



# WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN



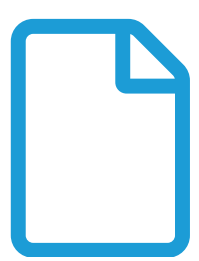
EVANGELISTIC  
**PRAYER**  
TEAMS





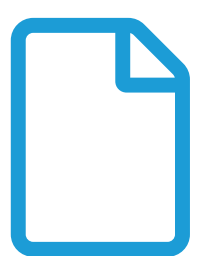
# WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN

## Course Overview



### Course Summary

These studies examine how we can work as an authentic Christian.



### Course Structure

- 1: KNOWING THE DESTINATION**
- 2: WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW**
- 3: RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME**
- 4: PRAYER IS THE WORK**
- 5: THIS IS HOW WE DO IT**
- 6: COFFEE - MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR STUFF**
- 7: MAKING FRIENDS POST COVID**
- 8: DINNER - HURRY UP AND LISTEN**
- 9: GOSPEL - THE ELEVATOR PITCH**
- 10: HOW WE REACH THE WORLD**



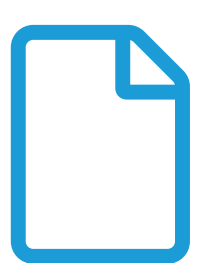
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# WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN

## 1. KNOWING THE DESTINATION



### Introduction

Any endeavour requires a clear destination. Without a destination, there's no reason.  
What do you think?  
What is the ultimate purpose for life?



### Big Picture

Above everything, ultimate reality is the certain hope of all creation declaring the praises of the exalted Lord Jesus.



### Bible Passage

*Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying:*

*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!”*

*Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:*

*“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!”*

*The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

Revelation 5:11-14





## Key Truths

1. John's vision of the glory and honour and praise due to Jesus - the lamb who was slain - is of a throng of angels too big to count singing out of the worthiness of Jesus.
2. The picture of the worship of Jesus and God the Father is described as being pure light without any darkness. Their glory is such that there is no need for a sun (Revelation 22:4).
3. The gospel of Jesus Christ ends not with our salvation, but with the worship of king Jesus.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

When you work in a place where Christian values are no longer respected, and Christianity is regarded as a threat to diversity and inclusion we often feel left with only two options: Activism or Keeping a low profile.

But, we know Jesus is king - and everything in creation is going to sing praises to him and to our God. However fearful the authority over us, however strident the opposition to anything of Christ, we know this - Jesus wins!

How does this knowledge embolden you to live fully as a disciple of Jesus as you return to work now?



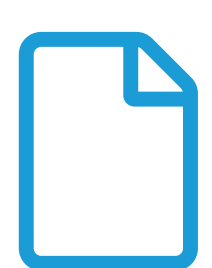
## Prayer

Pray that the glory of Jesus would be ever present in your mind as you strive to work authentically as a disciple of Jesus at work.





## WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN **2. WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW**



### Introduction

There are many theories about what's wrong with the world and what the world needs – education, equality, echinacea... (ok, so maybe not that last one). What do your friends and colleagues think the world needs?



### Big Picture

Without Jesus, our world is dead in sin, following the ways of the devil, captive to our evil cravings, deserving of God's wrath. Our world needs Jesus.



### Bible Passage

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 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. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

**Ephesians 2:1-7**





## Key Truths

1. To say the world is sick would be an understatement! The world is dead in its sins, following the ways of the ruler of the kingdom of the air (the devil).
2. The world is captive to obeying its base cravings and desires, it is by nature deserving of God's wrath.
3. Only because of God's great love does our world receive mercy through Christ. Jesus is the urgent need of our world!

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

No educational reform, or civil rights campaign can fix our world's fundamental problem – our fatal dependence upon our evil desires, our addiction to sin, and subjection to the rule of the devil.

Only the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ can make us alive and deliver us from death. But sometimes we can let fantasies of other things creep into our imagination. Maybe if we could run the right programme, or change the laws of the land, or get people to behave a certain way – maybe we could save the world.

What difference does it make to remember only Jesus saves?

How could this truth change how we work?



