

TERM 1 2020



EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAM
BOOKLET



**CITY BIBLE
FORUM+**
Ask the bigger questions



EVANGELISTIC PRAYER TEAM

Vision: to reach the world through the work place with the good news about Jesus

Aim: 1000 people across Australia meeting Jesus in the pages of the Bible

EPTs seek to gather Christian workers across our cities to **encourage** one another in our **CONVICTION**, **CHARACTER**, **COMPETENCE**, and **COURAGE** so we all can share Jesus with our colleagues and to **pray** for each other that God may work in their lives to see Jesus known.

Remember as you pray:

Coffee



Dinner



Gospel





GOD AT WORK



**CITY BIBLE
FORUM+**



**GOD AT
WORK**



WHAT'S INSIDE

These studies help Christians think about why and how to share Jesus in their workplace

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.

What is our main objective as Christians when it comes to work?

BIG IDEA

Living the Christian life always pushes us out of ourselves and towards loving God and others.

From the Bible

While you read – How would you sum up God's commands to his people?

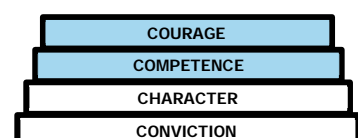
One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:35-40

Key Truths

1. When asked to name the greatest commandment, Jesus can't stop at one, he gives the top two – Love God with everything, and love others as yourself. These two form the foundation for the whole law!
2. These two commandments have one thing in common – it is love that is directed outward, rather than inward.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

“The people you work with are people you were just thrown together with. You don’t know them. It wasn’t your choice. Yet you spend more time with them than you do friends or family. But probably all you’ve got in common is that you walk on the same bit of carpet for eight hours a day.” (Tim Canterbury, *The Office*)

The workplace can be a place of great comradeship or cold indifference. When we decide to view people from a standpoint of love, and not purely for their usefulness to our work tasks, it makes a difference. When we push further and learn more about our colleagues, it enables us to love them better.

How could you demonstrate love in your workplace this week?

Prayer

In the end, the greatest way we can love our colleagues is to tell them about Jesus. Yet often it can feel like a real obstacle to introduce Jesus into our work relationships.

Pray you would show real love for God and for your colleagues this week at work.

Pray for that next step for our colleagues meeting Jesus.

Remember as you pray:



Coffee



Dinner



Gospel

What's the point of work? Making money? Finding our purpose? Meaning?

**BIG
IDEA**

God's purposes for work are to serve others and to enable us to worship him with all our heart, soul, and mind.

From the Bible

While you read – what is the purpose of work?

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. ²By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Genesis 2:1-3

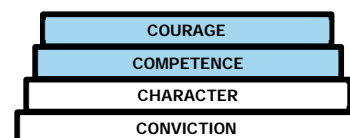
Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-39



Key Truths

1. If we are in God's image, we are made to lovingly rule creation, to bring order out of chaos, to produce fruit and benefit for creation and for others.
2. All of life is to be lived as an act of worship and God's greatest commandments are to love God and love others. Thus, work is about worshipping God, and loving and serving others.
3. However, the fall has frustrated our work, and sometimes our work is fruitless. Further, our ambition to make a name for ourselves, or to seek security through our work – rather than from God – means our motivation to work is skewed.
4. The loving rule humanity was supposed to exercise ultimately was fulfilled in Jesus. He healed the sick, calmed the storm, and overcame Satan. He had compassion for others and ultimately sought God's glory through his work. (see Hebrews 2:5-9)

Thoughts? Questions?

Application

While you read – How can we worship God and serve others in our work?

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:22-24

How can you encourage an other-person focus in your work life and industry more widely?

Prayer

Pray you would seek God's glory in your work in everything you do.

Pray you would seek the good of others in your work – client, boss, co-worker, stakeholders etc.

Remember as you pray:



Coffee



Dinner



Gospel

“Work becomes the defining activity of man: a human being who does not work is not merely poor – without income – but impoverished, in that he cannot realise his potential and his purpose on Earth...In the [traditional] worldview, work was considered to be a defect, a servile activity...In the modern world-view, it becomes an arena for self-realisation, a means not merely of educating oneself but also of fulfilment and improvement”.

