know why.



HOW IS CITY BIBLE FORUM FUNDED?



HOW IS CITY BIBLE FORUM FUNDED?



WHAT'S INSIDE

Often we get asked how City Bible Forum is funded. The answer is God generously gives through his people. That sounds like someone trying to be theologically on point, but it is actually an important point to consider. We all rely on God for his provision.

This study looks at this important concept and how it applies to City Bible Forum in Brisbane.

HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES



These studies are short modules to help readers think more deeply about different areas of your workplace witness. They are designed to be used in Evangelistic Prayer Teams (EPTs), but can also be used in any small group setting.

RELYING ON GOD – HOW IS CITY BIBLE FORUM FUNDED?

“Our attitude towards money is a direct reflection of our trust in God.”

What do you think?

BIG IDEA

God cares for us and provides for our needs. When we trust in him and his provision, we don't need to worry about money.

From the Bible

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:24-33

Key Truths

1. We all have a master. Often the choice is between money and God. You can't serve both.
2. Worrying doesn't change anything, except how we feel.
3. God cares for birds and flowers, and he provides for them. God cares much more for us, therefore he will provide our needs too.
4. God cares for us and provides for our needs. If we trust him, we will seek him rather than the things we need.

Application

When we serve money, it is an expression of trust in ourselves (or others) rather than in God. We can't serve God and money because we need to either trust in God or in money. In the end, only God is the true provider.

How easy is it to not worry and trust God's provision?

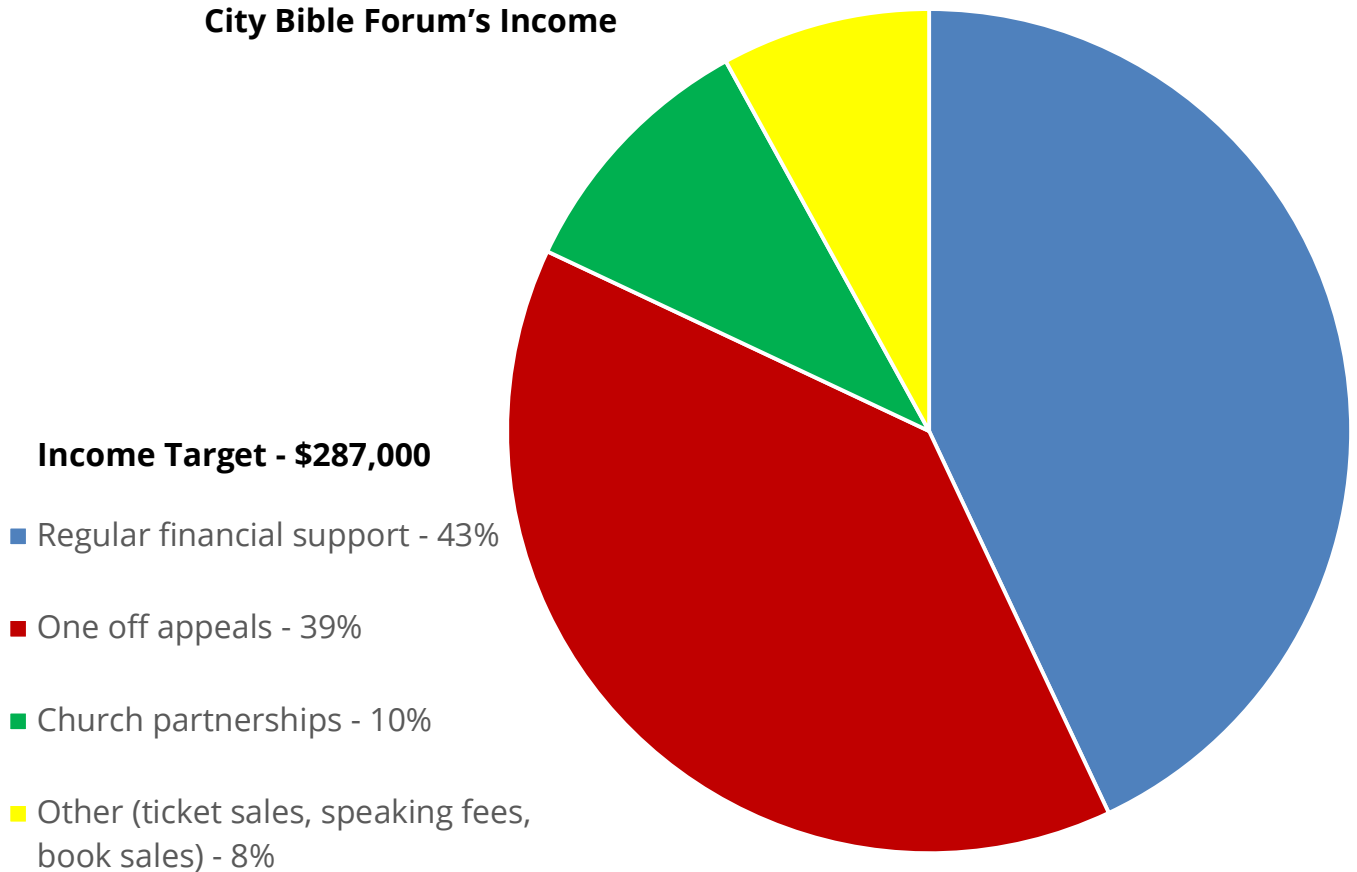
So, how is City Bible Forum funded?

