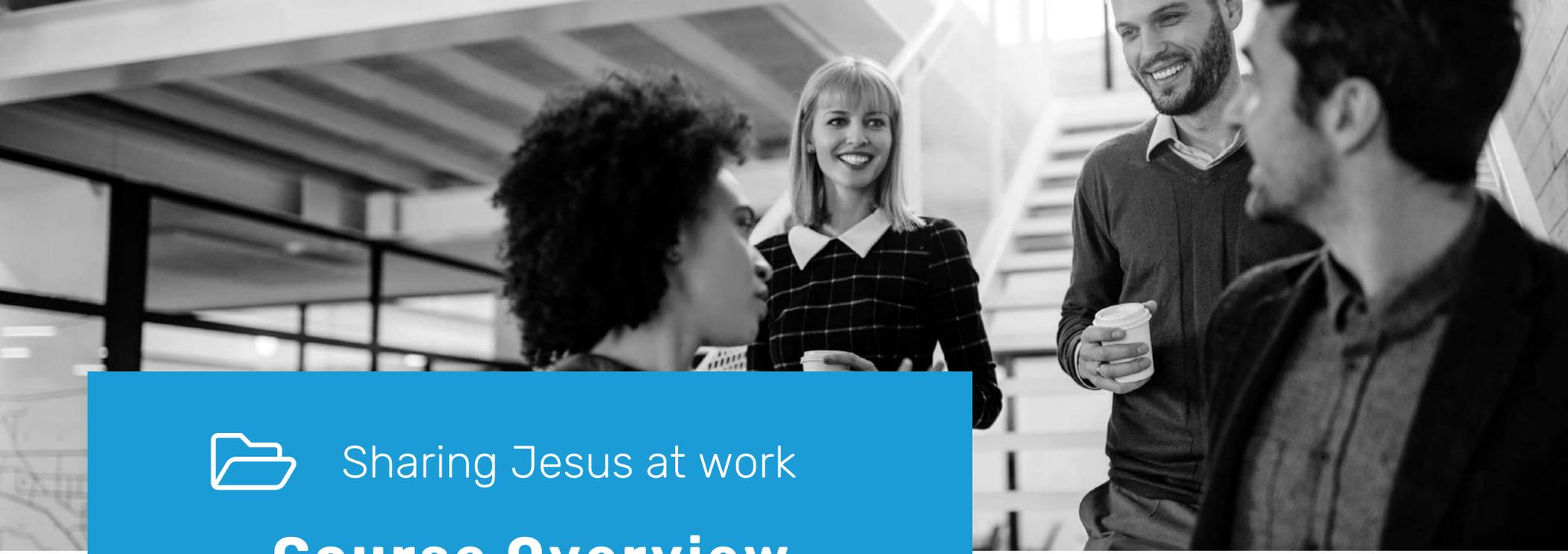




Sharing Jesus at work



CITY BIBLE
FORUM
Ask the bigger questions



Sharing Jesus at work

Course Overview



Course Summary

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 leads to fights if raised in the public, secular realm, so we've learned to avoid religion to keep the peace



Big Idea

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

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 and how to use them to bridge the divide between the sacred and the secular and start talking about Jesus





Sharing Jesus at work

Course Overview



Course and Lesson Structure

Each week of this 9 lesson course is built around the parts of Coffee, Dinner and Gospel, with different topics to explore in each lesson.

Part 1

COFFEE



Lessons

1: How to Own Jesus at Work

2: How to Show Rare Love in the Workplace

3: How to Explore a Worldview

Part 2

DINNER



4: Sharing God's worldview

5: How to disagree

Part 3

GOSPEL



6: Sharing Jesus in a Sitting

7: How to meet Jesus in the Bible

8: How does someone become a Christian?

9: Why do we need to connect our friend to a Christian church?

Each lesson has a summary, a big picture, a bible passage or theme, key truths, a lecture, application and a prayer. You can ask questions in the discussion section after each talk. We hope you enjoy learning ways to Share Jesus at Work.





Sharing Jesus at work

Part 1 – COFFEE Lesson 1: How to Own Jesus at Work



Lesson Summary

Do you keep quiet about Jesus at work? Under what circumstances? How convicted are you that Jesus is Lord? Are you afraid of what people will think about your faith? Is there never a right time to talk about Jesus?

