



EVANGELISTIC  
**PRAYER**  
TEAMS

**TERM 3**  
**2022**





EVANGELISTIC  
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**TERM 3**  
**2022**

EPTs gather Christian workers across Australia 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.

**Vision:** To reach the world through the workplace with the good news about Jesus.

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



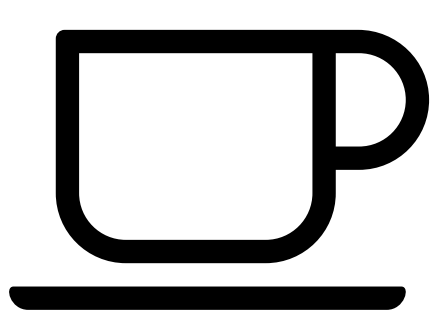


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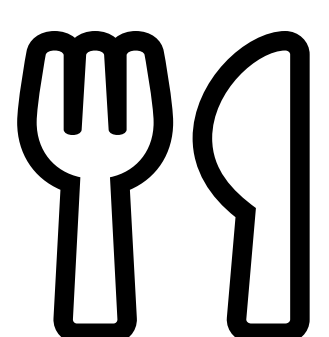
## TAKE THE NEXT RELATIONAL STEP

### COFFEE



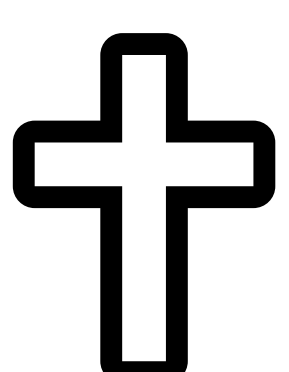
Shared a personal conversation  
Knows I'm Christian  
Spent social time together

### DINNER



I understand their worldview  
I've shared the Bible worldview

### GOSPEL



Made a clear presentation of gospel  
Reading Bible  
Become Christian  
Joined a good church





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## **OVERVIEW**

SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW

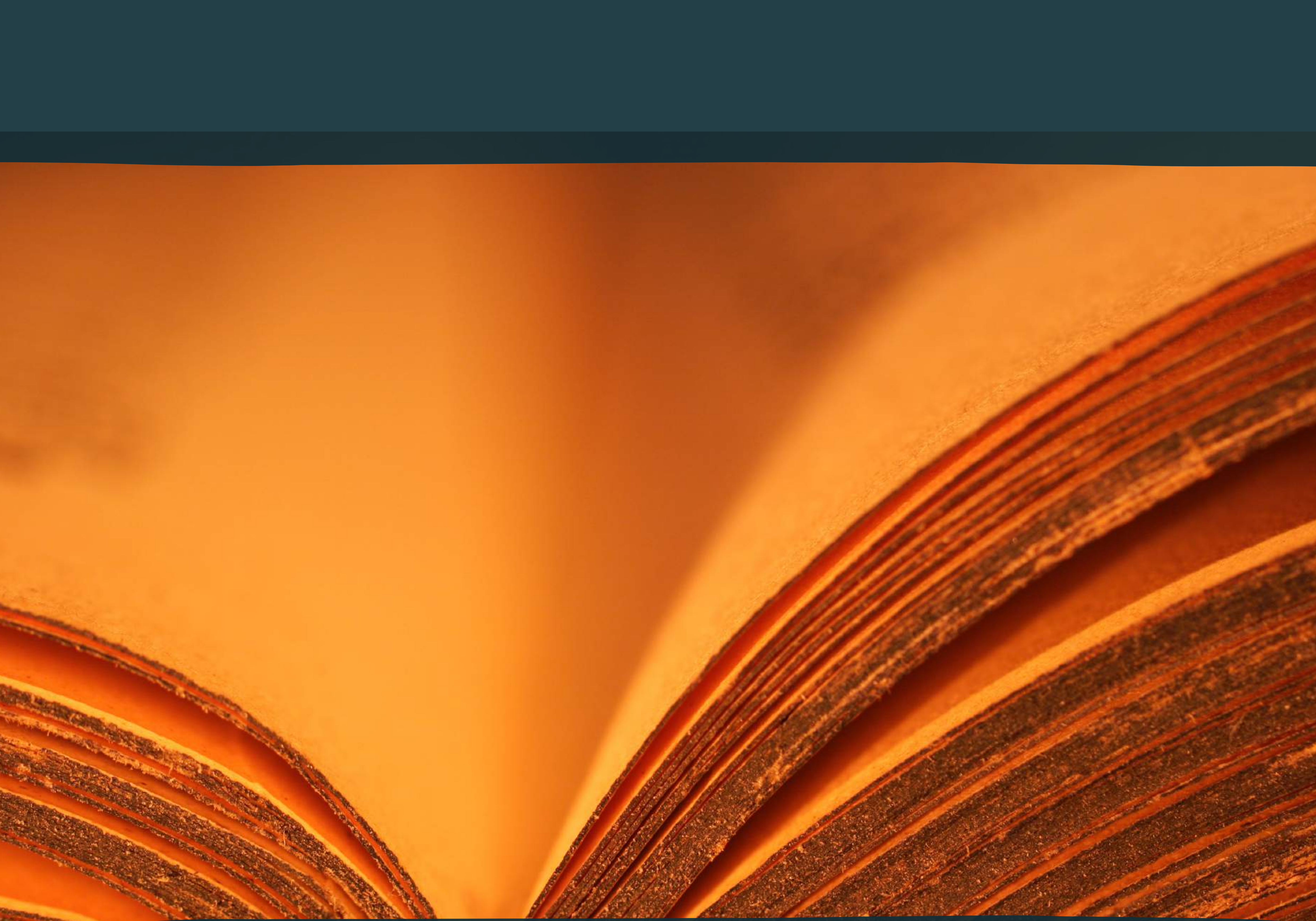
MEET THE WORD 121

A GENEROUS MEASURE

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW (CONT)





# SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW

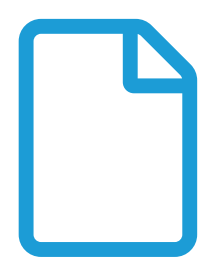


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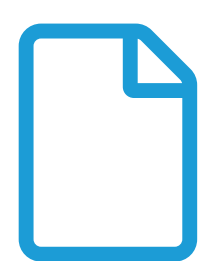
# SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW

## Course Overview



### Course Summary

These studies explore Matthew's Gospel and look at seeing Jesus clearly in it's pages.



### Course Structure

**1: NEVER ALONE AT WORK**

**2: STAND OUT AT WORK**

**3: AN OASIS OF CALM AT WORK**

**4: RELATIONSHIPS AT WORK**

**5: CREATING CAPACITY AT WORK**

**6: FAMOUS LAST WORDS**

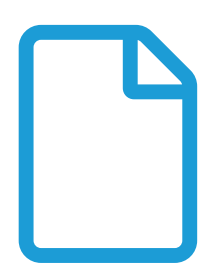


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## SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW

# 1. NEVER ALONE AT WORK



### Introduction

As a Christian, you can sometimes feel very alone in the workplace. The people around us seem to share quite a different worldview and values to us. What has made you feel alone at work?