City Bible Forum operates by the generosity of God through his people.

It is no small thing to say that City Bible Forum is funded by God. We trust in his provision. God provides through his people.

There are four main income streams for City Bible Forum: Regular financial support, one-off appeals, partnership with churches, and other (tickets, books, speaking fees etc)

City Bible Forum's Income



Our goal is to continue raising our regular support so our End of Year and End of Financial Year appeals are manageable, and we can focus more on the work of reaching the world through the workplace with the good news of Jesus.

Could you give regularly to support the work of City Bible Forum?

Are you someone God through whom is seeking to demonstrate his generosity?

If you already give, is it time to consider increasing your support?

Prayer

Praise God for his generosity through his people.

Pray for discernment about how to best give with what God has entrusted you.

Pray for your attitude to money. Are you in danger of serving God and not money?

Highlights of Events in Term 2



**CITY FORUM with
Dan Paterson**

22-23 May

**END OF FINANCIAL
YEAR APPEAL**

June





WORK IN GOD'S WORLD



WORK IN GOD'S WORLD

WHAT'S INSIDE

Work.

An obsession for some.

A terrible burden for others.

Is work a necessary evil in God's world or can it be more? Do we live to work or work to live?

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STUDIES

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The sheer joy of work

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Do you believe that good old-fashioned hard work brings its own reward? What is that reward?

**BIG
IDEA**

One of God's amazing gifts from work is the joy of the hard work itself.

From the Bible

I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. ² I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" ³ I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine--my heart still guiding me with wisdom--and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. ⁴ I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. ⁵ I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. ⁶ I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. ⁸ I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the children of man.

⁹ So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. ¹⁰ And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. ¹¹ Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Key Truths:

1. The writer is reflecting on his working career. He achieved a lot, though not all of it, ahem, was all that good (1-8).
2. Work can lead to greatness (9).
3. Pleasure *in work* is a great gift of God. Thus, whether we are doing something the world sees as majestic or mundane, God can give us pleasure in the work.
4. If we look for work to give us ultimate meaning, status, greatness or as protection against death then work is truly a vanishing puff of air. Our coming death or the failings of those that follow us will strip work of any legacy. (See Ecclesiastes 2)

Application

What kind of worker are you? One who holds themselves back or one who gives themselves to the toil? Does anything need to change?

When was the last time you thanked God for your work?

Do you speak to your colleagues about your thankfulness to God for the toil of your work? Could you pray to God for opportunities to do this?

Prayer

Pray for opportunities to demonstrate your thankfulness to God for your work.

Pray for a positive attitude towards your work that would be apparent to our colleagues.

When our society thinks about work and the benefits that flow from work are they seen as a right, a privilege, an expectation or in some other way?

**BIG
IDEA**

We often think that the work and the benefits of work are directly related. However, this is not the case. Benefitting from work depends on God's grace.

From the Bible

There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶ For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind. **Ecclesiastes 2:24-26**

Key Truths:

1. The phrase 'from the hand of God' and 'for apart from him' show the enjoyment in toil and the benefits of the toil – eating and drinking – depending on God to bring the enjoyment and the benefits.
2. In other words, what seems like direct cause and effect between working and benefiting is actually a grace effect. It is God's grace, his generosity to all humanity, that makes it look like cause and effect.

Application

Grumbling about work is almost the quintessential Aussie past-time. How can we turn our grumbling into praise for God instead?

(You may have to think about this one)

Prayer

Praise God for your work. Praise God for the joy that it brings.

Pray that you might help your colleagues see the joy of their work too.



HONEST EVANGELISM



SHARING JESUS AT WORK



WHAT'S INSIDE

Evangelism is hard. People are increasingly hostile to the gospel. But there's also increased hunger for the great news of Jesus. In his book, *Honest Evangelism*, Rico Tice shares the challenges and joys of talking about Jesus with others over his decades working as an evangelist in London.

These studies summarise some of the key points from *Honest Evangelism*. We encourage you to buy it and read it - it is a warm and challenging book that will encourage and enthuse you to share Jesus with your colleagues and friends.

These studies give you a small taste, but really don't do the book justice - please do buy it!

STUDIES

You're going to get hit

Is it worth it?

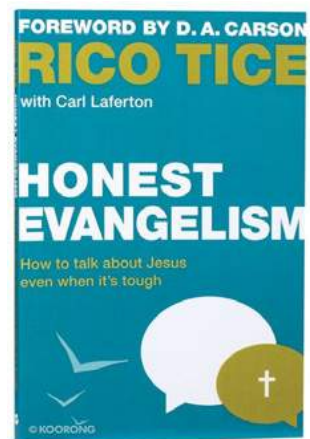
What still stops us from sharing Jesus?

Where are we up to?

But I'm not an evangelist!

What do I say?