This lesson helps you come to grips with your tendency to hold back from owning Jesus at work or other public spheres of your life.



Big Picture

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.



Bible Passage

Matthew 10:32-33

Whoever acknowledges me [Jesus] before others, I will also acknowledge them before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown them before my Father in heaven.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.



Key Truths

- Acceptance of others, or of God?
- If we acknowledge Jesus, he will also acknowledge us and we have access to his power
- Sometimes we feel too inadequate to speak up
- God uses us, not despite our weakness, but because of it
- So embrace our weaknesses and let God use us to speak up for Jesus



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

Thank God for your weaknesses and inadequacies and ask God to use you through this





Sharing Jesus at work

Part 1 - COFFEE

Lesson 2: How to Show Rare Love in the Workplace



Lesson Summary

What are Christians supposed to be known for? What are *you* known for at work? What does it cost us to share this kind of love in our lives at work?

This lesson helps you to think through the kind of love that Jesus calls us to and how we can display that at work.



Big Picture

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.



Bible Passage

Luke 10:30-37

30 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.'"



Key Truths

- The person the Samaritan loved was the person he came across. He had compassion on the man.
- 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.
- 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: 'I care about you beyond your function for me in the workplace.'

Relationships are created by investing time in listening and showing care to the ones we want to share Jesus' love with. 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, a desire to go deeper and the courage to take on the cost of that.





Sharing Jesus at work

Part 1 - COFFEE

Lesson 3: Exploring a worldview



Lesson Summary

A worldview is basically a person's storyline. It defines their mission in life. It gives a picture of what "happily ever after" should look like.



Big Picture

Everyone has a worldview. We need to enter into our colleagues' worldview if we are to genuinely love them and share the gospel in a way that is meaningful and resonates with them.



The Storyline

The easiest way to understand a person's worldview is to ask:

- *What is their mission?*
- *Who are the bad guys?*
- *Who are the good guys?*

Think about your colleagues: How do you think they would answer these questions?



Key Truths

- A worldview makes you interpret exactly the same evidence differently
- At first, we need to listen to understand, not respond
- We also need to empathise and see things from their point of view



Application

What questions could you ask to get your friend talking about their worldview?

Try hard to empathise with your friend's worldview – ask yourself:

"Why is it attractive, why would I want it to be true?"



Prayer

Pray for a friend who has a very different worldview to yours. Pray that you would be able to start to understand them better.





Sharing Jesus at work

Part 2 - DINNER

Lesson 4: Sharing God's worldview



Lesson Summary

God's worldview changes our whole life.

Christians believe that Jesus is the answer to our deepest desires and life's biggest questions. Worldviews aren't just intellectual ideas, but shape our whole life. Christians seek to be continually shaped and transformed by the gospel. How has the gospel of Jesus shaped your perspective on meaning, happiness, freedom, identity, justice, or hope?

This lesson explains how to understand your friend's worldview and deconstruct it using a specific framework.



Big Picture

Christians have had their worldview transformed by the gospel, and so we want to share our gospel transformed worldview has changed our life.



Theme

The framework we will be discussing in this lesson is one which can help bridge between your friend's worldview and the Christian worldview: **enter, challenge, and fulfill**. This framework is the one explained in *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*.

| Enter (Resonate) | Challenge (Dissonate) | Fulfill |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <i>Describe the worldview</i> | Deconstruct what it centres on | Speak the Gospel into this worldview |
| <i>Understand the worldview</i> | What is missing (deficiency)? | How does the Gospel answer this existential cry and storyline? |
| <i>Empathise with the worldview</i> | What is clashing (dissonant)? | How is Jesus the "happy ever after" for this storyline? |



Key Truths

- Enter the worldview: fully embrace it so that you can understand and empathise. Feel its existential cry. What is its “happy ever after?”
- Deconstruct the worldview: why won't it be possible to get to its “happy ever after”?
- Fulfill the worldview: Explain the way that the Christian worldview fulfills the existential cry of the worldview. Only Jesus can give this storyline its “happy ever after”



Application

Think about a person that you know, what they value, what they are troubled by and think about how you could speak the gospel into the deep need for meaning

Consider the examples in Sam's video, what did you learn?



