

TERM 4 2019



EVANGELISTIC  
**PRAYER**  
TEAM  
**BOOKLET**



**CITY BIBLE  
FORUM+**

Ask the bigger questions

# TERM 4 CONTENTS



**THE GRACE OF GIVING**



**GETTING AHEAD IN THE CITY**



**REFLECTION**

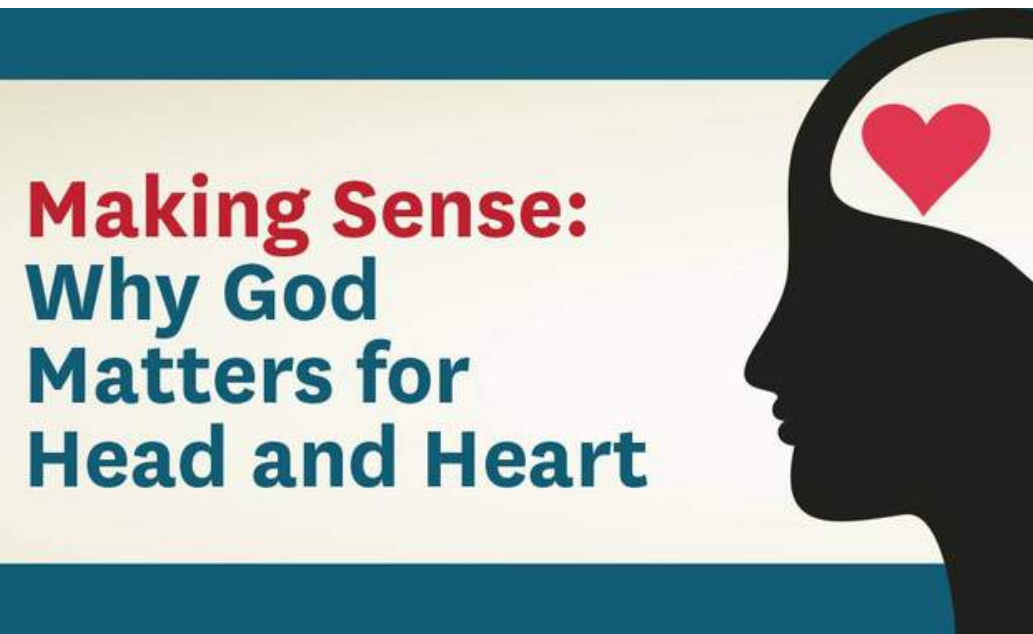


**VISION FOR BRISBANE**



**TAKE THE NEXT RELATIONAL STEP**

# Highlights for events semester 2



**John Dickson**  
New Life Uniting,  
Albert St  
31 July

**Mark Gilbert**

**Catholic discipleship:  
How to talk with  
your Catholic  
colleagues  
about Jesus**

**22-23 August**



**Celebration  
dinner**

**17 October**



# THE GRACE OF GIVING





## THE GRACE OF GIVING



### WHAT'S INSIDE

Generosity doesn't just happen - it is a gift of God. This short study explores how God provides for his church and the building of his kingdom through the generosity of his people as he lavishes his gifts upon us.

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®  
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### HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES



These studies are short modules to help workers 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.

# THE GRACE OF GIVING

**Australians on average give less 0.4% of their income to charity. Only 60% of Australians make a gift to charity, and of those earning in excess of \$1 million, 43% give nothing.<sup>1</sup> If Australia is the lucky country, it's certainly not the generous one. Do you think generosity is a valued virtue in Australia?**

## BIG IDEA

Generosity that gives to the kingdom of God is not an innate attribute but comes as a gift of God. We should see giving as a privilege as we join with God and his people in building his kingdom.

## From the Bible

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup>In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup>For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup>they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. <sup>5</sup>And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. <sup>6</sup>So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. <sup>7</sup>But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. **2 Corinthians 8:1-7**

What makes some people generous and others less so?

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<sup>1</sup> Roy Morgan research report "Slowdown in giving to charity a major issue" Feb 22 2019 - <http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/7885-slowdown-in-giving-to-charity-a-major-issue-201902212238> and Koda research report "A snapshot of Australian Giving" - [https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource\\_document/koda-capital\\_snapshot-of-australian-giving-2018.pdf](https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource_document/koda-capital_snapshot-of-australian-giving-2018.pdf)

## Key Truths

1. Extraordinary generosity is a gift of God. The Macedonian churches demonstrated rich generosity in the face of severe trial and extreme poverty as an overflowing of their joy.
2. The Macedonians gave beyond their ability, pleading for the privilege of sharing with their brothers and sisters abroad.
3. By the grace of God we can excel in fruitfulness; in faith, speech, knowledge, diligence and in love. We can also excel in giving generously by the grace of God.
4. The grace of God enables us to give generously for the good of God's people. Only by the grace of God can we ever hope to give generously.