Two kinds of Christians & Three truths about God



HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES



These studies are short modules to help readers think more deeply about different areas of your workplace witness. They are designed to be used in Evangelistic Prayer Teams (EPTs), but can also be used in any small group setting.

**Have you ever suffered for sharing Jesus?
What happened?**

**BIG
IDEA**

If we're going to share Jesus with someone, we're going to have to cross a painline.

1. Fearing crossing painlines

When Rico became a Christian, he was ridiculed and belittled at his school. His school mates even published a newspaper about how stupid Rico was because he had become a Christian and was sharing what he believed.

"I remember kneeling down by my bed one day and crying. I couldn't believe this was how it had worked out. I had come to faith in Jesus and thought: This is wonderful. I'd told other people and they had said: "No, it's not wonderful at all"
Rico Tice, Honest Evangelism (14)

Rico experienced the reality that if you tell people about Jesus you're going to get hit (metaphorically speaking). In Australia the reality is that we live in a culture of growing hostility to Christianity "It's not just apathy we face – it's antipathy."

No matter how charming, smart or funny you are or how right your answers are...you will get hit if you're sharing Jesus. The hit might be relationships ending, the hit might be your reputation, the hit might be in your career, and the hit might even be being hit!

What are the results of this?

"We're wired to assume that if we're getting hit, something's gone wrong. And so whenever I tell someone the gospel message, and get hit (metaphorically

speaking), there's a temptation either to stop saying anything, or to change what I'm saying.

I know there is a painline that needs to be crossed if I tell someone the gospel; but I want to stay on the comfortable side of the painline. Of course I do!

Rico Tice (15)

And so our reluctance to cross the painline stops us from sharing Jesus.

Response

What sort of painlines can you identify in your experience?

2. The new normal in following Jesus

The shocking thing is Jesus said this is all normal. Something hasn't gone wrong. It's what he said would happen. "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves." (Matt 10:16) And what do wolves do? They bite sheep. Actually, they kill sheep and eat them.

The wolves bite because we live in a world that hates Jesus because it hates God. 'Remember it hated me first', Jesus. That's why it is so hard to talk about Jesus.

If we follow Jesus, we won't escape our Master's fate, remember Jesus said 'If the world hates you remember that it hated me first.'

What are the implications of all this?

"...I bet that if you have stopped trying [to share Jesus] it's because you've come to one of two conclusions. Either you don't think it's working, because you got hit; or you don't think it's worth it, because you got hit" Rico Tice (17)

So, what will enable us to start or restart sharing Jesus? The reality is that it is being willing to cross the painline. Unless we are willing to cross the painline and risk 'being hit' we won't share Jesus.

Application

What do you think about the reality that we are sheep among wolves?

To what extent is fear of crossing the painline and being hit stopping you from sharing Jesus?

In many parts of the world if you speak up about Jesus you don't just get hit metaphorically. You get hit in reality. The first graduate of the Delhi Bible Institute in India was martyred within six weeks. Do we make too much of being hit in our workplaces? Have we lost perspective of how little our costs are in the West to speak up?

Prayer

Pray for boldness in crossing the painline in our relationships at work.

Pray that you can identify where you're shying away from painlines.

Pray for an opportunity to cross a painline for Jesus this week.

Note: this is a longer study

Have you noticed that very few things are truly life or death matters? Yet we agonise over them.

Conversely, when it comes to real life and death choices, we often need to be forced to take real life and death choices (like wearing seat belts or helmets)? We can have a similar light-hearted approach to the gospel of Jesus.

BIG IDEA

When we share Jesus we don't know whether we'll get hit or find hunger, but either way it is always worth it because it brings glory to Jesus, and we want our friends to escape hell and be with us in the new creation.

1. Hit or Hunger?

We live in a time of growing spiritual hostility but at the same time, growing spiritual hunger. More and more people are realising that the endless pursuits of materialism or hedonism are not satisfying. God is calling the lost to himself. This ought to give us confidence.

And God has given us the equipment we need. Consider:

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified... my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.' **1 Corinthians 2:4**

As Paul explained, talked and reasoned about whom Jesus was, as Paul opened his mouth and spoke, God's Spirit was at work. In fact, God's power was at work by his Spirit. 'Paul crossed the painline' and so a church was born.

'Until you cross the painline, you don't know what response you will meet with. Sometimes you will get hit, just as Paul did. Sometimes you find hunger, just as Paul did'
Rico Tice, Honest Evangelism (22)

2. Motivation to share Jesus

What enables us to cross the painline? Rico gives three motivating factors. 'We will want to witness because we know that it is *always* worth it.' (25)

Jesus glory

The guarantee of the new creation

The grim reality of hell *(You may like to pause to pray after each section)*

Jesus' glory

Jesus deserves our adoration! He deserves the world's adoration. He is God himself, who came and died to free us from our sin and wickedness and who now rules. Our life is to be all about Jesus glory. But if we have not been captured by Jesus glory then telling people about Jesus won't be important for us, or not important like it should.

Is Jesus' glory and honour a personal thing for you?

Do you get emotional about Jesus' honour?

Change: Pray for God to open our eyes to his glory by his Spirit!

The new creation

Think about someone who sits near you: where will that person be in 100 years time?