Prayer

Pray that we increase in understanding of how the gospel meets the deepest longings of our own heart, so we might show how the Christian worldview fulfils who we were made to be.





Sharing Jesus at work

Part 2 - DINNER

Lesson 5: How to Disagree



Lesson Summary

How do you discuss aspects of the biblical worldview that clash with modern social, sexual or economic ethics? There are many topics that bounce around in the media, or in lunchrooms which sharply intersect with the gospel's worldview. In this lesson we explore homosexuality. There's a lot of emotion and identity involved in homosexuality, and the Bible seems to say very little except 'it's wrong, don't do it.' This lesson explores how to respect an opposing worldview and speak the lifegiving gospel into it.



Big Picture

Every culture will find something that is necessarily offensive in the gospel. Sooner or later, our friend might find something they disagree with about the gospel.



Theme

When someone has a different view, it's difficult to change their worldview with evidence-based arguments. Their viewpoint interprets the evidence in a completely different way. Plus, nobody ever likes to "lose" an argument. Therefore, a more effective way is to get them to see things from our point of view.



Bible Passage

Acts 17:32

32 When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

Proverbs 26:4-5

4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.

Luke 21:13-15

13 And so you will bear testimony to me. 14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

**Key Truths**

- Instead of trying to “win an argument”, it’s more effective to negotiate with our friend to see things from our viewpoint. We do this by asking questions
- We can show our friend our worldview by telling stories of Jesus.

**Application**

We need both words to say and wisdom to know what to say (and what not to say)

Sometimes we answer a question by asking our friend a more meaningful question:

1. What are you looking for?
2. Why is this important to you?
3. Why do you think we see things differently?
4. What would it take for you to trust Jesus?

We can also ask other questions such as:

1. Where do human rights come from?
2. Where does human freedom come from?
3. Where does purpose and meaning come from?
4. What do you mean by “sin”?

**Prayer**

Pray for wisdom and words to know what to say. Pray for love to continue caring, loving, and blessing those who disagree or argue with us.





Sharing Jesus at work

Part 3 - GOSPEL

Lesson 6: Sharing Jesus in a sitting



Lesson Summary

You've been seeking to share Jesus with your friend for some time, you've spent many a coffee and lunchtime finding out more and more of where they're coming from, and sharing what you've found the Bible has to say about life. And halfway through a coffee break, with both of you due to start back in 2-3 minutes, she shifts the conversation, 'So what is it about Jesus that's so important to you?' This lesson helps you make the most of this kind of opportunity.



Big Picture

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.



Theme

The bible tells us to be prepared to explain the reasons why we believe to others, respectfully. But how do we do this? Assuming that your friend just wants a quick answer, try to be succinct. We won't be recommending a specific framework this time, but encourage you to find a method that works for you:

- You could learn a rote presentation like: Manger, Cross, King
- You could talk about why you became a Christian (note, not how)
- You can talk about the difference Jesus makes in your life
- You could tell a favourite episode from Jesus' life, or a parable and explain what Jesus is saying about God and us.
- You could pick your favourite verse and explain what it means for you



Key Truths

The Bible tells us to be ready and we want to be able to communicate to our friends in a way that's natural and comfortable, but doesn't require a whiteboard or more than a few minutes.

- Find a method that works for you to keep in your back pocket
- Don't try and explain everything at once
- Focus on answering their question: was it your hope, faith, or lifestyle that they were interested in?



Application

Pray about people in your life for whom this topic is really important and ask for God's help in speaking to them

Consider the different aspects of the biblical principles above and develop a worldview that reconciles the love God gives you for all human beings and the christian perspective on sin



Prayer

Pray for clarity of thought and speech so that as we speak we might be heard according to what we are trying to convey. Pray for patience as people mishear us. Pray for your heart to be filled with compassion for those who are hurting and feel judged.





Sharing Jesus at work

Part 3 - GOSPEL

Lesson 7: How to Meet Jesus in the Bible



Lesson Summary

It is becoming increasingly clear that we are living in a post-Christian culture. The generation where everyone went to church or at least Sunday School has grown up and have adult children who haven't gone to church. The doubts of the former generation are now assumed to be true, and the church is assumed to be irrelevant. This lesson shows you how to take people through the bible and challenge this generation's perspectives on what it has to say.