Philosopher Luc Ferry (*A brief history of thought*, 126-127)

Why do you think work is so important in the 21st Century in the West?

BIG IDEA

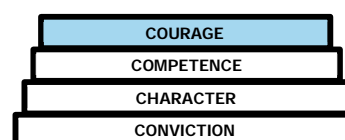
God’s work expresses his identity. And our work expresses our identity, but when we make work a *source* of our identity – things get skewed.

From the Bible

While you read – what has changed for us because of Jesus?

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:5-11



Key Truths

1. God's work in creation displays something of who he is; however God's work in salvation ultimately expresses who he is.
2. Our identity is changed because of Jesus. Our old self is gone, the new one has a brand new life. So now our new identity in Christ is expressed through our work.
3. But when work is a *source* of our identity in our work, we run into trouble. Work was never meant to be the basis of our identity.

Thoughts? Questions?

Application

Imagine the witness it would be if your colleagues saw that you are free not to worry about building your identity through your work. What would that look like?

How might it change how you handle criticism?

How might it change how you can celebrate the success of others?

Prayer

Pray that God would grant you to see your identity in Jesus and how you can express that identity through your work.

Pray that you could see the good in others and celebrate their successes.

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

Remember as you pray:



Coffee



Dinner



Gospel

Think about the people in your workplace. How would you describe each of your colleagues in a few words?

How do you think they would describe you?

**BIG
IDEA**

Trusting in Jesus at work means we can be public about our faith with confidence even in a hostile situation.

From the Bible

While you read – what is the basis for Daniel's promotion?

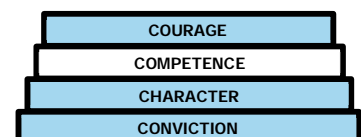
Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."

Daniel 6:3-5

Key Truths

1. Daniel's colleagues testify to Daniel's faith and to his integrity. But they also know that Daniel is faithful to God first – so they plot to exploit that against him.
2. Daniel is exceptional; his distinguishing qualities are God given.
3. Daniel has not hidden his faith in the midst of the hostile, pagan Babylonian kingdom. He doesn't keep quiet in the hope he'll advance to a position of influence when he can be more open about being a follower of God. Instead Daniel puts God first – even if it threatens his safety.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Daniel is a public and zealous follower of God. His work is excellent, and his character above reproach. The only way his enemies know they can trap him is by using God's laws against him. Imagine the only thing someone could mark you down on is your devotion to God?

Is your faith in Jesus as public as Daniel's?

Is honouring Jesus your first priority above everything else?

How might you start being a more public Christian?

(Remember, if you have the Spirit of God working in you, you can work with excellence)

Prayer

Pray your trust in Jesus would be common knowledge in your workplace. (and that it would be a positive)

Pray you would trust God in being public about being a Christian.

Pray for that next step for our colleagues meeting Jesus.

Remember as you pray:



Coffee



Dinner



Gospel

Which is easier to do, name 10 people in your street, or 10 people you know through work?

**BIG
IDEA**

Great evangelism flows out of an expression of love for our neighbour – it means building an extra dimension in our relationships with our colleagues.

From the Bible

While you read – who are our neighbours?

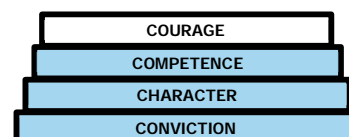
In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii^[a] 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.’

³⁶“Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:30-37



Key Truths

1. The second greatest commandment is to love our neighbour as ourselves. Who is our neighbour? Jesus' story highlights the Samaritan man acted as a neighbour to the bashed man. So, a neighbour is the person God puts in our path – even if we don't like them, or if they are an enemy! (and both is true between Samaritans and Israelites)
2. Our work colleagues, however we feel about them, are our neighbours – they are the people God has brought across our path.
3. Most people don't turn up to work looking like they've been beaten up, but many may be emotionally beaten up. What's more, most people in our workplace are spiritually dead, in danger of God's wrath. Loving our neighbours will include caring for their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Thoughts? Questions?

Application

How do you view your colleagues? Are they your competitors? Are they functional helps (or hinderances) to your work goals? Is it Kim from accounts or Kim the tea-enthusiast? Loving God and loving your neighbour starts with viewing them as people in God's image, worthy of our love and concern.