## Prayer

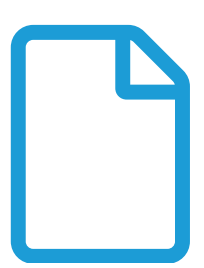
Pray for our friends and colleagues underlying need for Jesus.  
Pray that the gospel of Jesus would have a lasting effect in our workplaces.





## WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN

### 3. RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME



#### Introduction

“Life is what happens to you when you’re busy making other plans.” *John Lennon*

Life is busy. There’s always the next thing demanding our attention. Or our minds are always dwelling on past successes or failures. We rarely take opportunities to pause and reflect on where we are and what we are doing.

Why do you think God has you in the role you’re currently in?



#### Big Picture

God has put us in the exact time and place we’re in so that people might find him through us.



#### Bible Passage

*“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’*

**Acts 17:24-28**





## Key Truths

1. God doesn't fit into our little temples, nor does he squeeze into our little plans. We fit within his grand schemes for all of history.
2. God has set out our exact times and places so that we might seek him, reach out and find him (though he's not far from any of us). This must also include when and where we work.
3. If God has set the places and times unbelievers work so they might find him, it follows that he has also set the times and places Christians work so that through *us* people might find him.
4. It is no accident that we are working with the people we are, it is part of God's plan to see unbelievers come to know Jesus.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

Do you remember praying before you got your current role? Do you remember why you applied and agreed to take the role? Was sharing Jesus part of what you were thinking about?

As we have seen, people finding Jesus is a part of God's purpose in everything. How does this change how you view your colleagues?

When was the last time you considered the eternal destiny of those around you at work?

How does it change your prayers?

Which of your colleagues could God be working in right now?



## Prayer

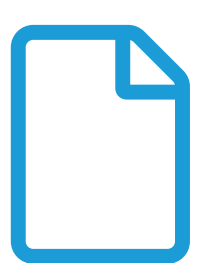
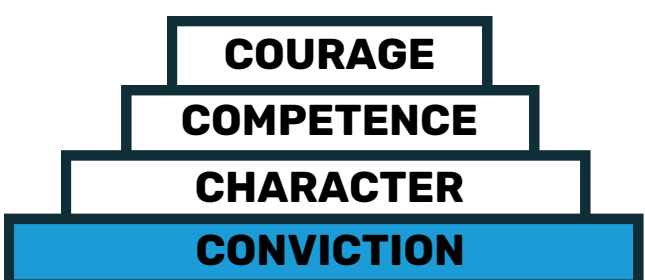
Pray for a fresh perspective of your colleagues, that you would see them as God does – people who need to reach out and find him through Jesus.





## WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN

### 4. PRAYER IS THE WORK



#### Introduction

‘Prayer does not fit us for the greater works; prayer is the greater work.’

*Oswald Chambers*

‘Prayer is not a support activity to mission. Prayer is itself a frontline missionary activity.’

*Tim Chester*

What are your thoughts?



#### Big Picture

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.



#### Bible Passage

*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 honored, 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, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

[Ephesians 6:19-20](#)





## **Bible Passage (cont)**

*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' response to the needs of evangelism is calling for prayer.
2. Paul's practice in mission is to ask for prayer.
3. God's people respond to the needs of mission around them in prayer.
4. 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 us from praying for our colleagues?

We pray because nothing happens in mission – in the workplace or overseas – unless God acts to build his kingdom.

Often we think our lack of progress in sharing Jesus or our colleagues' sluggish response to Jesus is because we just haven't found the right argument, or read the right book, or watched the right video. Could it be our lack of prayer?



## **Prayer**

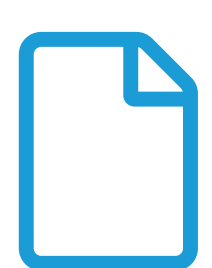
Who could you commit to praying for this year?

If you haven't already done so, spend some time writing a list of 2-3 people you could be praying for this year.





## WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN **5. THIS IS HOW WE DO IT (COFFEE/DINNER/GOSPEL)**



### Introduction

There's a saying among Christian missionaries:  
*Closed country, open hearts; open country, closed hearts.*

Do you think this is true for Australia?



### Big Picture

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



### Key Truths

Have you noticed that people like to compartmentalise their lives?  
We talk about work/life balances, as if life doesn't really happen at work. Why is that?