### Big Picture

*God has forever bridged the gap between himself and us through Jesus, so those who know Jesus are never alone.*



### Bible Passage

*But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:<sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

**Matthew 1:20-23**

*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

**Matthew 28:20**





## Key Truths

1. Jesus is fully God. He is God *with* us. When we know Jesus, we know our creator, but more importantly, he knows us. We are never truly alone.
2. Jesus came to save us from sin. The great isolating factor between us and God has been overcome and destroyed by Jesus. *God* is with us. The power over sin is with us, always.
3. Jesus is working now in those who follow him by the power of his Spirit (see also Matthew 3:11; 28:19). God is *at work* in us, even as we work.

Thoughts? Questions?



## Application

It's one thing to know during our EPT that God is with us always, and at work in us as we work, but being conscious of that while we work is transformative! How could you pray that you would be conscious of God's presence as you work? How could you remind yourself?

How are you relying on your own strength at work rather than God's at work? Knowing God is with you, how does that give you courage?

How would the knowledge that God is with you at work make your life different from your colleagues? What should your colleagues notice?



## Prayer

Pray that those you are praying for see that your life is different.

## Remember

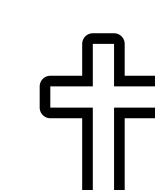
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**



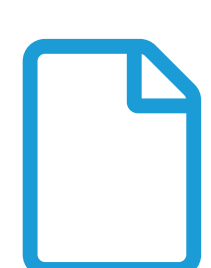
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# SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW

## 2. STAND OUT AT WORK



### Introduction

We all have to eat, and while most meals are forgettable, some really stand out. What is the most amazing meal you have ever had?  
What made it so distinctive?



### Big Picture

*The Christian life should be a distinctive favour for our friends and colleagues; once tasted it should never be forgotten.*



### Bible Passage

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.  
<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:13-16





## Key Truths

1. The call to be salty is the call to be distinctive – that is to "taste" different to those around us. The context of the Sermon on the Mount makes it clear that this distinctiveness is about a deep love of God that leads to deep godliness.
2. Followers of Jesus are a light to the world. This means every Christian is a public Christian – it is who we are. You can't be a public Christian if no one knows that you are a Christian.
3. Fundamental to distinctive living are good deeds – acts of service and love.
4. The distinctive Christian life shines out and results in praise of God in heaven.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

What could it look like to be distinctive in your workplace? What would need to change so that your life is distinctive?

How 'public' are you about your Christian life? How could you be more public about what you believe?

What acts of service and love can you perform around work that would bring praise to God?



## Prayer

Pray that you would be distinctive as a public Christian at work.

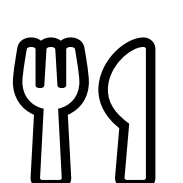
Pray for opportunities to perform good deeds around work.

## Remember

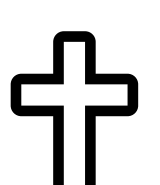
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**

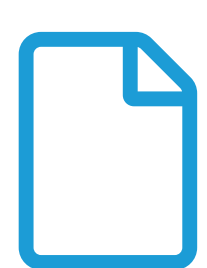


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# SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW

## 3. AN OASIS OF CALM AT WORK



### Introduction

What are the greatest causes of anxiety at work?  
Deadlines? the Future? Uncertainty? Relationships?



### Big Picture

*Our worries spring from a desire to control the future, but God is good and powerful and cares for us. Our future rests in his loving kindness.*



### Bible Passage

*“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?”<sup>26</sup> 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?”<sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*

*<sup>28</sup> “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.”<sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.<sup>30</sup> 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?”<sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’*

*<sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

**Matthew 6:25-32**





## Key Truths

1. Those who don't know Jesus run around obsessing over many things. Christians should not be like them.
2. Worry is the energy we waste trying to change the future. The birds and lillies of the field trust in the care of God; they are fed and look amazing!
3. God values us more than grass, lilies, and birds. How much more should we trust God than that?
4. Do not worry. God has it all in hand!

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

The God who controls all things wields his power for our good. He is with us in all things and at all times. This changes how we live and how we spend our time and energy. In the light of the loving care of our heavenly Father, what would it look like to live without the worry that troubles so many people around us?



## Prayer

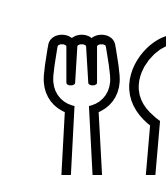
Pray those around you would notice that you don't worry as they do because you can rest in God's loving providence.

## Remember

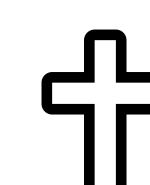
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**



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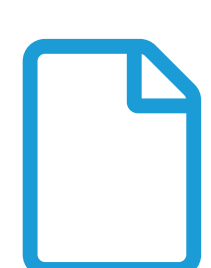
## **Application (Cont.)**

(Please note, there is a difference between worry and anxiety. Worry is when we try to control the future in our own power and forget to rest in God's loving providence. Anxiety is a condition where one worries without a particular rational cause and requires more extensive treatment. If this is you, why not make an appointment with your GP?)



# SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW

## 4. RELATIONSHIPS AT WORK



### Introduction

Think back to a time when you were obsessed with something. Getting a promotion? Finishing a degree? Finding a partner? Gaining a qualification? What did life look like at that time?



### Big Picture

*According to Jesus, the number one, supreme priority for our lives is to seek the kingdom of God in everything.*



### Bible Passage

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Matthew 6:33-34





## Key Truths

1. *Seek* is a strong word. It denotes deliberateness, directness, and single-minded heading towards a target.
2. Jesus says to seek *first*. This is the priority that tops all others.
3. What we are to seek is the kingdom of God. When we get to the end of Matthew's Gospel we discover that the kingdom of God is Jesus' rule over the world. Jesus' kingdom advances as people are taught the good news about him and his disciples make disciples of others.
4. We can be single-minded in seeking Jesus' priorities for our life because we are confident that God takes care of the rest of life.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

Seeking first the kingdom of God radically changes how we view relationships. The tendency at work is to view people in terms of how they benefit us.

Is this someone who will help my work? Are they a client who will bring in money? Do I enjoy spending time with them?

But if we seek first the kingdom of God, then these relationships are opportunities for manifesting Jesus' rule by making Jesus' saving rule known. In the end, relationships at work are not about us, but about Jesus.

The crucial question is – how can I love and serve this person and so seek Jesus' saving rule in their life?

What will it look like to seek first the kingdom of God in our relationships at work?