Our workplaces are places of high-performance, where everyone seems to have it all together. But for most people there is a thin veneer of competence covering fears of being found out in one or more area of their life. However, we can't love people effectively unless we know them well – and they trust us enough to be vulnerable with us. We need to add an extra dimension to our relationship if we are to love our colleagues.

If we are to penetrate the corporate veil, we need to model openness and vulnerability, as well as invest time and resources into getting to know our colleagues. Loving our colleagues involves a sacrifice of time, inconvenience, patience, perseverance, and even money. We need to foster hospitality at work – after dinner drinks might be a good start; what other ways can you start spending social time with your colleagues?

Prayer

Pray for that next step in developing an extra dimension in our relationship with work colleagues.

Remember as you pray:



Coffee



Dinner



Gospel

“Prayer is not a support activity to mission. Prayer is itself a frontline missionary activity”¹

What do you think?

**BIG
IDEA**

God is the one who ultimately changes hearts and minds, so we need to ask him to give people new spiritual life. Prayer is central to our workplace witness.

From the Bible

While you read – what are we being asked to pray for?

He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Luke 10:2

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured, just as it was with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:1

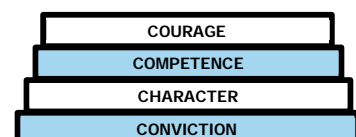
Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

Acts 4:29

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Ephesians 6:19-20

¹ Tim Chester & Steve Timmis, Everyday Church, p174.



The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6

Key Truths

1. Jesus commands us to pray specifically about evangelism, Paul also has a pattern of asking for prayer to accompany his missionary work.
2. Christians should pray for God to give us boldness and opportunities to speak.
3. God is the one who ultimately changes hearts and minds, so we need to ask him to give people new spiritual life.

Thoughts? Questions?

Application

What do you think keeps you from praying for your colleagues?

What do you pray for?

Prayer

Pray for that next step for our colleagues meeting Jesus.

Remember as you pray:



Coffee



Dinner



Gospel

While we like to think of ourselves as an egalitarian society, Australia still has a number of unequal relationships in the workplace. Think about the relationships you are in where there is a power imbalance.

How might sharing Jesus be different in that context than with a peer?

BIG IDEA

In unequal relationships our actions need to speak, but it is the word of God that saves.

From the Bible

While you read – how should we live in an unequal relationship?

Let's take an example of an unequal relationship:

Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, ²when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

1 Peter 3:1-2

What is the word and how are we born again?

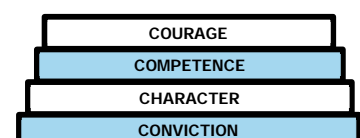
For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:23-25

How shall we live?

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:12



Key Truths

1. Before we consider unequal relationships in the workplace, let's have a look at the example of unequal relationships of husbands and wives in Peter's context.
2. Wives are to win their husbands without a word. Is this "preach the gospel at all times and if necessary use words"? No, we are born again by the word of God – the good news preached to us. Notice the husband isn't completely ignorant – he does "not believe the word". At some point the husband has heard the word - the gospel of Jesus. So, the wives are to now commend that word by their good behaviour.
3. In an unequal relationship in the workplace, once the other knows you are a Christian, the way you live your life needs to back up your words.

Thoughts? Questions?

Application

So, when it comes to sharing Jesus in an unequal relationship, we could keep quiet about being Christian and just live such good lives that our colleagues guess it has something to do with Jesus. Not only is this highly optimistic, it's not what the passage is saying (though it is how many Christians try to live). Instead our words need to make clear that our lives are different because we are Christian.

Think about your unequal relationships. What will be different about how you share Jesus? How does this change how we pray for people in our workplace?

We can get caught up in the idea that it needs to be us who evangelises our friends and colleagues – but maybe for some people it is better they hear from someone else – maybe we should pray God would bring that someone else into their life, while we show with our actions that Jesus really does make a difference.

Prayer

Pray for unequal relationships. Pray for opportunities to be clear about being Christian and for a clearly attractive life to match it.

Pray for that next step for our colleagues meeting Jesus.

Handy tip for young professionals

The sooner you share that you are a Christian, the easier it is.

