



PRAYING TOGETHER

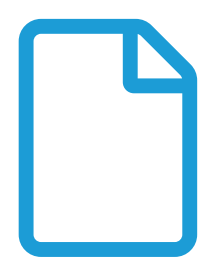


EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAM



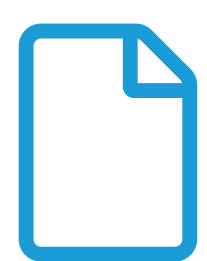
PRAYING TOGETHER

Course Overview



Course Summary

This study looks at how Prayer is vital for our workplace evangelism.



Course Structure

1: GOD'S VISION

2: THE BEST THING WE CAN DO!

3: GOD IS WORKING

4: GOD CHANGES HEARTS



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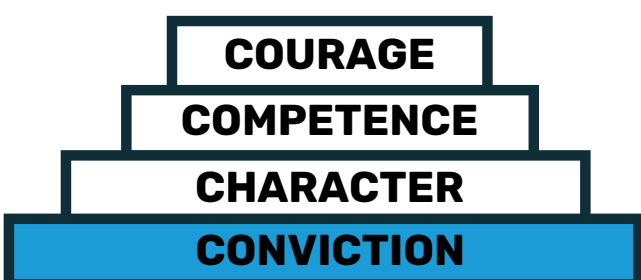
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PRAYING TOGETHER

1. GOD'S VISION



Introduction

Vision is a vital aspect of any venture. A clear vision helps us discriminate between the good and the essential. Coke’s vision is “refresh the world”, Disney’s is “make people happy”. What is your company’s vision?



Big Picture

God’s vision is to bring every part of creation together under Jesus’ rule.



Bible Passage

While you read – What is God's purpose for all of creation?

With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he (God) made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1:8-10



Key Truths

1. Everything in all of creation, throughout all of history has a single, stunning focus in God's mind – that everything everywhere is under Jesus' rule.
2. God's plan from 'before the creation of the world' (v4) to enact his vision is revealed to us in Jesus in the gospel.
3. The centre of God's vision is Jesus' rule, there's nothing more important.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

There are so many things we can devote our lives to: improving the lives of others through practical help, building better systems, releasing capital for vital projects, loving and caring for family and the unloved. These are all good things. But vision is about discriminating between good and essential. In God's plan, there's only one focus – that Jesus is Lord of all.

Our lives need to align with God's vision. So if Jesus is to be the Lord in your workplace, those who aren't followers of Jesus need to follow him. They need to meet him and submit to his rule. Who will you invite to meet Jesus this year?



Prayer

Who are the people you know who don't know Jesus as their lord? Would you commit to pray for them this year?

You may like to write their names – and the names of others in your team – into an app like Prayermate so you can pray for them through the week.

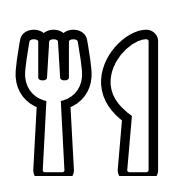
Pray for each other's people.

Remember

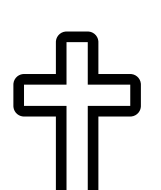
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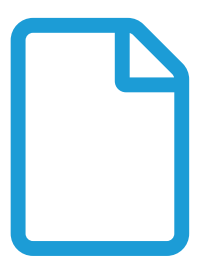
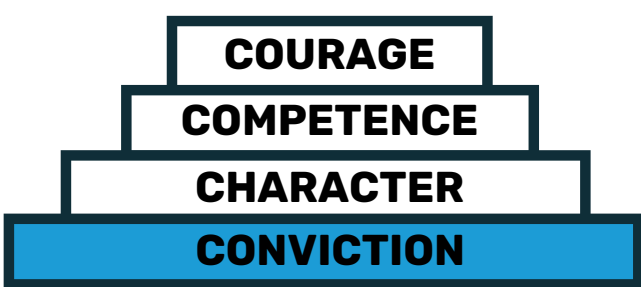
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PRAYING TOGETHER

2. THE BEST THING WE CAN DO!



Introduction

Think through your team at work. How many are Christian? How far do they seem from the Lord? What would it take for them to come to trust in Jesus?

If you're like most Christians, you're probably wondering what you might need to do this year if you are to share Jesus with your team. But consider these words from Martin Luther:

"Work, work from early until late. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

How do Luther's words resonate with you?



Big Picture

While God calls us to share the good news of Jesus with those around us, only he is able to change hearts and draw people to himself. We must pray to God, the great evangelist.



Bible Passage

While you read – How can people come to God?

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day."⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.'[d] Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me."⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father."⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.