## Application

We tend to break up ways of showing fruit into those areas that are a privilege (speaking, leading, etc) and those that are a chore (cleaning the toilets, doing the accounts etc) {though maybe for you those lists might swap}. Does giving generously for the good of God's people and for the kingdom fill you with joy or make you groan? Is it a joy or chore?

When requests for financial support come do you groan or cheer?

Do you find yourself spiritually giving yourself a pat on the back when you give?

When we give, we can quickly forget that it's actually God working his grace in us.

What difference does it make when we remember this important fact?

## Supporting to City Bible Forum

City Bible Forum relies on the generosity of God through his people. Giving to City Bible Forum can be an opportunity to joyfully live out the grace God has lavished upon us.

There are many great things for Christians to support: local church, overseas missions, the poor. But have you considered regularly supporting to City Bible Forum?

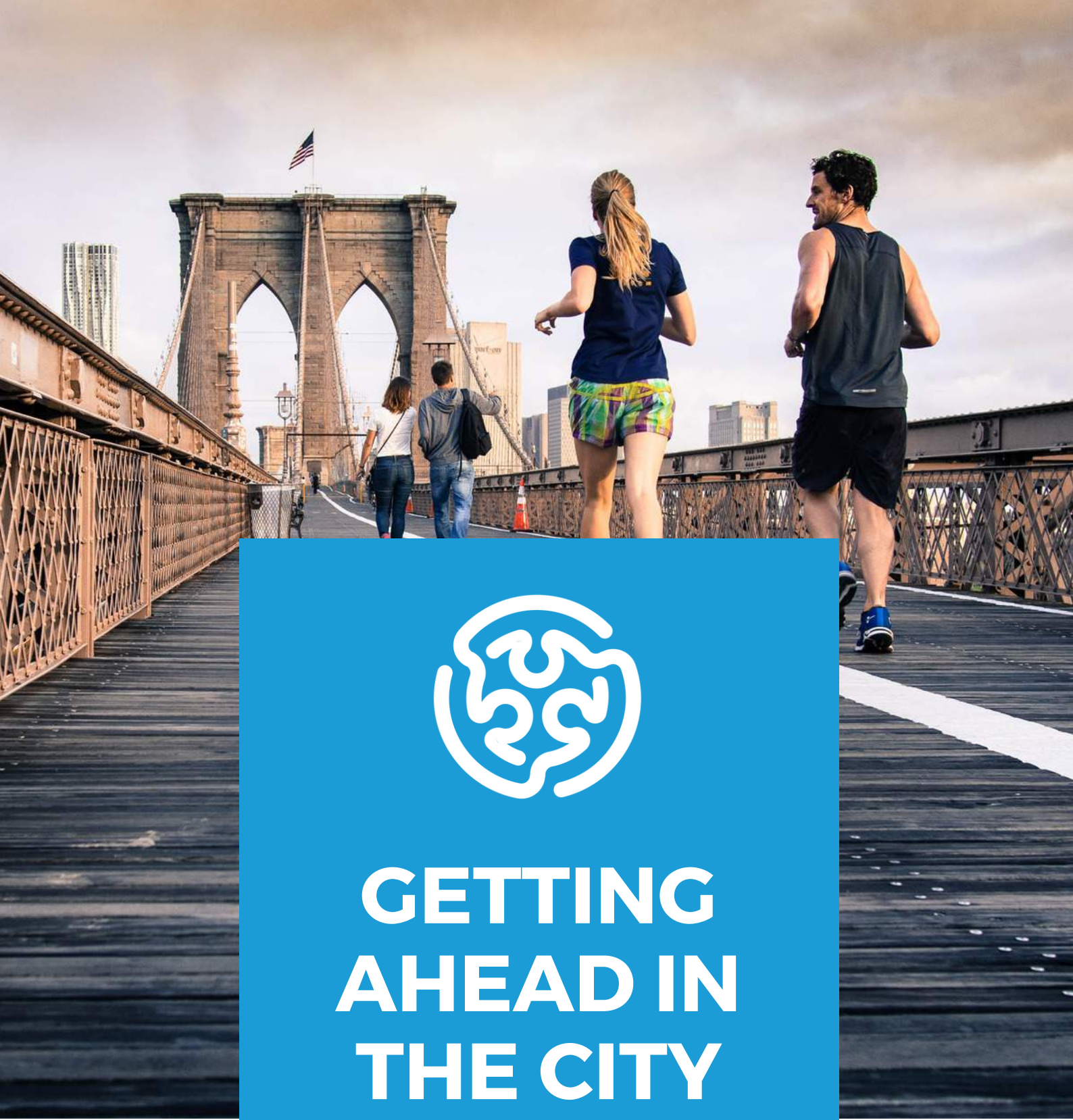
Maybe you're short on cash but can give in other ways. People have supported City Bible Forum through many creative ways in the past. There have been Jazz nights, cocktail banquets, hosted dinners, canoe adventures, bike rides, mentoring sessions... could you organise a fundraiser for City Bible Forum?