Big Picture

Few people have actually read the Bible for themselves. Offering to read the Bible together allows the gospel to speak for itself with you there as a guide.



Theme

Despite all the different opinions and voices, people can be surprisingly open to encountering the original "source text" of the bible. But how? I'm not a preacher! This lesson provides a framework for reading the bible one on one with someone else with a fresh perspective:

There are three questions that you can use:

1. What does this passage say about God?
2. What does it say about Jesus?
3. What does it say about people?



Key Truths

- People are more open to looking at what the Bible has to say than you might think
- There are simple ways of looking at the text together, even if you are not a bible scholar or preacher
- Choose a framework like the one in this lesson and show your friend how to use it as you go



Application

If you have been building trust with a someone through the steps in the coffee and dinner stages, try asking your friend if they want to read the bible with you

Choose a bible passage that explores the nature of God, Jesus and his relationships with people, like Mark 8:27-30

If you prefer, use a resource like the Word 121, you can order a booklet or use the online version for free. Visit our [Word 121 page](#) for more information, resources or to get support from our staff.



Prayer

Pray for boldness to invite a colleague to read the Bible with you.





Sharing Jesus at work

Part 3 - GOSPEL

Lesson 8: How does someone become a Christian?



Lesson Summary

When one of our friend's becomes a Christian, it's immensely exciting, and we may be tempted to convince them of everything that we are convicted of. However, we need to make sure we focus on the core issues of the gospel and to allow people to develop their own unique perspectives on other issues. This lesson explains how to focus on the most important things in those crucial early days as your friend get established in their faith.



Big Picture

When someone wants to become a Christian, they need to trust in Jesus, repent, turn to God, and bear fruit in keeping with repentance.



Bible Passage

Acts 2:37-40

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

Acts 16:30-34

30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Luke 9:23

23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

(See also Luke 9:1-19)



Key Truths

1. What do you do when someone wants to become a Christian? Invite them to trust in Jesus, repent and turn to God, be baptised, and bear fruit.
2. Belief is not just assent to facts, but is relational - we trust in the trustworthy.
3. Repentance is about changing our mind, changing our allegiance from ourselves to God.
4. Baptism is an appropriate symbol for the community and the world to indicate a changed allegiance.
5. Repentance must lead to a new life, it means bearing fruit in keeping with repentance.



Application

What key issues do you think you need to talk about when someone wants to become a Christian?

What issues do you think will be difficult or comforting to your friend as they learn to obey Jesus?



Prayer

Pray for God to bring in his harvest in this city.





Sharing Jesus at work

Part 3 - GOSPEL

Lesson 9: Why we need to connect our friend to a Christian church



Lesson Summary

What happens after your friend becomes a Christian? Not only have they spiritually moved from death to life, but it is likely that their faith will substantially change their lifestyle, the way they think about work, finances, family and friendships. This lesson offers some help towards establishing your friend in a church family that can support them as they navigate this change and integrate their faith into their whole life.



Big Picture

We want our friend to not just go to church, but be established in church.



Theme

The longer we go on in life, the harder it is to change. We have long established habits and relationships. New relationships and habits are difficult. Becoming a Christian changes how we relate to others, if your colleague is married, their spouse may notice - and they won't always see the change as a good thing! Having a supportive church who accepts and pastorally cares for your friend can make a big difference during this time. Help them get established in the life of the church, not just attending weekly.



Bible Passages

1 Kings 19:13-18

13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." 15 The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. 17 Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. 18 Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

1 Thessalonians 1:5

5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.



Key Truths

1. Help them find a good church that teaches the gospel, go with them, maybe for the first month or so.
2. Once they're established in a church, don't abandon them, you are still the most significant Christian relationship they have!
3. City Bible Forum has the advantage of being in a network of many churches across the city, chances are you can find a church with a ready relationship by taking advantage of that network.





Application

What are the key concerns in finding a good church for your friend?

How can you help establish them into the church?



Prayer

Pray for good relationships with local churches throughout the city to aid in establishing new Christians into church.





CITY BIBLE
FORUM
Ask the bigger questions