In Australia we tend to see the world in two very separate realms;

Public, observable, secular realm

Private, sacred realm

Our culture has learned that conversations on religion tend to lead to fights and so we avoid them in public arenas to keep the peace.

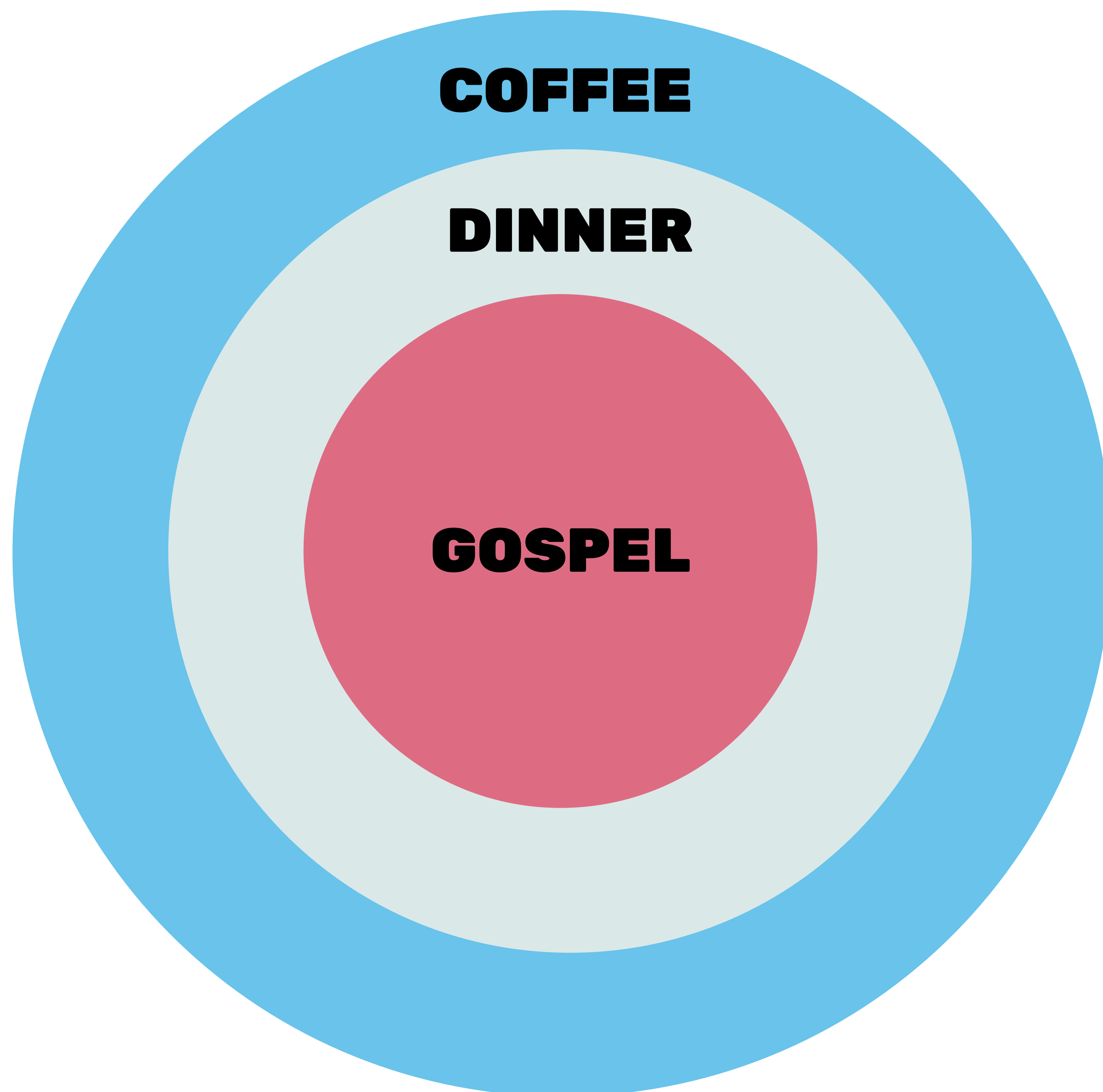
So how can we talk to people about Jesus?