## Prayer

Pray for joyful generous hearts.

Pray for the finances of City Bible Forum, that God would provide for us so we can continue to reach the world through the workplace with the good news about Jesus.





# GETTING AHEAD IN THE CITY





## GETTING AHEAD IN THE CITY



## WHAT'S INSIDE

Working as a Christian is not straight forward. We often have competing priorities, values, and cultures buffeting us as we navigate our careers. Here are four studies from Philippians that explore the apostle Paul's life goals and instruction about how to live as a Christian.

## STUDIES

Life goals

Risky business

Not sinning and a whole lot more

Getting ahead in the city

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## HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES



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**If you aim for nothing, you will surely hit it!**

**What are the life goals of your work colleagues?**

**What are your life goals?**

**BIG  
IDEA**

The apostle Paul's hope and goal in life is *to live is Christ and to die is gain*. That is, Jesus is the definition and purpose of life.

## From the Bible

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup> for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> *I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.* <sup>21</sup> *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.* <sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

**Philippians 1:18-25**

What is Paul's greatest desire?

## Key Truths

1. Paul has no fear of being in gaol. Paul looks forward to bringing glory to Jesus, even if it means Paul's death. To live is Christ, to die is gain.
2. Paul's existence *is* Jesus. Jesus is the definition and purpose of his life – his life goal.
3. Paul's goal is in everything, even his death, is to exalt Jesus – he lives out the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:33 – 'Seek first the kingdom of God.' Elevating Jesus' reputation – declaring his greatness - is priority 1, 2 & 3.
4. If Paul were to die, it would be gain, not loss – for he would be with Jesus.

## Application

If all our life was about declaring how great Jesus is, what might be different?

How would work be different if our life goal was to exalt Jesus in everything?

## Prayer

Pray that exalting Jesus would be our top priority.

Pray for each other that you would in no way bring shame to Jesus while you work.

Pray for that next step for our colleagues seeing the greatness of Jesus.

**What is your biggest fear?**

**What is the worst thing that could happen to you for being a Christian?**

**BIG  
IDEA**

Paul has risked everything because the most important thing for him is that Christ is preached, and so he rejoices in chains.

### From the Bible

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. <sup>15</sup> It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup> The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup> *But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.*

**Philippians 1:12-18**

How does Paul's attitude demonstrate his priorities?

### Key Truths

1. Paul is in chains in gaol for preaching about Jesus. Imagine that! Chains around your wrists or ankles. Paul has taken a risk.
2. And yet Paul rejoices! Is he crazy? Is he nuts?
3. Paul rejoices because Christ is the most important thing in the world. And preaching Christ is therefore the most important thing and so he rejoices in his chains.
4. Paul is prepared to risk everything. Being a Christian is risky business.

## Application

How important is it to you that others hear about Jesus?

How much are you willing to risk for others to hear about Jesus?  
(Your income? Your job? Your reputation?)

What risks are you taking (or could take)?

## Prayer

Pray for God to give you a heart to risk things for him and a confidence in him that he is in control when we suffer consequences for speaking about Jesus.

Pray that we would rejoice to suffer hardship because we have shared about Jesus.

Pray you would take the relational risk of taking the next step towards inviting a colleague to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

## NOT SINNING AND A WHOLE LOT MORE

# 3

**What are the top 3 things you would tell a new believer about living the Christian life?**

### **BIG IDEA**

The Christian life is about contending together for the gospel of Jesus; it is suffering for Jesus – and not sinning while we suffer.

### From the Bible

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved-- and that by God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

**Philippians 1:27-30**

What does suffering without fear show to those who oppose us?