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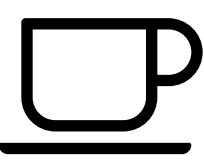


**Prayer**

Consider the 5 or so people at work you have been praying for. Pray for the next step, the next spiritual conversation you could have, so that Jesus' saving rule may be established in their life.

**Remember**

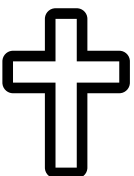
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**





# The Word

*one to one*

**MEETING JESUS USING  
THE WORD 121**



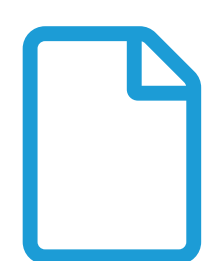
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# The Word

## MEETING JESUS USING THE WORD 121

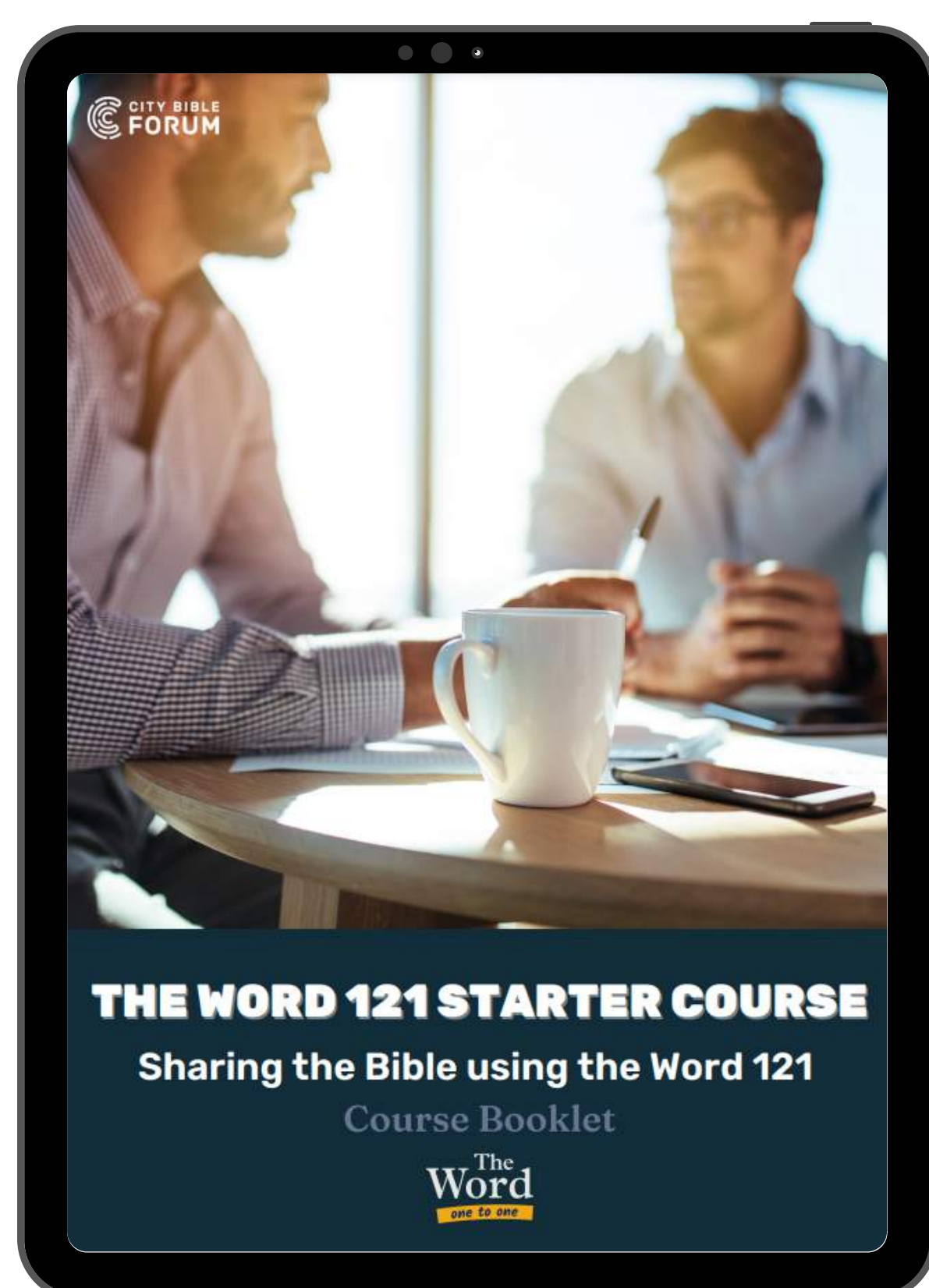
### Course Overview



#### Course Summary

These studies explore how we can use the Word 121 to help our friends and colleagues meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

#### Next Steps



[citybibleforum.org/courses](http://citybibleforum.org/courses)



[training.theword121.com.au](http://training.theword121.com.au)



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# The Word

## MEETING JESUS USING THE WORD 121



### Introduction

City Bible Forum seeks to reach the world through the workplace with the good news about Jesus. In our EPTs we aim to do this by seeing 500 people meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible - meeting with a Christian to read through a Gospel.

The Word 121 is a wonderfully helpful tool for sharing Jesus with our friends and colleagues. Let's have a look.



### Big Picture

*Discover the joy of sharing the Bible with your friends and colleagues.*



### What is the Word 121?

The Word 121 is simply the Gospel of John with some notes to guide conversation. It covers the whole Gospel in 38 episodes across 11 booklets. Each episode is designed to usually last 30 minutes.

Each episode consists of:

- an introduction,
- a number of pages that step through the passage a few verses at a time. The verses of John are on the left handside, and on the right are notes to guide conversation. There are maps and helpful background information designed to help our friends grasp the meaning of the passage.
- Finally there is a summary page that ties everything back together,
- before the episode finishes with the whole passage on a page or two.



## Episode 1

# Introduction

## God came to earth

JOHN 1:1-18

*In this episode: John's eyewitness account starts with an overview.*

You might find this a surprising start. We don't begin with the baby Jesus and His famous birth.

There is no stable, no angels, no Bethlehem... but rather

## Verses & notes

*This is what John wrote - read this first*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

## The God who made everything

John introduces us to 'the Word':

- Twice he says the Word was there 'in the beginning'.
- So the Word existed before time, before creation, before the beginning...
- In short... the Word is eternal.

But who or what is the Word?

- The Word is God. (v. 1)
- The Word is a person, see how the sentence starts with 'He' (v. 2)
- The Word, who is God and a person, made absolutely everything, no

## Summary

What have we seen about Jesus, the Word, so far?

- He was there before the world existed. (v. 1)
- He is God. (v. 1)
- He made everything. (v. 3)
- He has life in Himself and brings light to all people. (v. 4)
- Those who believe in Him become members of God's own family. (v. 12)
- The Word came to earth as a man. (v. 14)
- He doesn't bring rules but grace and truth. (v. 17)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God.

<sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made...

<sup>4</sup> In him was life and that life was the light of all mankind.

<sup>12</sup> ...to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and

## Whole passage

JOHN 1:1-18

*Why not find a moment to re-read what we've looked at in this episode?*

John 1:1-18

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as

who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.") <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No



## How does the Word 121 work?

The Word 121 differs from most Bible study material in two important ways:

- We don't read the material out loud - adults find this weird, like being back in school
- We don't ask questions specific to what we've read - adults don't like being put on the spot, afraid of displaying their ignorance.

Instead, the idea is we come to the book as equals, and so:

- We read in our heads; and
- We ask the question, "Did anything stand out to you?" If something did, it's an opportunity to discuss further. If not, on to the next page. (Occasionally there may be something that really jumps out for you, feel free to share with your friend)
- At the end, having read everything together, we ask two questions:
  - "Did you enjoy that?"
  - "Would you like to do this again another time?"

80% of people who go through the first episode continue on, so when your friend agrees to read again - understand what they're thinking. It is unlikely they are thinking next week. So, maybe suggest contacting them in a week or so to make a new time.



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## The Next Step

Having had a quick introduction to the Word 121, there are 2 ways forward:

- Pray & Ask

*Never more hostile, Never more open!* The latest Census tells us that Christianity is on the decline, and No religion is on the rise. But the latest McCrindle research tells us that about 1 in 2 Australians are warm or neutral about Christianity. That is, given the right circumstances, they may agree to have a look at the Bible at least once. Worldwide figures from the Word 121 tell us that 1 in 5 will say yes when asked. People are more willing to say yes than we think they are.

So why not pray and ask 5 people this week?

We can't all be Bible teachers, but we can all be Bible sharers!

Get the booklets at [word121.com.au](http://word121.com.au)

- Get Trained

Maybe you're not feeling confident yet. Perhaps you could benefit from more time training. City Bible Forum provides two opportunities to be trained in using the Word 121.

One is an hour-long online seminar held in the evening once a month - [training.theword121.com.au](http://training.theword121.com.au)

The other is a 3 session video course that you can do in your own time - [citybibleforum.org/theword121starter](http://citybibleforum.org/theword121starter)

Whichever option you choose, we really want you to discover the joy of sharing the Bible with your friends and colleagues.



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## Prayer

Think of 5 friends you could ask to read the Word 121 with,  
Pray for those 5 friends - remember God loves to answer !  
Ask remembering that 1 in 5 say yes  
Do becoming a Bible sharer

Pray for confidence in asking 5 people this week.



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## How to ask

Three things to remember when asking our friends to read the Word 121 with us:

- *Clear Invite* - Will you read a summary of Jesus' life with me? We're not springing the Bible on people after asking them to have a coffee. Be clear about what you're asking: how long, where etc.
- *Small ask* - We're not asking for a 7 week commitment. One coffee, about 20 minutes, one passage. One idea is to promise to ask only two questions - Did you enjoy it? Would you like to do it again some time?
- *God is in control* - In the end, we ask people, but it is God who prepares people's hearts. So, even if they say "no" now - it's not a "never". God could still work in their heart.

Some suggested asks could be:

"Haven't you always said you would one day have a look at the Bible? Don't you think it might have some helpful things to say? Would you like to read the Bible with me?"

"Would you like to grab a coffee and read a summary of the life of Jesus written by one of his mates? It'll take about 20mins, and I'll ask you two questions, did you enjoy it? Would you like to do it again?"

"Some of my friends have really enjoyed looking at the life of Jesus through these notes, maybe you'd like to as well?"

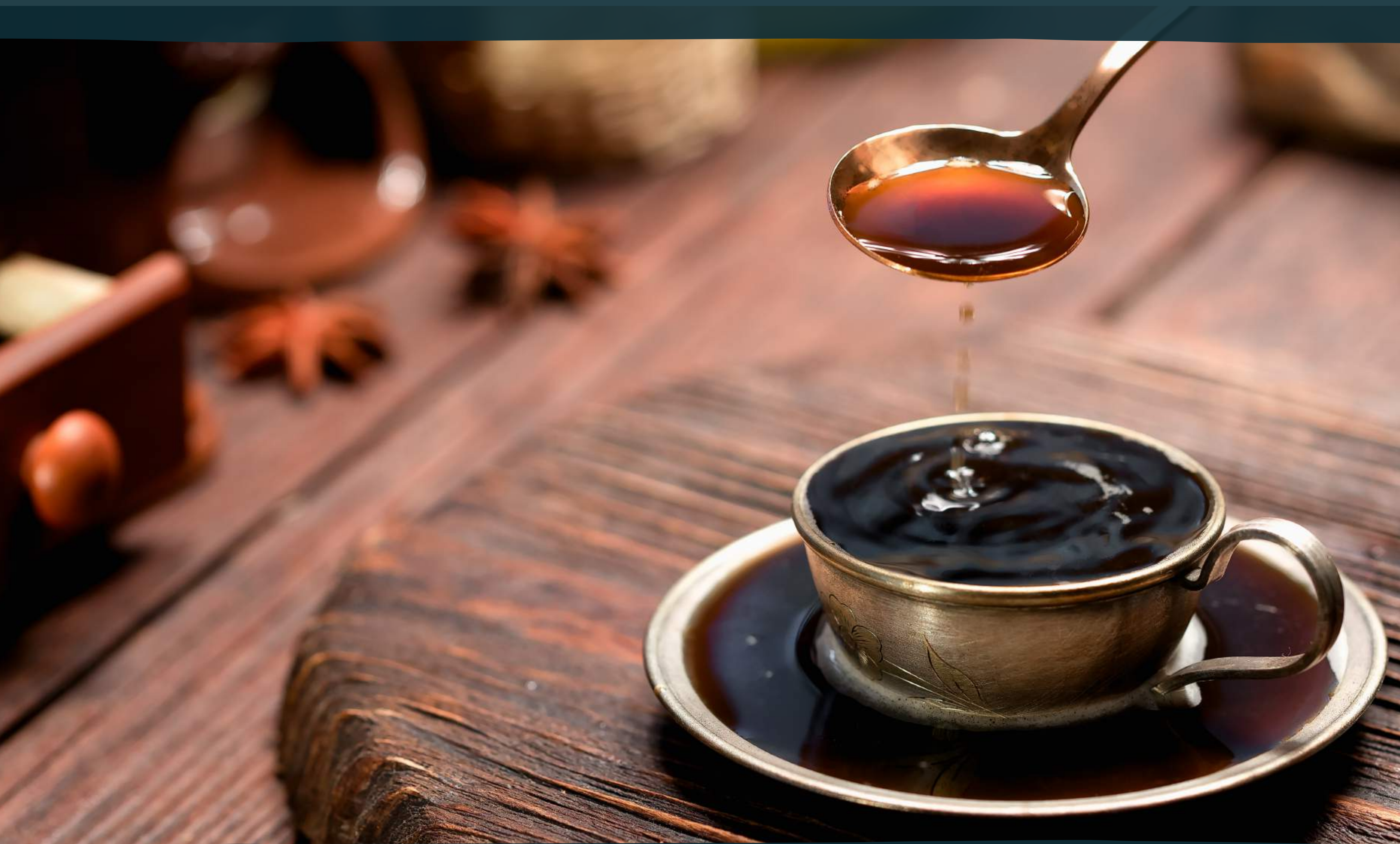
"I'm doing this course with some friends about how to read the Bible with people. I need to practise, would you be happy to catch up and help me practise once? It'll take around 20mins"