## Key Truths (cont)

The deeper we go in relationships, the deeper we are willing share and discuss with one another - it's all a matter of trust. Let's look at how conversations work in our culture according to Coffee, Dinner, Gospel:



**COFFEE** - Coffee is public and safe. Conversation is usually quick, is restricted to small talk - weather, sport, news.

**DINNER** - Dinner is more private, Once small talk is exhausted we become open to more private issues - personal values, worldviews, politics, and religion. Once we move into the private realm we need to listen well; asking questions like, 'Do you have faith? Do you pray? What values do you want your kids to have? How did you come to believe that?' (notice the factual way of asking a private question)

**GOSPEL** - The gospel touches who we are at our most central part, and so it usually takes some time for us to get to this stage with people.

*Thoughts? Questions?*





## Application

Sharing Jesus means going deeper in relationships. Our culture resists speaking about the matters of the gospel of Jesus until we've built relational trust.

But also, sharing Jesus takes confidence.... in God.

Daniel prays "He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him." (Daniel 2:22). God knows the private thoughts of our colleagues - better than we do!

We can trust God as we seek to draw people out. God knows their hearts and is an expert at drawing the hidden things to light.



## Prayer

Pray for the people in your workplace, pray for deepening relationships with colleagues for the sake of Jesus.

## Remember

**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



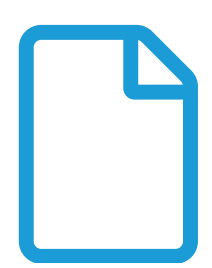
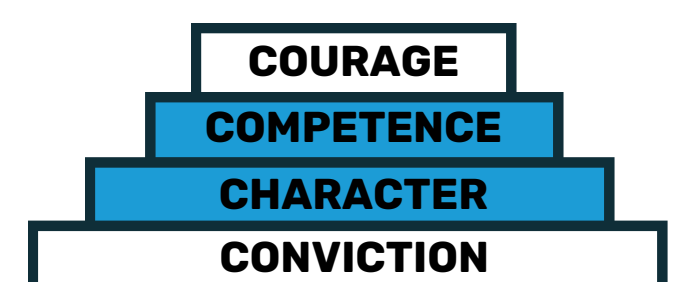
**GOSPEL**







## WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN **6. COFFEE - MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR STUFF**



### Introduction

Think of the friendships you have had. How did those relationships start?



### Big Picture

Jesus tells us to make friends by using money that will fail for the sake of the kingdom that will never fail.



### Bible Passage

*"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.*

**Luke 16:8-9**





## Key Truths

1. These verses follow the parable of the shrewd manager – an odd parable, but it is essentially a contrast between how God's people and the people of this world live.
2. The master praises the dishonest manager for his shrewd actions and Jesus remarks that the people of this world are more shrewd than the people of light. The word here for shrewd describes the practical wisdom of life experience.
3. Jesus' insight here is to use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourself.
4. Jesus' point is wealth won't last. Markets fall, consumer confidence crumbles, but God's kingdom never fails. Wealth isn't for keeping – it's to use to make friends for the sake of the kingdom. (See also Proverbs 19:4,6)
5. One reason to make friends with worldly wealth is so they too would be welcomed into heavenly dwellings.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

When it comes to working, what does it mean to be a wise steward of our money?

Work from home to save on commuting costs? Bringing in your lunch rather than buying out? Using the office coffee machine rather than going to the coffee shop?

What might it look like to use worldly wealth to make friends in the post-Covid workplace?

Making friends requires an intentional desire to love others. But also, making friends costs time, money, and energy.

Making friends means spending time with people, getting to know them in a deeper way. Generally speaking, this doesn't happen well in an office while trying to get work done – but rather in the incidental times: coffee breaks, lunches, work trips, outside work functions.





## Application (cont)

Making friends might mean going out for lunch or coffee regularly with colleagues – and budgeting for it as a mission expense. Making friends might mean staying out when you feel exhausted on a Thursday or Friday evening to spend time with colleagues. Making friends might mean initiating social events.

What are some ways you have seen people successfully develop friendships at work?