For those who trust in Jesus, he has the future sewn up. Jesus is the living one who died, but now lives, who holds the keys of death and Hades (Revelation 1:18) Jesus has defeated death and will bring forth the new heavens and earth. We need to capture the vision of the future represented in Revelation 21-22, we need to read it again and again. For this vision will fill us with excitement for sharing Jesus.

Does our future with Jesus fill your imagination and your hopes?

Change: Pray God will give a vision of his eternal glory to come.

The grim reality of death and hell

We are so worried about death and what comes next we can barely bring ourselves to speak of death directly. Hell is a joke to many, many people, but not to Jesus. Consider Jesus words:

'If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet be thrown into the eternal fire.

Matthew 18:8

Jesus is telling us Hell is real and it involves suffering. It is final and it is fixed and it is deserved. And so if hell is real, fixed and final loving people means warning them. If we don't warn people, we live as functional atheists, as if our friends won't die and meet God.

What is your understanding of hell?

Does it match with Jesus' understanding?

(You might like to look at John 3:36)

Change: Pray that God will give you a true horror of hell and judgment.

Application

Consider this final quote. 'It is all about love, my willingness to tell people the gospel is a test of my love for them.' (39)

What do you think?

WHAT STILL STOPS US FROM SHARING JESUS?

3

“And here’s what I regret. In the week before my grandmother died, I did not speak to her about Jesus. I loved her, but I didn’t say anything to her. When my other grandmother had died, I’d taken her hand and prayed with her. But not that grandmother. I just let her go.

Why didn’t I tell her about Christ? I’ve come to realise that I was afraid of what she’d say, and I was afraid of what my family would say, because I knew they’d think it was inappropriate and unhelpful. I was afraid.”

Rico Tice, *Honest Evangelism* (41)

What stops you from sharing Jesus?

Take a moment to discuss this. Perhaps write down your answers to help you see them.

BIG IDEA

If we are to share Jesus without fear we need to get rid of our idols. An idol is anything we love more than Jesus.

1. Love out of order

‘I loved my grandmother, and she loved me, but the hard truth is that I loved myself more than her. I wanted my family to think well of me more than I wanted her to think of Christ as her Saviour. That’s why I didn’t speak to her. I loved myself more than I loved her and more than I loved my Lord.’ Rico Tice (41)

What is at the heart of this issue for us? **Idolatry**

An idol is ‘something in our hearts that we make the most important thing in life, and to which we sacrifice other things to have or keep it.’ (42) Thus, when we don’t share Jesus, we are putting an idol before Jesus.

2. So, what is the solution?

First it is to **spot the idols**

1. What do you daydream about? Your idols are the things you most care about having, increasing or keeping.
2. What do you have nightmares about? Our idols are the things we cannot bear to lose.
3. What do you pray about? If there is something we pray about more than God's will being done in our lives and our loved ones, it is more than likely that's our functional god.
4. What do you need in life that, if you get it, means you'll then live for God? ie *Yes, I'll obey you God, once I've got.... Yes, I'll tell people about Jesus just as soon as...*

Response

To spot these idols we need God's help. We need to examine ourselves and ask God's Spirit to reveal these idols to us

Search me God and know my heart...see if there is any offensive way in me.

Psalm 139:23-24

Once you spot your idols and see them working in your heart, you need to confess them to God and others and ask for prayer.

Second, we need an **idol replacement** – Jesus!

The only way to get rid of idols is to love something or someone more. We can't just stop loving and worshipping. We were made to love and worship. That's why when humanity rejected God, we started worshipping other things.

So how do I stop loving my idols? By growing our love for Jesus. To do this we need to understand Jesus better, to understand his life, his death, his love, his resurrection and his rule more and more deeply.

We need to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ – to know it and experience it. There’s no secret formula – we need to keep reading the Bible and praying so we may know Jesus better.

Response

Rico makes this very challenging confession

“I’ve come to see that I can have all the understanding I need, I can have a great way of explaining the gospel, I can talk the talk with other Christians, I can read (or even write) books about Evangelism...but unless I have identified and am uprooting the idols of my heart, I still won’t actually get across that painline and tell people about Jesus. And neither will you.” Rico Tice (45)

What do you think?

Prayer

Pray that God will reveal your idols and help you to love Jesus more.

WHERE ARE WE UP TO?

4

In the movie *The Gods must be crazy*, a Kalahari bushman encounters vehicles – “strange animals with round legs”. He just has no cultural reference point to understand the strange things he encounters.

What do your colleagues find strange about Christians?

BIG IDEA

Sharing Jesus in today’s culture takes time, intention, effort, and availability. It also is going to take everyday Christians helping their friends to meet Jesus by reading the Bible with them.

The shifting culture

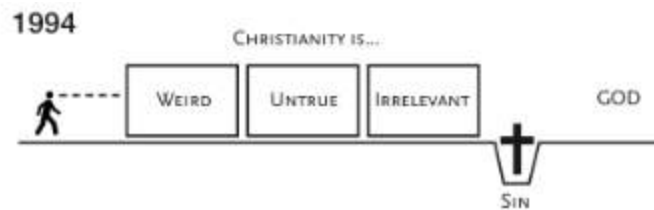
Many people in our day no longer have cultural touch points to understand Jesus. Let’s look at how western culture has changed so that people no longer understand Jesus:

In the 50s: Thousands put their faith in Jesus under the preaching of Billy Graham in the 50s. At the time people understood something about sin and Jesus. Billy explained their need to repent and people did. Some people even went to hear Billy so that they could become Christians!