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# A GENEROUS MEASURE



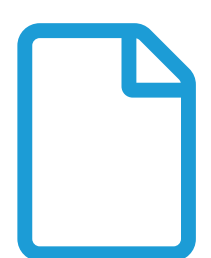
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## A GENEROUS MEASURE

# Course Overview



### Course Summary

This study examines how generosity is our response to our generous God.

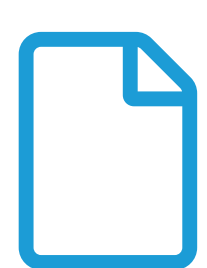
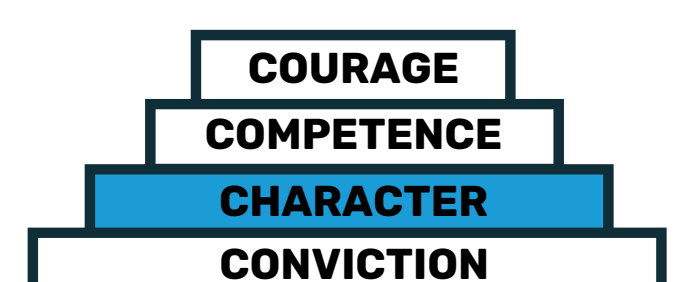


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## A GENEROUS MEASURE



### Introduction

When it comes time to give to someone in need or to a cause you believe in, how do you feel?

Are you full of joy? Do you feel the pain of the loss of your money?



### Big Picture

*God's people give generously to the work of God in the world*



### Bible Passage

*Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty.*

*“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’*

*<sup>8</sup> “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.*

*“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’*

*“In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. <sup>11</sup> I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty. <sup>12</sup> “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.*

**Malachi 3:7-12**





## Key Truths

1. God's promises in his law are for his people to live his way that it may go well for them in the land. The flipside was that God would curse his people and exile them if they disobeyed.
2. God's people have now returned from that exile, but they haven't returned to him spiritually – evidenced by not bringing in the full tithe to the temple.
3. God yearns to bless his people once again in the land, but their hearts are hard to his generosity.
4. The tithe was a law God had given Israel to bring a tenth of their harvest to the temple as a mark of their thankfulness for God's generosity and provision. But also it was for the Levites to live off, so they could serve the temple rather than grow their own food.
5. Israel dragged their feet to obey him, not trusting him enough to give generously. They did not yet have the law written on their hearts. (Jeremiah 31:33)
6. This side of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have experienced ultimate generosity from God in the gift of his Son. So a tenth is no longer our law, rather giving generously is now our measure. (Romans 12:8)

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

Our calling is to give generously. We are the ones who have been given much, and so should give generously.

What principles guide you giving generously?



## The Levite Perspective

The Levites devoted themselves to the service of God and his people. They relied on the generosity of God through his people for their livelihood. City Bible Forum and other mission organisations likewise rely on the generosity of God through his people.

Have you considered partnering with City Bible Forum through regular financial support?  
If you are a supporter, have you reviewed your giving recently?

To become a supporter or to change your giving, go to [citybibleforum.org/support](https://citybibleforum.org/support)



### Prayer

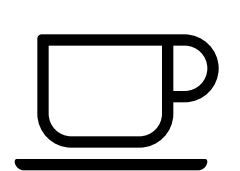
Praise God for his generosity to us in giving Jesus for us.

Pray for a generous heart and a cheerful attitude towards giving for God's work.

Pray for City Bible Forum's finances.

### Remember

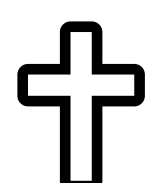
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**







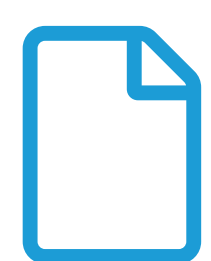
# SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS



EVANGELISTIC  
**PRAYER**  
TEAMS



# SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS Course Overview



## Course Summary

These studies explore how we can start having spiritual conversations with our friends and colleagues.