Next week, we'll spend some more time thinking of the practical ways forward for developing relationships in the post-Covid workplace. (It's a longer one - you may like to read it before you come to EPT)



## Prayer

Pray for an openness to using your time, money, and energy for the sake of God's kingdom growing through your work colleagues.

## Remember

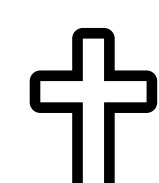
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



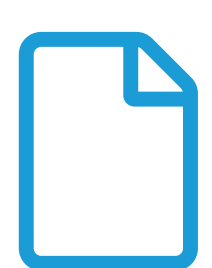
**GOSPEL**







## WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN 7. MAKING FRIENDS POST-COVID



### Introduction

Have you ever been to a wedding or a party when someone asks “So how did you know the bride and groom?” The answer always seems to fall flat – “Oh we went to school together” or “We used to work at the same place” or “we had a mutual friend”. It never describes how the relationship developed accurately.

Friendships are mystical phenomena, it’s hard to pinpoint exactly how they develop. This week we’re going to spend some time reflecting on how we can develop relationships in the post-COVID workplace.



### Big Picture

Developing relationships in the post-Covid workplace is more complex and difficult than before – but is also potentially more fruitful than ever.



### Bible Passage

*One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin,  
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

[Proverbs 18:24](#)

*The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters,  
but one who has insight draws them out.*

[Proverbs 20:5](#)





## Key Truths

Sharing Jesus in the post-COVID workplace has become harder, there's no escaping it. However, there some of the more important aspects remain the same. God is still the one who does the work of change in our colleagues lives – and so prayer remains our main tool. The spirit empowered word of God remains our main strength.

So, what has changed?

We no longer work 4-5 days a week in the same office space with the same people. As many as 10% of Australia's workforce changed their jobs during COVID. Many people reported that their friendship groups have shrunk. In short, we just don't see as many people as frequently.

**MANY OF US FEEL LIKE WE'RE STARTING FROM SCRATCH WITH A WHOLE NEW GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE'RE JUST NOT SPENDING AS MUCH TIME AS BEFORE. IT SEEMS JUST MUCH HARDER THAN EVER.**

The good news is, people seem more open to relationships – or at least more open to more meaningful relationships. A recent company cultural study revealed that while some have embraced the remote working advantages and don't want to return to working in the office, many expressed high desires to form work friendships. Even those satisfied with working exclusively from home were more likely than not to desire good work relationships. One in four workers listed good relationships with colleagues as a significant factor in their job satisfaction – higher than pay!

So with so many of us feeling like we're starting from scratch with people at work, how can we build relationships in post-Covid workplaces?





## Application

### WHERE IS GOD WORKING?

While we usually focus on praying for people in our workplaces, it's worth taking a prayerful moment to discern how, where, and in whom God might be working around us. Is there someone God has brought across your path that you might have overlooked?

### ATTRACTION

*C.S. Lewis* says "Friendship is born at the moment when one man says to another "What! You Too? I thought that no one but myself..."

We tend to gravitate towards people with whom we share similar outlooks and interests – this can happen instinctively, but often it can happen by accident. You notice they have a screensaver with their favourite team, hobby, or vintage airliner interest. They might mention in passing that they sew, hike, or are trying to learn guitar. What are they listening to on Spotify? What are they watching on Netflix? What are they reading? These might be 'ins' to start a relationship.

### HUMILITY AND CURIOSITY

"Everyone you will ever meet knows something you don't" *Bill Nye*.

If we start from a starting point of love for others, we develop an essential interest in others – we discover how we can learn from them and discover what makes them tick.

Good listening involves learning how to ask good questions.

- Use open ended, rather than closed-end (or yes/no) questions.
- Learn to utilise the key tools of any good interviewer – 6 words: what, where, how, why, when, and who.





## **Application (cont)**

### **BE A FRIEND**

If we want to form friendships, we start by being a friend. We behave the way we want others to treat us. Draw people out, get behind them and celebrate them with others.

I remember working with a Canadian man on a project – it was a high pressure environment with tight deadlines and tensions between teams. This man would visit each team, at least once a week – hear how things were going for us, talk about how we were essential for the project, try to understand our pressures, and encouraged us to keep going. Here's the thing, I don't know if that was a part of his job or not, he just genuinely expressed care and support for people as he met them. People warm to someone like that.