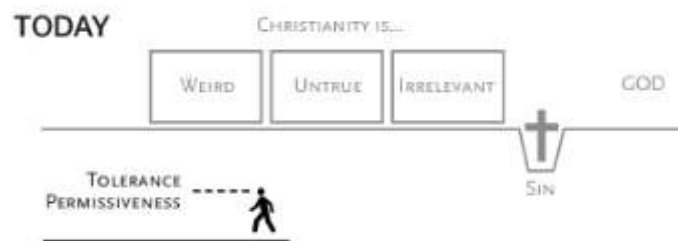
(85)

In the 90s: The children of those converted at the first crusades proved a bit harder to reach. There were significant objections to the gospel that needed to be addressed before they would give the gospel a hearing. Christianity was weird, untrue, or irrelevant.



(86)

Today: We live in a society defined by tolerance and permissiveness, people dismiss Jesus before even thinking about him – they assume Christianity is wrong, irrelevant, and intolerant. Christianity isn't even on the horizon for most people; People aren't even on the same road. So, when life goes wrong, rather than turning to Christianity for answers – Jesus isn't even an option.



(87)

Does this match your experience?

What does this mean?

Sharing Jesus today takes time and effort

So, sharing Jesus is going to take greater time and effort than it ever has. People are further away from understanding Jesus, so it takes longer to share Jesus with people. We need to journey with people further and longer. Sharing Jesus takes time and effort.

Sharing Jesus today takes you

After church and child abuse scandals, moral failure of church leaders – experts and Christian professionals are no longer trusted. Many people today don't believe the church has any answers that can help them.

Today, sharing Jesus takes **you**. Not experts, but everyday Christians like us.

But personal relationships are just the start. We want people to meet Jesus, and as earnest as we may be in following him, we are a poor image of the Lord.

So reading the Bible one to one is increasingly a key strategy in sharing Jesus today.

How do you read the Bible one-to-one?

The Word 1-to-1 is a good start.

But you can read the Bible with someone with just 3 questions (that you both can answer):

What strikes me here?

What don't I understand? What's my best guess at an answer?

What have I learned about God/Jesus today? OR

What beliefs does this challenge?

Sharing Jesus in today's culture takes time, intention, effort, and availability. We need to be people of character, conviction, competence, and courage. We need to be people of prayer. And we need to invite people to sit with us and read the Bible.

Application

With whom are you trying to build a relationship?

How are you spending your time so you can develop deeper relationships for Jesus?

Who could you ask to read the Bible with you?

What are some ways that you could invite a colleague to read the Bible with you?

Prayer

Pray for the people in your workplace, pray for an opportunity to invite someone to read the Bible with you.

BUT I'M NOT AN EVANGELIST!

5

Think about the person who led you to Christ or who was most influential in your spiritual development. **What were they like?**

BIG IDEA

We are often frightened by evangelism, but God uses each and every one of us as he has made us to reach others with the great news of Jesus.

Four very different evangelists

Let's look at some of the unique characters in the Bible and how God used them for his kingdom:

Peter

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah!" **Acts 2:36**

Peter was **confrontational**. "You killed the Christ!" Peter shot from the hip. Some people will not come to Christ unless someone confronts them. Peter, like many of the prophets before him, made people feel uncomfortable in such a way that they sought to repent and turn to trust in God.

If you see something of Peter in you, pray for wisdom, insight and sensitivity, not everyone responds well to being confronted – but for some people it's the only way to get through.

Paul

Then Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that you are extremely religious in every respect. ²³ For as I was passing through and observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. **Acts 17:22-23**

Paul's approach was **logical**. He prayerfully reasoned with people, presenting the gospel clearly and compellingly. If you are this kind of person, why not read some good books on apologetics, or maybe even some philosophy, and learn how to reason well and point people to Jesus.

Ex-blind man

"So a second time they summoned the man who had been blind and told him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner!" ²⁵ He answered, "Whether or not He's a sinner, I don't know. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I can see!" **John 9:24-25**

The ex-blind man has a powerful **testimony**. He was literally blind, but now he can see. He testifies to the power of God evident in Jesus. Many people will not respond well to confrontation or a reasoned argument, but they will hear of a personal story of transformation. Can you tell your story well?

It is worth spending the time to write your testimony down, that way you're prepared to speak about Jesus, and not just yourself, church, or even politics. You want people to hear about Jesus in your story!

Woman at the well

"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?" ³⁰ They left the town and made their way to Him. **John 4:29-30**

The woman, in John 4, who meets Jesus at the well is transformed by her encounter with him. She becomes a great **inviter**. Are you the kind of person who is always having different people over? Or perhaps you are always going out, doing different things, with different people? Are you the kind of person people just love to say “yes” to?