## Course Structure

**1: INJECTING GOD INTO OUR TALK**

**2: THE POWER OF QUESTIONS**

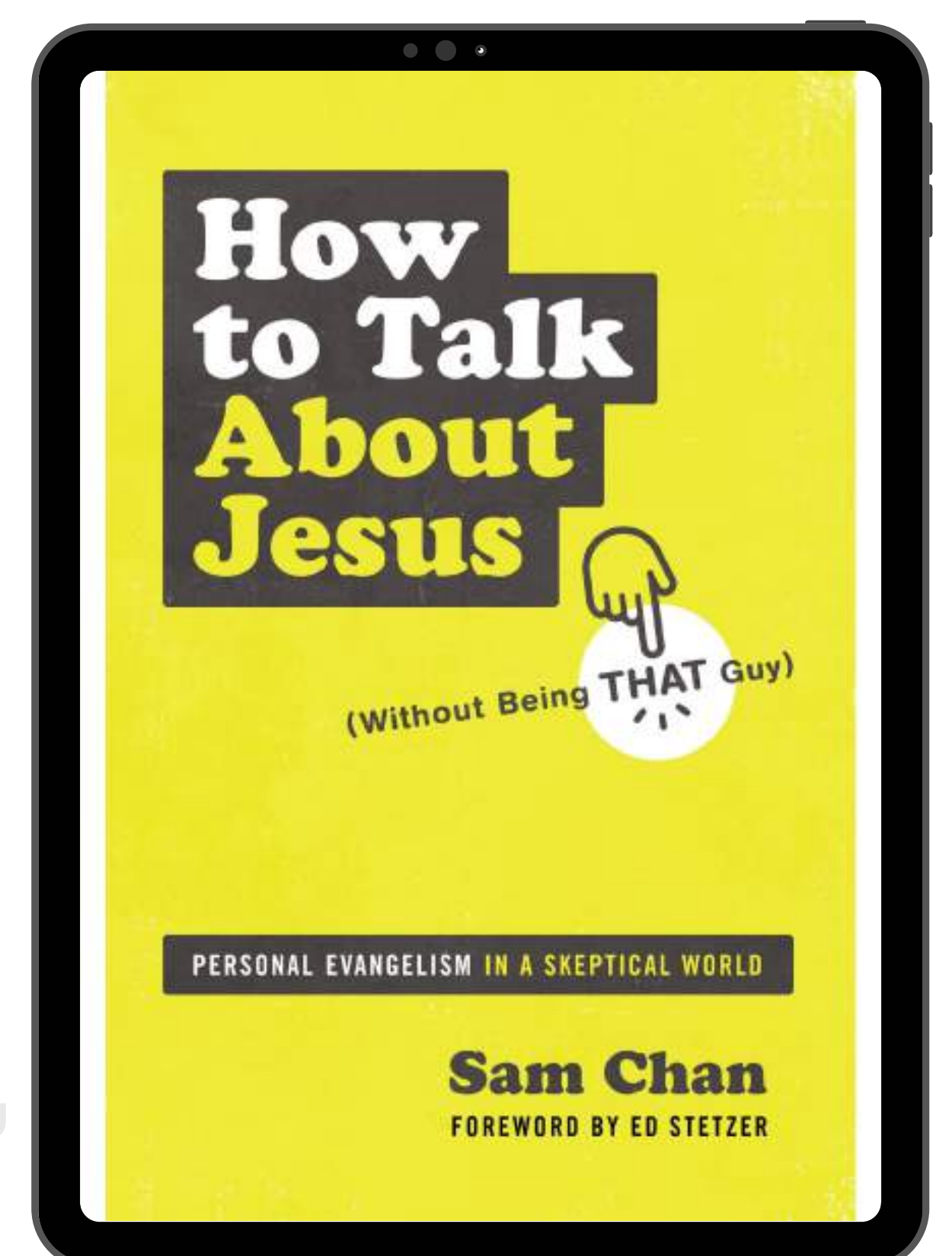
## Next Steps



[citybibleforum.org/courses](http://citybibleforum.org/courses)



[divedeeper.org.au](http://divedeeper.org.au)







## SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

### 1. INJECTING GOD INTO OUR TALK



#### Introduction

In June 2021, LinkedIn introduced the option to state your pronouns. The Victorian Government inclusive language guide tells us that a person's pronoun is "not a preference." It is their identity. Our language is being changed in an attempt to shift us away from heteronormality.

In a similar fashion, feminists have been agitating for decades to change our language to be more gender inclusive. So, chairman became chair person, or simply chair, policeman became police officer. And of course there were many jokes about personnel access covers, being follically and vertically challenged, or terminally unavailable (dead).

This challenging of our language is meant to change the way we think, so that every time we stumble over a sexist, ableist, or ageist term, the issue is raised again in our consciousness until eventually the language shift has embed itself in our unconscious - and our thinking is changed.



#### Big Picture

*Injecting God into our speech can help introduce God into the thoughts of our friends and colleagues, and makes it easier to speak about him at work.*





## Key Truths (cont)

**Christian Talk** - There is a Christian way of speaking. There is the obvious: there should be no lying, anger, slander, filthy language, foolish talk, and coarse joking - rather we should be people full of thanksgiving (Colossians 3:8-9, Ephesians 5:4). We are not grumblers, but our words should be full of thanks, grace, and praise.

**At Work?** - Further, when we are together, Christians have a comfortable rhythm and language, which we shy away from when at work. When we get together we can speak about God's provision of rain, give thanks for the food we have to eat, thank God for his good gifts, and present our requests to him. We're at ease asking God to direct our paths, to save us from temptation, and to forgive us our sin.

However, when we go to work we pretend that we also share the spiritually dead, materialistic worldview of our colleagues - at least in our speech. Why do we do this?

**Talk like everyone else?** - If you've ever travelled overseas, you will have found yourself adapting your speech patterns to the culture around you - perhaps changing our accent, adapting local phrasing. A similar thing happens at work, we adopt the way those around us speak. We assume that most people don't want to hear us speak of God.

**God at work** - Another reason we don't speak of God in our workplaces is we haven't spent a lot of time reflecting on how God works through our work. Budgets are set, cases are written, reports are filed, all seemingly without God's help. But a moment's reflection reminds us that, of course God is involved in every aspect of our worklives! Why not start acknowledging that with thankfulness? Out loud! At work!

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

We can learn from the feminists and LGBTIQ+ advocates. We need to inject God into our speech. It will mean pushing back against the flow of our culture, but it can start to raise God on the agenda of our friends and colleagues.

Why not start in a small, safe, and acceptable way?



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## Application (cont)

Consider:

When someone asks you about your plans for the future,

*"I'm praying about it and hope that I may..."*

When someone asks you about your weekend,

*"I went to church where the preacher..."*

When something goes well or someone congratulates you,

*"Thank you, God was very kind, he..."*

When someone shares their difficulties with you,

*"I'm so sorry to hear that, can I pray for you?" (And if appropriate pray there and then)*

You may feel more comfortable starting to inject this kind of talk into your speech with Christians first, but the goal is to start injecting this God talk into your work speech - so that it becomes a part of the subconscious of your language - and so God becomes part of the thinking at your work.

Why not start this week?



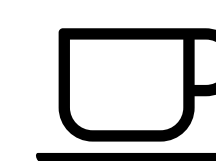
## Prayer

Pray for courage to start injecting God into your talk at work.

Pray that your colleagues will notice your demonstrated trust in God by how you talk about him in your life.

## Remember

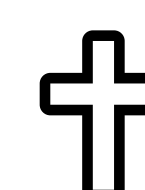
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**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**

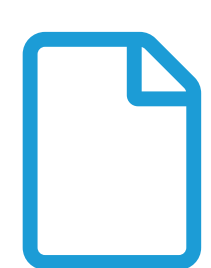


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## SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

# 2. THE POWER OF QUESTIONS



### Introduction

On a scale from terrified to as casual as anything, how do you rate your comfort in bringing up Jesus at work?