### Key Truths:

1. God grants to the Philippians to believe in Jesus, and to suffer for him. This means suffering isn't outside of God's control.
2. Suffering is an intrinsic part of being a Christian. Remember the words of Jesus, "No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also." (John 15:20)
3. We tend to have this default view that being a Christian is about being nice and not sinning, but it's bigger than that – we need to be prepared to suffer and contend for the gospel together – and not sin while we suffer.

## Application

Why do so few Christians in Australia suffer for belonging to Jesus in our culture?

What actions in your workplace do you think would bring glory to Jesus, but might also result in suffering?

What does it mean for you that God is in control even through suffering?

## Prayer

Pray that we would have the courage to embrace suffering if it brings glory to Jesus.

Pray that you would be aware when you make decisions in order to avoid suffering.

Pray that you would have courage to risk suffering in order to go the next step with your colleagues for them to know Jesus.



**What is the best advice you've heard for getting ahead in the workplace?  
How do your colleagues try to get ahead in the workplace?**

**BIG  
IDEA**

The core of true leadership in God's world is service, and so the way to get ahead in God's world is to serve people; to put their needs ahead of our own.

### From the Bible

*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,* <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. **Philippians 2:1-5**

What does it mean to consider others better than yourself?

### Key Truths:

1. The 4 "if any" qualifiers are essentially describing our relationship, but are designed to draw us into a deeper connection to the implication of having such an incredible bond in Jesus...
2. If you have benefited from being in Christ, then consider others needs over your own in humility – this is what Jesus has done for us.
3. We all by nature consider our own interests first, but Paul wants us to overcome our broken nature and put others ahead of ourselves. We need to get ahead by getting behind others.

## Application

Usually in the workplace people will help each other out as long as it benefits them or the particular project they're working on. Rarely will people take a genuine interest in the lives of others. Have you experienced someone who has?  
How were they perceived?

How could you benefit those with whom you work for their good?

Are there areas in your life where you need to put the interests of others before your own?

## Prayer

Pray God would grant you the humility to put the needs of others before your own.

Pray God would grant you the wisdom not to fear exploitation as you get behind others.

Pray for one colleague who you can get behind this week.



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City Bible Forum, Brisbane ©2019



# THANK GOD FOR ALL HE'S DONE

**It's time to reflect over everything God has been doing this year.**

Think back over the year – look at your prayer notes  
What has God done in our lives this year?

## Reflect

What has God been teaching you this year?

Where and how have you seen God working?

With whom have you seen significant progress in relationship?

Who has begun meeting Jesus?

## Share

Share with the team a difficulty or challenge God has brought you through

Share with the team an answer to prayer you have seen.

## Pray

Thank God for answered prayer

Thank God for his presence in the city and at work

Thank God for how he has worked this year and displayed his glory

Pray for your colleagues – that even now God would reveal himself to them

## Celebrate

If you haven't already done so, it would be a great idea to have a meal together to finish up your year.