It could be you're a great inviter. Whether to an event where people will hear about Jesus, or to read the Bible with you and meet Jesus in its pages – can you use this God-given gift to invite people to consider Jesus?

Have one or more of these characters resonated with you? Why not ask the Lord to reveal to you which kind of person you are, and how he can use you for his kingdom?

One last word

From the start the church grew not because of exceptional individuals, but because God used all his people to declare Jesus. Early on, Peter speaks, but so too do John, and Stephen (the first martyr), Philip, Saul (who would become Paul), Barnabas, John Mark, Silas, Timothy, Priscilla, Aquila, Apollos, and many more not named.

God uses each and every one of us as he has made us to work together with the other people he has made. It could be that you are the inviter who takes a friend to another Christian who can explain Jesus in just the way your friend needs to hear. Who is more important? The inviter or the explainer? When Christ's body is working well together, God moves powerfully in his people.

Prayer

Pray for God to reveal to you how he has made you and how you can best work together with his people.

When the opportunity to speak about Jesus comes, Rico Tice – a professional evangelist says “I find that I always have the perfect answer – about two hours after the conversation...” (63)

Does that sound familiar?

**BIG
IDEA**

Sharing Jesus can be as simple as remembering WHO Jesus is, WHY Jesus came, and WHAT he calls us to do.

A simple 3 point Gospel

Rico gives us a very simple way to remember what to say in 3 points:

Identity, Mission, Call

(63)

Identity – Who Jesus is

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Mark 8:29

Can you explain who Jesus is? What is his identity?

Take a moment now to say who Jesus is.

Mission – Why Jesus came

Then He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, be killed, and rise after three days. **Mark 8:31**

Jesus had a clear mission to suffer many things, be rejected, die and rise again?
But why?

Take a moment to put into your own words why Jesus came?

Call – What does this mean for us

“If anyone wants to be My follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. **Mark 8:34**

Jesus never leaves this as information – who Jesus is and what he came to do directly impacts us – it calls us to respond.

How would you put Jesus’ call on your life in your own words?

We give up all, because we will lose everything, and have everything to gain.

Prayer

Pray for God to work in the lives of your work colleagues, pray for an opportunity to share Jesus’ identity, mission, and call.

TWO KINDS OF CHRISTIANS & THREE TRUTHS ABOUT GOD

7

What would it look like to live a truly authentic Christian life in the workplace?

How can we live like that long term?

BIG IDEA

Christians can keep their zeal for sharing Jesus if they remember three things: God is sovereign, God is gracious, and God is powerful.

Two different kinds of Christians

I wonder if these descriptions resonate with you:

1. Some Christian's life is defined by being one of Christ's ambassadors. They pray for, look for, and take opportunities share Jesus. Friends and colleagues don't only know they are a Christian, but they have been told about Christ because this person has told them.
2. Some Christians have been churchgoers for many years. They are a loving friend, spouse, parent. They read their Bible and pray. They know their doctrine, they can spot false teaching a mile out. But somehow their view of godliness has evangelism removed; it is an optional extra in the Christian life, and they have opted out. People who work with them don't know they are Christian, or see their church going as a hobby – like golf without the fresh air. (47-48)

Which describes you?

Do you long to be like #1, but often find yourself as #2?

How do we move from #2 to #1?

Three truths about God

Rico Tice tells us to remain zealous for God and for sharing Jesus, we need to remember three truths: **God is sovereign, God is gracious, God is powerful**

(48)

God is sovereign

The God who made the world and everything in it-- He is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in shrines made by hands. ²⁵ Neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one man He has made every nation of men to live all over the earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live, ²⁷ so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

Acts 17:24-27

Paul declares that God in Christ will one day judge humanity, but today you can repent and be saved. God gives life – even our next breath – and he determines the times and places that we live. Why has God done this?

Why has God put you – a Christian – into the workplace you are in?

God is gracious

For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Romans 5:10

When we first trust in Jesus, it is usually a profound experience of the grace of God. However, we become good at keeping this as head information – and not heart-transforming truth. And so we forget how much we are loved – and become fearful of what others think of us.

To what extent do you think you've let what others think of you overshadow the wonder of the grace of God and their need for God's grace too?

God is powerful

and from there to Philippi, [...] where we thought there was a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women gathered there. ¹⁴ A woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God, was listening. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ After she and her household were baptized, she urged us, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house." **Acts 16:12-15**

Paul knew that it was his job to proclaim the great news of Jesus, and it was God's job to change her heart. God is powerful to do that which we could never do – change someone's heart.

What comfort does the knowledge of God's power provide as we share Jesus?

A final word from Rico

"Our job is not to convert people. [...] You have not failed if you explain the gospel and are rejected. You have failed if you don't try." (56)

If we get these three truths in our hearts – we will get praying, we'll look for chances and even make the opportunities come by being brave and saying "I'd like to tell you about Jesus". If we get these three truths in our heads and into our hearts – we'll cross those painlines.

Prayer

Pray for God to work in your life to give you an undying zeal for Jesus.

Pray for an opportunity to share Jesus this week with a colleague.