### **OPENNESS/VULNERABILITY**

Relationships grow out of a mutual respect and trust. It takes time, effort, and resources. If life is full of church and family commitments, it will be hard to develop friendships at work. Are you open to developing friendships with work colleagues? Are you willing to show people the real you?

Sam Chan points out one of the paradoxes of building relationships – when you ask someone for a favour and put ourselves into their debt, it can actually help build relational trust. This means swallowing our pride and being vulnerable with others.

How can you be more vulnerable with work colleagues?

### **TIME SPENT TALKING AND LISTENING IN A THIRD SPACE**

Relationships develop over time – recent research has suggested that close friendship can take 200 hours to grow. And that's not time merely in close proximity to one another. It's time talking and listening – asking good questions. Usually that happens





## Application (cont)

best outside the physical workplace in a third space, such as a café down the street, the pub across the road, the work running or cycling group. One group of workers hired a personal trainer and invited colleagues to join them in a park at lunchtime so they could develop relationships.

Where can we be intentional about booking out time with people? It could be towards a particular project – a community good or charity work. It could be it's not about achieving anything at all – such as Thursday night drinks.

What are some ways of spending non-work time with colleagues that you have seen work?

### WHERE DO I START?

Have you noticed that you have gravitated towards particular people at work or they you? Perhaps they are a good place to start.

Otherwise, perhaps you can pray a dangerous prayer – “Heavenly Father, please reveal to me the people you would have me share Jesus with in my workplace.” Be warned, God loves to answer that prayer.

Are you ready?



## Prayer

Heavenly Father, please reveal to me the people you would have me share Jesus with in my workplace.

## Remember

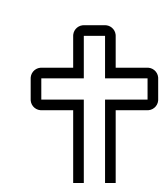
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**

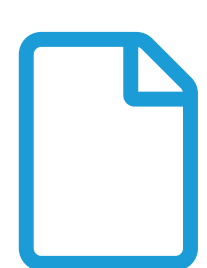






## WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN

### 8. DINNER - HURRY UP AND LISTEN!



#### Introduction

Has there been a time when you really felt listened to?

How did that feel?

What did they do that made you feel heard?



#### Big Picture

When we start talking about the deeper things of life, it's time to listen more than we speak.



#### Bible Passage

*Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,*

[James 1:19](#)

*Sin is not ended by multiplying words,  
but the prudent hold their tongues.*

[Proverbs 10:19](#)

*The prudent keep their knowledge to themselves,  
but a fool's heart blurts out folly.*

[Proverbs 12:23](#)

*The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint,  
and whoever has understanding is even-tempered.  
Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent,  
and discerning if they hold their tongues.*

[Proverbs 17:27-28](#)

*Through patience a ruler can be persuaded,  
and a gentle tongue can break a bone.*

[Proverbs 25:15](#)





## Key Truths

1. When it comes to speaking, the message of Proverbs over and over again is – less is more!
2. Words with restraint, managed with patience can change even the mind of a king! A gentle tongue can break a bone. Imagine what a gentle word could do to a hard heart?
3. The more we talk, the more there is a chance to sin – the more we listen, the more we are patient, the more we can draw people out and help them see their need for Jesus.
4. Listening is an active skill that can take time to practice and perfect.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application

When we get to the point of talking about the deeper things of life; morality, values, etc. Our temptation is to start looking for the chink in the armour to prove our friend wrong, or to look for an opening to wedge in the gospel of Jesus. Instead, imagine what would happen if we just listened. Listened not to work out our next argument but listened to understand.

Why does my friend believe this? How does it make sense of the world?

Why is this belief attractive or a comfort?

What is it about this belief that is noble or good?

What might they find hard about Jesus? What might they love about Jesus?



## Prayer

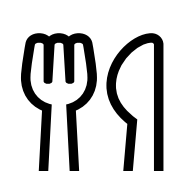
Pray for patience and a gentle tongue. Pray that we would be slow to speak and quick to listen to our colleagues.