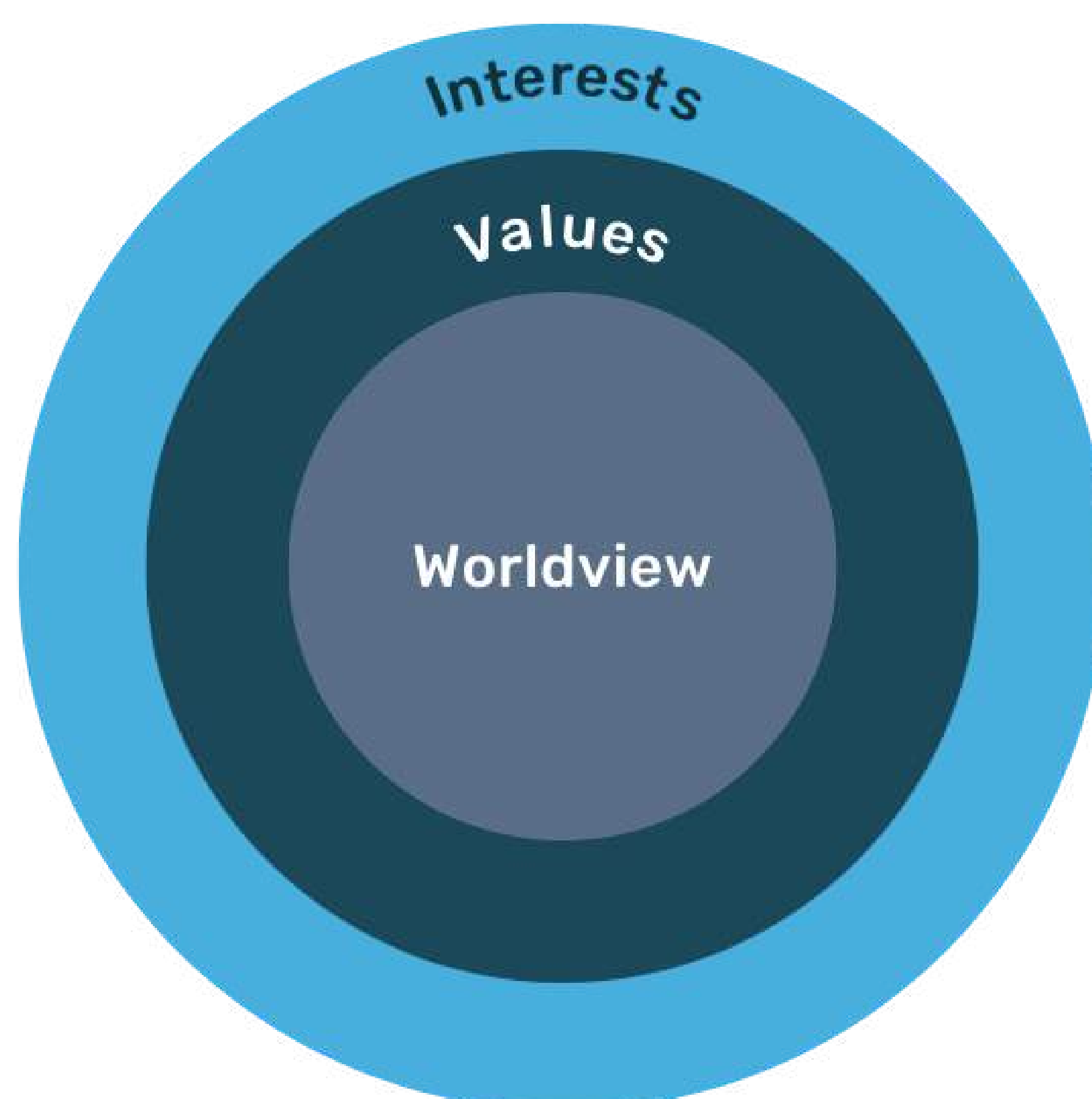
### Big Picture

*People in our culture are resistant to talking about Jesus, but questions can help us go deeper with them.*



### Key Truths

People tend to be comfortable speaking in 3 different layers of communication, depending on their relational comfort level: Interests, Values, Worldviews.







## Key Truths (cont)

**Interests** – conversations tend to be superficial and stick to undeniable facts. "It's warm today."

**Values** – conversations start to express preferences, ethics, values, and beauty. From "Caramel is better than chocolate." to "There's nothing more important than family."

**Worldviews** – now we are speaking about what we truly believe about life, what's wrong with the world, and where we find meaning. When talking about Jesus, we're speaking at the Worldview layer, which is what our culture tends to resist. However there are ways of going deeper into this layer with people...

## Nudge Questions

A nudge question acts like a catalyst to talking about Jesus with our friends.

A catalyst is a substance that you add to a mixture to start a reaction, and just like a catalyst, a nudge question requires the right ingredients to work – relational trust, interest etc.

However, if they are there a nudge question can help us move deeper with people quicker.

They invite our friends to speak about themselves, often in factual ways, but on topics that begin to expose their worldview. Some examples are:

- What are you looking for in life?
- Why is this important to you?
- What is one thing you absolutely must have in life?
- What happens if you don't find what you're looking for?
- What do you think it all means?
- What do you believe about God?
- What do you think God wants from you?
- Do you have a faith?
- What religion did your parents raise you with?
- Do you pray?
- What's the best thing about \_\_\_\_\_? (eg being a Muslim, being an Atheist)
- Tell me about traditions, festivals, or celebrations that are important to you? (especially when they are near, this could be Eid, Diwali, Christmas, ANZAC Day, Grand Final Day)
- What do people get wrong about \_\_\_\_\_? (eg Islam, Atheism)



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## Key Truths (cont)

A great question can be ruined if we're not prepared to listen – so get listening. Show interest. We're not trying to disprove their beliefs, or win an argument. We are trying to understand them and what they believe in hope that they will agree to listen to our beliefs, or to explore who Jesus is for themselves by reading a Gospel with us.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

What has been your experience of introducing Jesus into conversations with your friends and colleagues?

Have a look through the list of questions above. Which of these questions do you think you could ask one of your colleagues this week?

You may like to get more training or advice in how to start having spiritual conversations, read Sam Chan's Book *How to Talk about Jesus (without being that guy)* which has formed the basis of this study. Alternatively, you can do Sam's online course, *Sharing Jesus at Work* ([citybibleforum.org/courses](https://citybibleforum.org/courses))



## Prayer

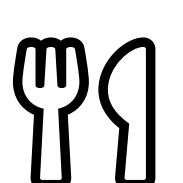
Pray for courage to ask one of the questions of your friends and colleagues.