Whenever you start in a new place or a new team, make it your aim to mention you are a Christian inside the first week. From then on your behaviour will be on display. Most people assume young workers know nothing about life. But you can change their minds by living a consistent, attractive, godly life. In the meantime, you don't have to be the only Christian your superior ever knows. Why not pray for a Christian peer to meet your superior?

How might you let a superior know that you are a Christian?

Handy tip for managers

One head of a government department shared that he felt quite constrained in any kind of religious dialogue with his department – because everyone was under his authority. His solution was ingenious.

He invited everyone in his department – in groups of six and in arbitrary order – to have a morning tea with him in his office. He would ask everyone what their father believed (among other things), and then would ask if they hold similar views. Everyone would share, and then he would share. It served as a good way of getting to know his staff, and provided them access to himself, and a way to share his testimony with the whole department. Could you do something similar with your team?

Remember as you pray:



Coffee



Dinner



Gospel

When we compare yourself to your unbelieving colleagues, do you sometimes feel like you're missing out? Do you sometimes think their lives might be easier or better without Christ?

**BIG
IDEA**

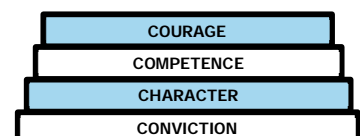
In Jesus we've got more than we could possibly imagine or understand. Bestowed upon us is every spiritual blessing that exists.

From the Bible

While you read – what are the blessings of being a Christian?

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:3-6



Key Truths

1. In Jesus, we have every spiritual blessing there is.
2. Our blessings in Christ include:
 - a. though we are sinful and wicked people, we are now, because of Jesus, considered holy and blameless before our Holy God
 - b. we are adopted into God's very family – we can call God, "Father" and Jesus, "brother"
3. Our blessings in Jesus should create incredible thankfulness to God in our hearts and fuel our prayers.

Thoughts? Questions?

Application

Our times of prayer can be dominated by asking for things. How much does thankfulness to God for what he has done in Jesus shape our prayer lives?

What can you be thankful for this week?

Prayer

Pray with thankfulness for our many blessings through Jesus.

Pray for that next step for our colleagues meeting Jesus.

Remember as you pray:



Coffee



Dinner



Gospel

OUR VISION FOR AUSTRALIA

City Bible Forum has a vision to share Jesus with the world 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.

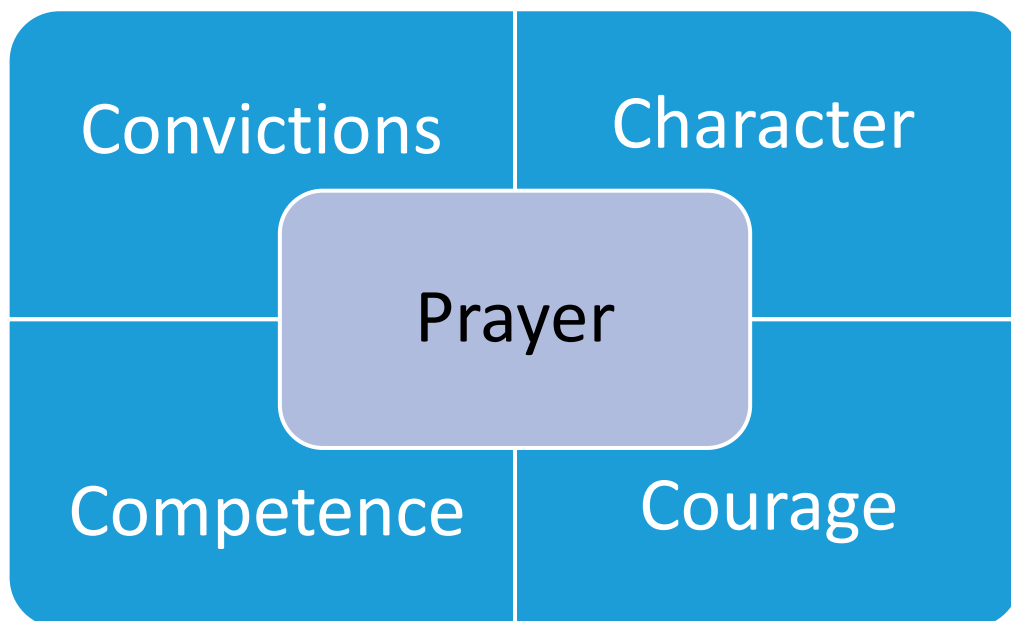


Diagram 1: shows the four components of growing your team as evangelists, undergirded by prayer

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.