EPT BOOKLET

CITY BIBLE FORUM BRISBANE



APPENDIX



CITY BIBLE FORUM

Ask the bigger questions

OUR VISION FOR BRISBANE

City Bible Forum has a vision to share Jesus with the city of Brisbane by empowering city workers to share Jesus in their workplace. Evangelistic prayer teams lie at the heart of this vision. EPTs are a group of God's people praying for God to work in the lives of their colleagues.

Evangelistic Prayer Teams Goals

Evangelistic prayer teams are aiming to disciple Christians in the following five areas. Prayer is at the centre of what we do.

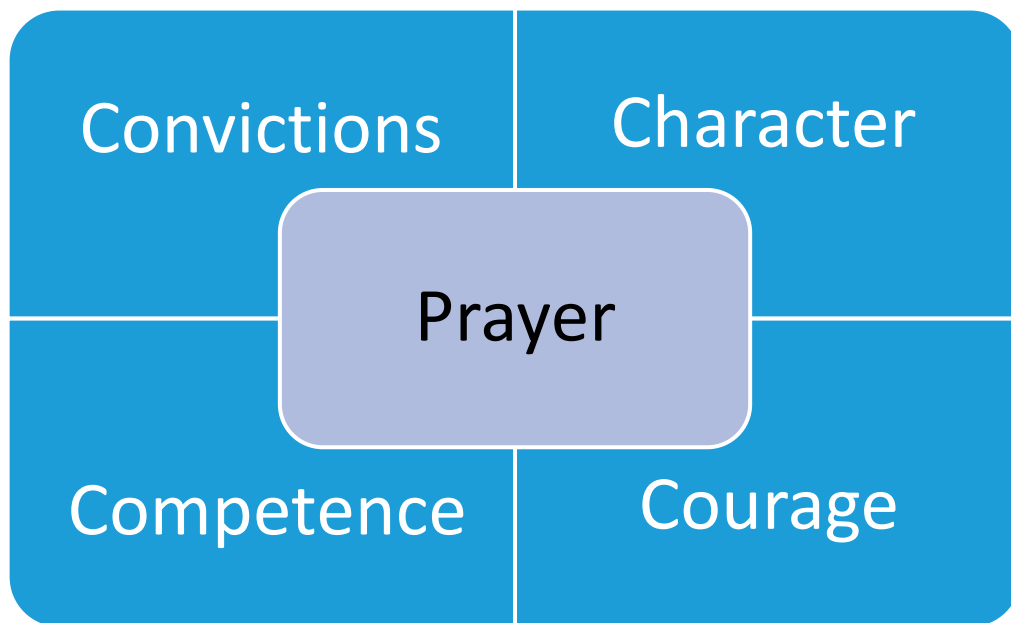


Diagram 1: shows the four components of growing your team as evangelists, undergirded by prayer

Prayer

EPTs are Evangelistic **Prayer** Teams.

We pray because evangelism is God's work from first to last; from before the foundations of the world were laid through to the death and resurrection of Jesus and into eternity. God works in our hearts and in the hearts of our colleagues, so we need to pray.

We pray because it brings joy to God our Father as we join with Him in the work closest to His heart.

We pray because sharing Jesus is hard work and we need God's strength and empowering.

Convictions

We need to be constantly convicted of the priority of sharing Jesus. Jesus' glory and the growth of God's kingdom should be foremost in our plans. We need to remind each other continually of this vital truth so we can be effective sharers of Jesus in our workplace.

Character

Our godliness is essential. If the Christian is acting in an ungodly way at work then their evangelism will not just be ineffective, it is likely to be damaging to the gospel. We want to encourage people in their godliness and service in the work place, challenging them about how they act, think, speak and lead where they work.

Competence

Some Christians would love to share the gospel with their colleagues, but they just don't know how. We want to give them some clear principles and clear methods so they can be confident to start to share what they believe about Jesus in the work place.

Courage

This is really a subset of Character but it is so essential in the workplace. There is a lot at stake in the work place in terms of career, relationships, and how we are perceived. These are important factors but they are not ultimate factors. God calls us not to be ashamed of the gospel before others and this includes those in our workplaces, even when this is costly.

Conclusion

Prayer should be at the centre of what we are doing in our EPTs. When we pray we are asking our Heavenly Father who is the creator and king of the universe to save people and to use us boldly in His saving work. With these sorts of prayers, He is well pleased.