## Remember

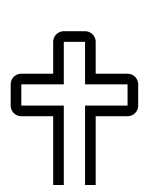
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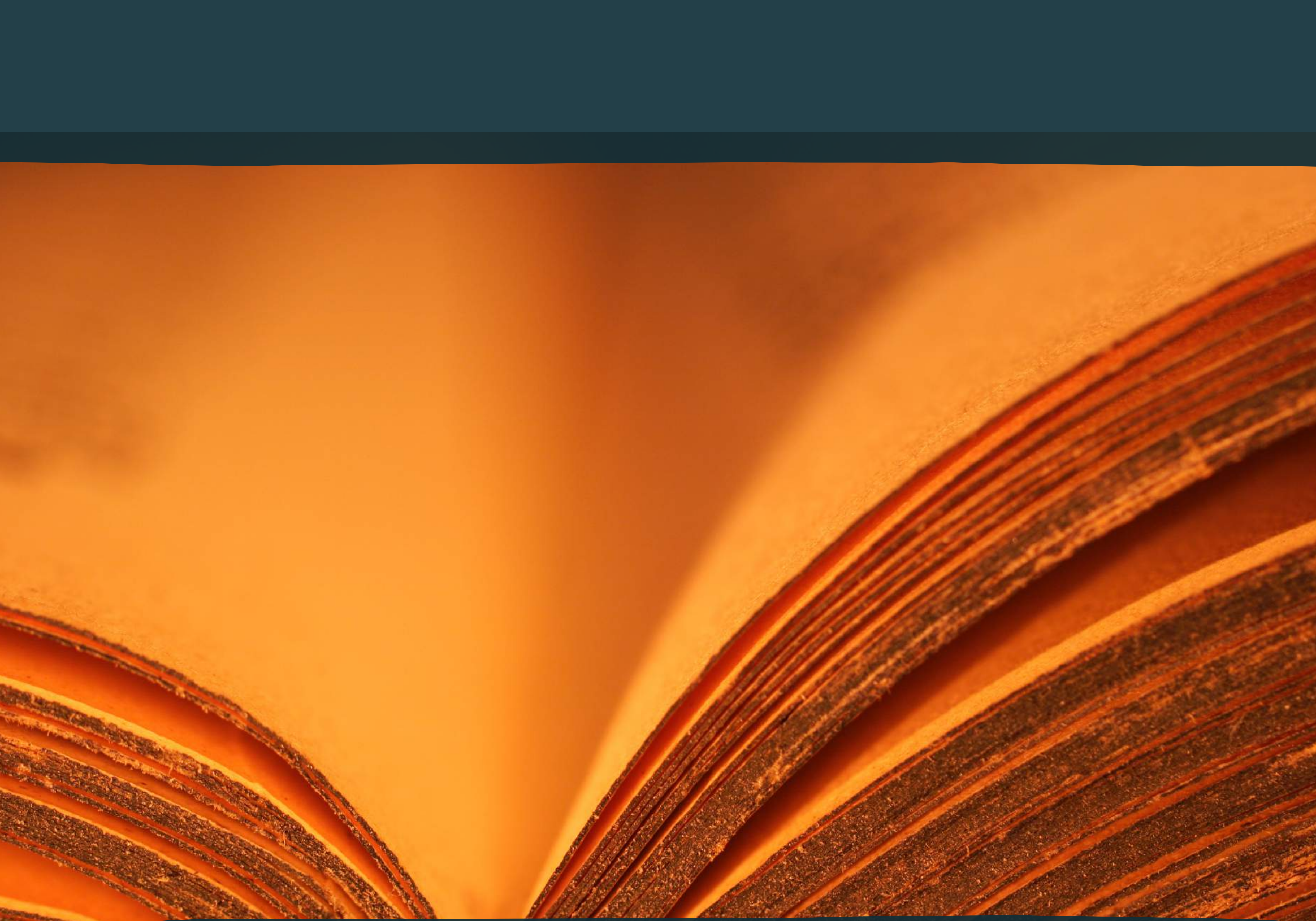
GOSPEL



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# SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW

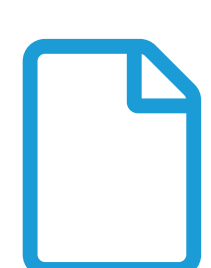


EVANGELISTIC  
**PRAYER**  
TEAMS



# SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW

## 5. CREATING CAPACITY AT WORK



### Introduction

I don't have enough time!

Most of us feel this way, but the management gurus tell us that when it comes to getting things done, time is not as important as vision and ownership.

We create capacity in our lives when we catch a vision. The resource question always comes last.

Is this your experience?



### Big Picture

*We create space in our lives for the vision that has captured our hearts. Jesus' vision is for us to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.*



### Bible Passage

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Matthew 6:33





## Key Truths

1. Embracing Jesus' vision for our lives as our personal vision means seeking first the kingdom of God. Have you done it? What might be stopping you?
2. Do you personally own Jesus' vision for your life? What might be stopping you?
3. What might need to change in your week to create capacity for Jesus' vision?

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

Once you have embraced Jesus' vision for our lives, it changes how we think about what we currently do to create capacity for the kingdom. Here are two ideas:

### *Rethining the caffeine hit*

When it comes time for the mid-morning coffee, rather than just using the machine in the kitchen, how about going to a coffee shop nearby? If you were to pray about having a 5 minute conversation with one of the café staff, twice a week – that could mean over a year 500 minutes of conversation. Could you connect with, care for and share Jesus with someone over that time?

### *Coffee with a friend*

Why not take that need for a caffeine hit as an opportunity to get to know a colleague or two across your week? 30 minutes every other week is 520 minutes of conversation over a year. Throw a lunch or two in and we're talking 10 hours or more of deepening your friendship. Imagine what God could do for his kingdom in that time!

How else could you find capacity for Jesus' vision of our life at work?



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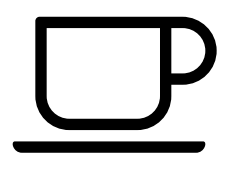
## Prayer

Pray for insight about creating capacity at work for the kingdom of God.

Pray for opportunities to go deeper with friends and colleagues at work.

## Remember

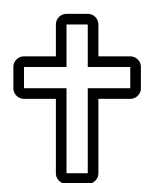
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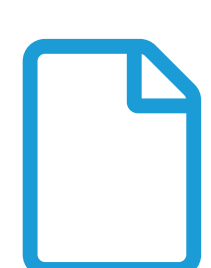
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## SEEING JESUS IN MATTHEW

# 6. FAMOUS LAST WORDS



### Introduction

Just before she was executed, Marie Antoinette accidentally trod on the foot over her executioner, said "Pardon me, sir!" and went to her death. Some people's last words don't amount to much, but Jesus' last words reveal much of his intention for our lives.



### Big Picture

*We are commanded by the highest authority to make disciples who make disciples.*



### Bible Passage

*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.<sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:16-20





## Key Truths

1. Jesus sends the disciples before they were sure; doubt is not a disqualifier from disciple-making.
2. Jesus, the risen saviour, has **ALL** authority in heaven and on earth. All means all! He is always with us to the very end. We serve the highest authority and he is always with us.
3. The command here is *make disciples*. *Going, baptising, and teaching* are descriptors of what making disciples looks like.
4. There's no such thing as a drive-by disciple maker. Jesus is describing a long-term activity where the new disciples are taught to obey everything Jesus has commanded.
5. "everything I have commanded you" also includes the command to make disciples. We are disciple-makers who make disciple-makers, who make disciple-makers, who...

\*EF

Thoughts? Questions?



## Application

We have the support of the highest authority, who has commanded us to make disciples who make disciples. The last words of Jesus to his disciples gave us a job to do. We have benefited from the long line of disciple-makers, and that line must not end with us!

Who are you praying for? Who are you seeking to invite to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible?



## Prayer

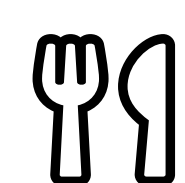
Pray that God might reveal who he would have you make a disciple of Jesus.

## Remember

**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**



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