## 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.

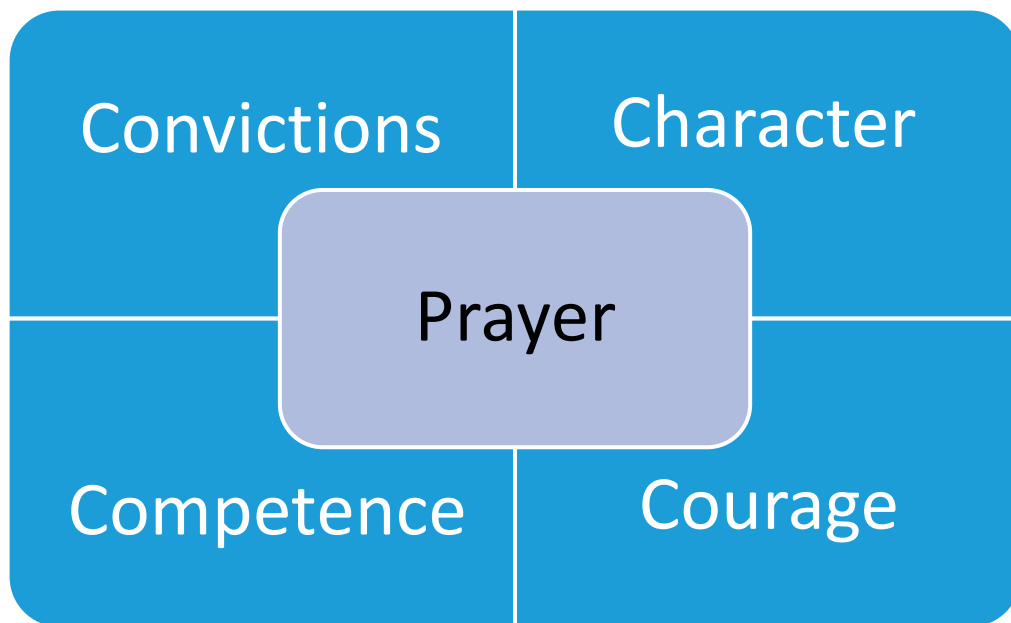


Diagram 1: shows the four components of growing your team as evangelists, undergirded by prayer

### 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.

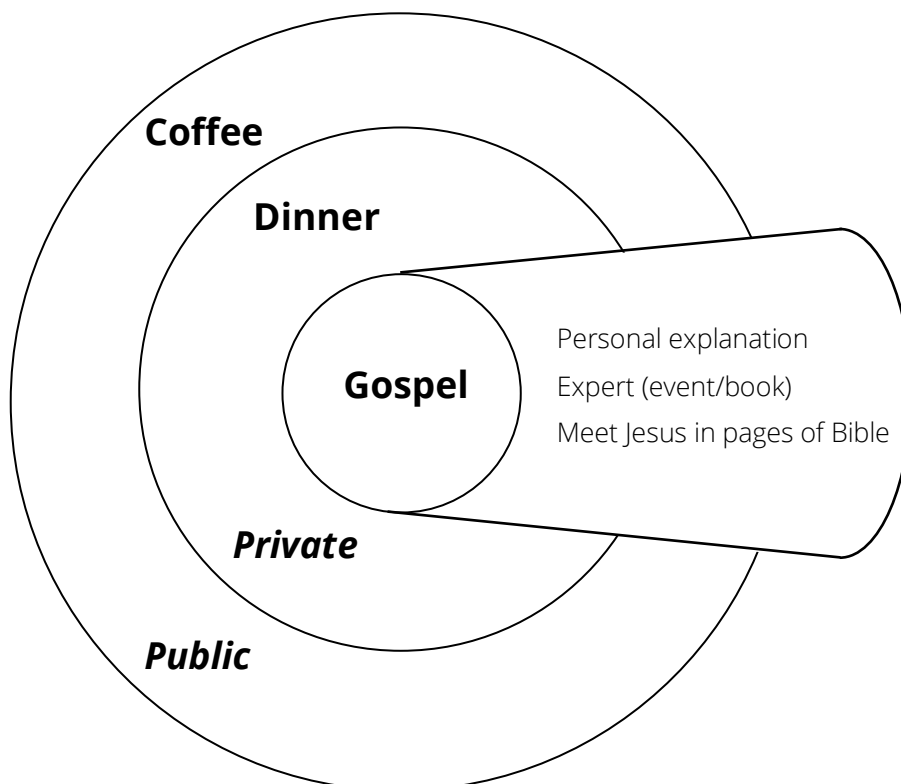
# PRAYING FOR PEOPLE

*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 convey<sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> 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:

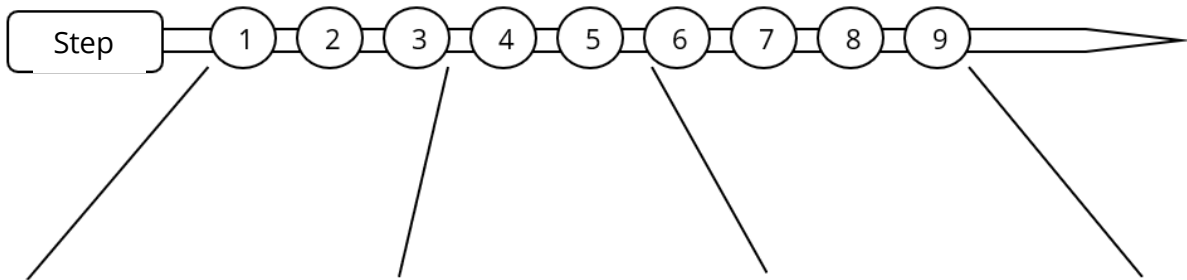
1. **Who is close to you?** Those who sit closest to you, or who you work most closely with may be a good place to start. What are their interests?
2. **Who is closest to you?** There are people in the workplace with whom we naturally click. It makes sense to develop relationships that are easiest work.
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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