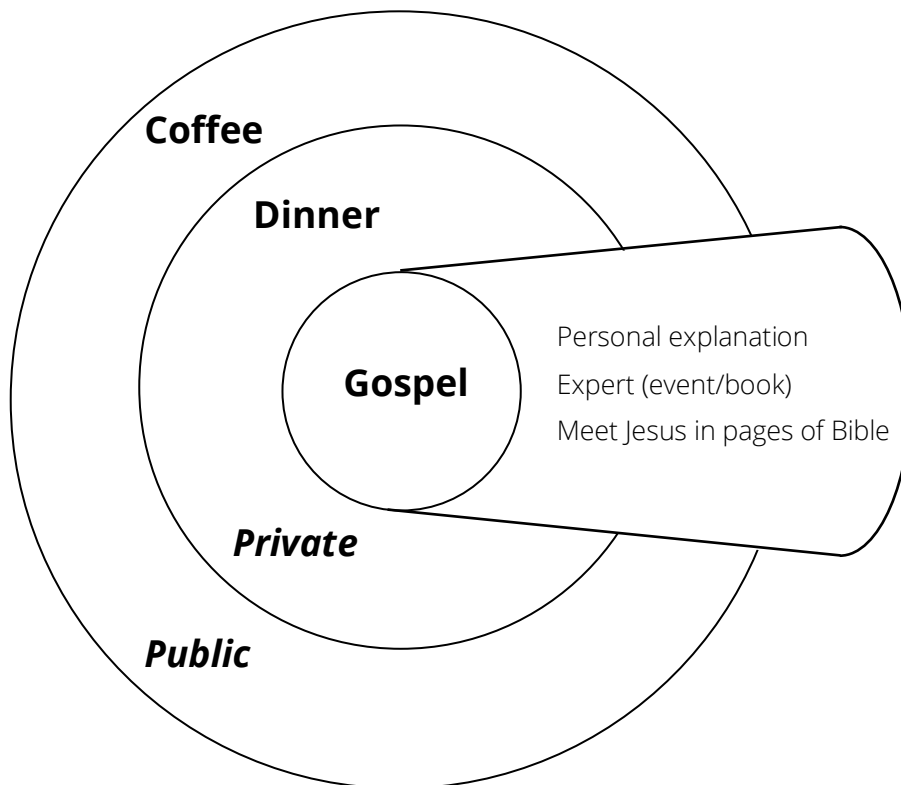
PRAYING FOR PEOPLE

The following section provides a place to write names of the people you want to pray for

City Bible Forum seeks to reach the world through the workplace with the good news of Jesus.

In our EPTs we aim to do this by prayerfully seeking to see 100 people meeting Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

It's helpful to think of how relationships in our culture work towards sharing Jesus. We use the Coffee, Dinner, Gospel schema. Think of it as concentric circles moving from the outside – who we are in public, to the inside – who we are privately. The gospel impacts us at our deepest point – our autonomy. By “gospel”, what we mean is sharing Jesus – it is a verbal message that we convey¹.



¹ The way we live our lives, the way we treat others are all important, but it is the message of Jesus that we convey verbally that is what we mean by sharing the gospel, or evangelism.

This happens in three main ways – we can personally explain in a short message (like Two ways to live or Bridge to life, or a personal testimony), involve an expert (an evangelistic event, book, church), or help them meet Jesus for themselves by reading the Bible with them (one-to-one or in a small group).

All three methods are equally valid and have their strengths. However, some work better than others in our day and age, with fewer people being familiar with the Bible or key biblical concepts, and lower levels of trust in experts (we live in the age of fake news after all).

Coffee, Dinner, Gospel could be broken down into the following steps:

COFFEE

Personal Conversation - We have shared a personal conversation.

Knows I'm a Christian - They know I'm a Christian.

Socialised - We have spent social time getting to know each other.

DINNER

World view - I know their worldview.

Bible's worldview - We have had a conversation using the Bible's point of view.

GOSPEL

Gospel - They have heard a clear presentation of the gospel.

Bible Study - They are regularly reading the Bible.

Become a Christian - They have accepted an invitation to become a Christian.

Church - They have joined a good church.

Stuck for names?

If you are stuck for people who you can pray for, consider the point of Jesus' parable of the Samaritan man. Who are we to show mercy to? To those God brings along our path – who do you need to pray for this year?

3 suggestions:

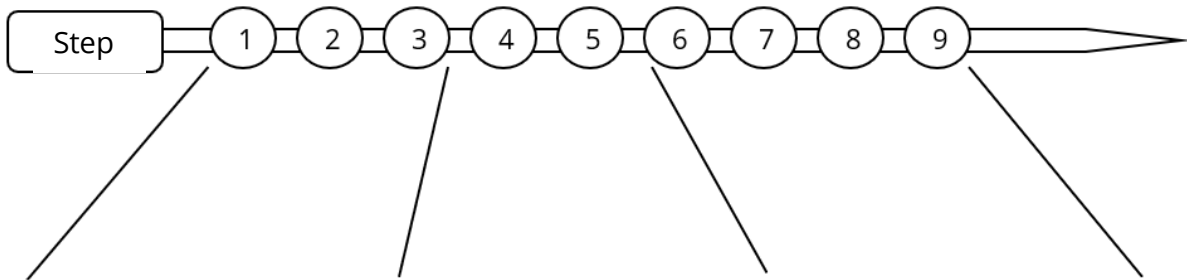
1. **Who is close to you?** Those who sit closest to you, or who you work most closely with may be a good place to start. What are their interests?
2. **Who is closest to you?** There are people in the workplace with whom we naturally click. It makes sense to develop relationships that are easiest work.
3. **Who is difficult?** There are going to be people who make work tough, they need particular prayer (and you need prayer in being godly with them too)



Why not download Prayer Team from Google Play or Prayermate from Appstore or Google Play to help keep track of your EPT's prayer points



Remember to pray for the next relational step



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