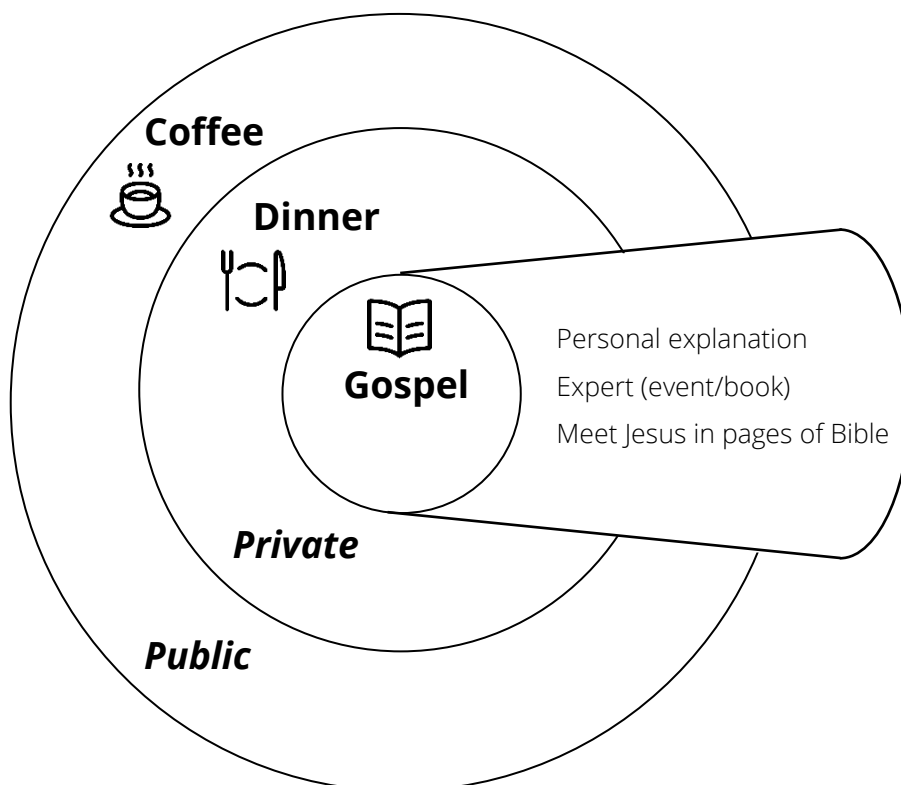
PRAYING FOR PEOPLE

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:

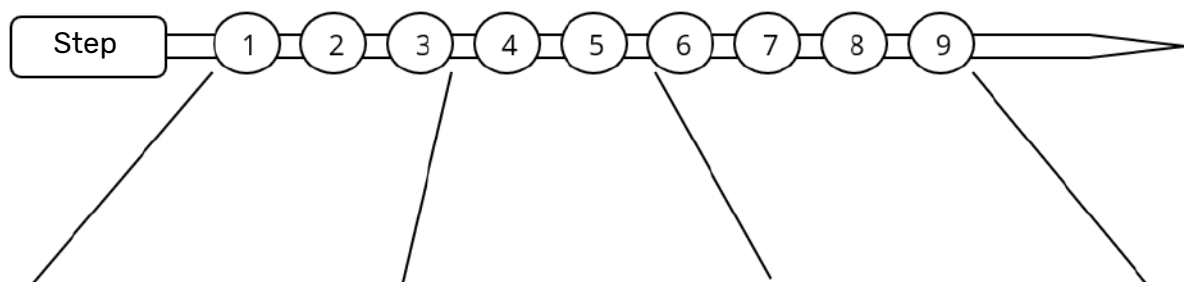
1. **Who is close to you?** Those who sit closest to you, or who you work most closely with may be a good place to start. What are their interests?
2. **Who is closest to you?** There are people in the workplace with whom we naturally click. It makes sense to develop relationships that are easiest work.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



Coffee 	Dinner 	Gospel 