John 6:44-47



Key Truths

1. Just as no one can see God unless they meet him in Jesus, so no one can come to Jesus unless God draws them. Our friends becoming Christians is not about us winning an argument, being a fantastic people-person, or having a really deep relationship with people. Evangelism is a spiritual activity.
2. If people can only come to the Father through Jesus, then sharing our faith needs to focus on people meeting Jesus. The best way to meet Jesus is by reading a Gospel – that's why we seek to help our friends meet Jesus with us by reading through a Gospel with them.
3. If people only come to Jesus if the Father draws them to him, then we need to pray. We need to come before God and ask his mercy on our friends and colleagues.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

The name “Evangelistic Prayer Team” is no accident. Prayer is at the heart of the mission in our workplaces. As we pray for friends and colleagues, we are inviting God to work in their hearts, to draw them to him. We are offering ourselves as servants of his mission – to see his kingdom grow with those he has entrusted to us.

Think of the people in your team, or those with whom you have a relationship because of work. Spend some time writing down names of people for whom you could pray this year. Maybe enter them into an app like PrayerMate to remind you to pray for them.



Prayer

Share with each other 3-5 people you would like to pray for this year.

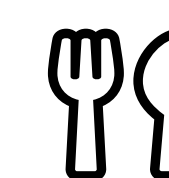
Spend some time praying for each one. Ask God to reveal what might be the next step for them to come to know Jesus.

Remember

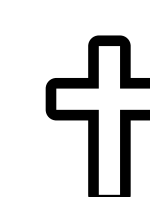
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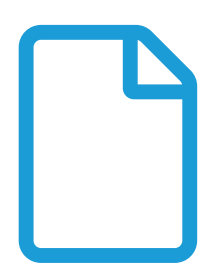
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3. GOD IS WORKING



Introduction

Australia seems very resistant to the good news of Jesus. With pushes to remove the Lord's Prayer from the start of parliament, religious education and chaplains from schools, if Australia was a Christian nation, it certainly isn't any more. What is God's desire for Australia? Is it even worth praying anymore?



Big Picture

God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but longs for them to turn from their ways and live.



Bible Passage

While you read – What is God's desire for people?

If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die.²⁷ But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. [...] ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live.

Ezekiel 18:26-27, 32, 33:11



Key Truths

1. God's desire for people is for all to turn from their sin and live. He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.
2. God's heart is for the good of all people – praying for the salvation of our friends and colleagues is praying in line with God's heart.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Think of a colleague, a friend or a family member who seems completely hardened to God and the good news of Jesus. What is God's desire for them?

As we pray for our friends and colleagues we can be assured that we are praying in accordance with God's heart. How is this a comfort?

How sure can we be that God will hear our prayers?



Prayer

Who are 3-5 unbelievers that you see on a regular basis? (include those who you may think would never turn to Christ)

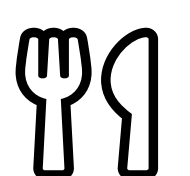
Boldly pray for the salvation of each person on your list.

Remember

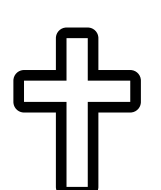
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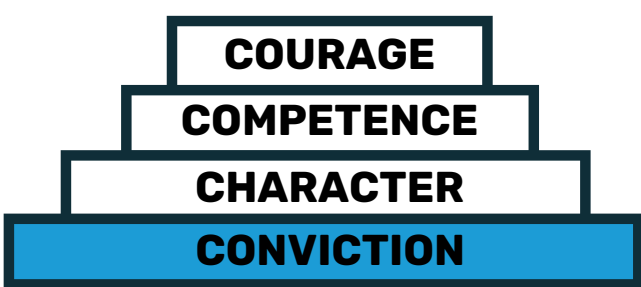
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4. GOD CHANGES HEARTS



Introduction

“If God saved me then he can save anyone!”
What do you think of this statement?
Is there anyone too far from God, or too hard-hearted for God?



Big Picture

When God saves us he is bringing the dead back to life, if we weren't too hard for God, no one is!



Bible Passage

While you read – To what does Paul compare being saved in Christ?

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

Ephesians 2:1-6



Key Truths

1. Everyone stands dead in their sin before God if they do not trust in Jesus.
2. And yet God saved the Ephesians and God saved us, bringing us to life in Jesus Christ. We deserved God's anger and judgment and yet we receive love and mercy in Christ.
3. The power of God that brought Jesus to life, also brings us to life. It can also bring anyone else to life in Christ too. No one is too far gone if our starting place is the same – dead in our sin.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

We can be quick to give up on someone who seems too far from God, but we are forgetting the power of God to save anyone. If we truly trust God has the power and desire to save, we will never stop praying and inviting our friends and colleagues.

Is there anyone you may have given up on as too hard? Who would you like to start (or restart) praying for?



Prayer

If you have thought of a new person or two, add them to your list.

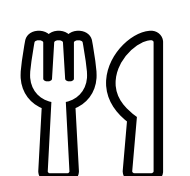
Pray that God would work to bring your friends, family, and colleagues from death to life.

Remember

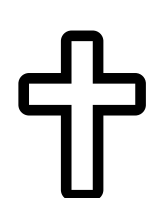
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