## Remember

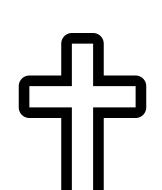
COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL

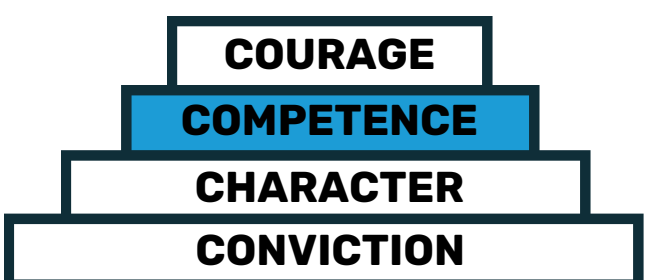






## WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN

### 9. GOSPEL - THE ELEVATOR PITCH



### Introduction

You've been seeking to share Jesus with your friend for some time - you've had coffees and lunches, you've spent time listening and finding out where they're coming from, and you've shared a bit about what the Bible has to say about life. Then, on the way back from a coffee break, you both step into an elevator and she asks, "So, what is it about Jesus that's so important to you?"

What do you say?



### Key Truths

There are many different ways to share Jesus in a short space of time:

- You could learn a rote presentation like Two Ways to Live.
- You could talk about why you became a Christian (note, not how)
- You could tell a favourite episode from Jesus' life, or share a parable of Jesus, and explain what Jesus is saying about God and us.
- You could pick your favourite verse and explain what it means for you.

Whichever way you go, you want to speak as succinctly, you want to talk about Jesus, and you want to end with a challenge - this has impacts for your friend too!

We're going to spend some time picking your favourite passage or verse and seeing how we can best explain Jesus through it.





## Key Truths (cont)

So, pick your favourite passage about Jesus (you can use John 3:16 if you'd like)

Spend a few minutes thinking about it, then share to the team how you might share about Jesus from that passage.

*Thoughts? Questions?*



## Application



## Prayer

Pray for an opportunity to share Jesus this week.

## Remember

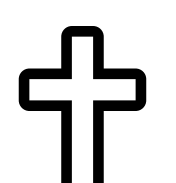
**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**

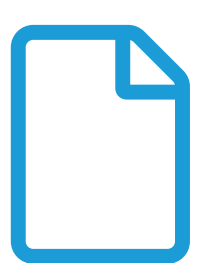
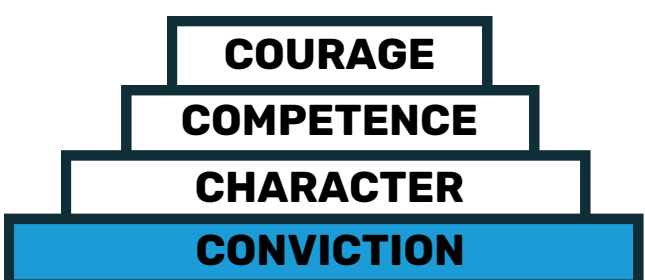






## WORKING AS AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN

# 10. HOW WE REACH THE WORLD



### Introduction

If you were boss of the whole worldwide church, how would you reach the world with the good news of Jesus?



### Big Picture

City Bible Forum aims to reach the world through the workplace with the good news of Jesus by prayerfully seeking to see 1000 people across Australia meeting Jesus in the pages of the Bible.



### Bible Passage

*...I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*

**Romans 1:16**

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

**Romans 10:17**

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

**Titus 3:4-7**





## Key Truths

There are many possible ways to reach the world, so why focus on reading the Bible with unbelievers?

Here are 3 reasons:

**Theological:** God works to build about his kingdom by his word, through his life-giving Spirit. While God has and does speak in many different ways, he has spoken definitively in his Son, Jesus Christ – the Word of God. As we read the Bible, God's Spirit enlightens our minds and hearts to see Jesus and hear the call of the gospel.

**Cultural:** Gone is the age where workers trust clergy or theological experts for spiritual matters. Generation X and Millennials tend to look to practitioners and peers for spiritual matters, whereas Generation Z are more likely to search Google or Youtube. People want to see whether the Christian life works, but they prefer to listen to people they trust – people like them – not the "experts". Further, fewer people now are familiar with the Bible; people start further away than every before – they don't even know what they don't know about God.

**Relational:** When it comes to helping someone meet Jesus, inviting someone to have a coffee and look at a bit of a Gospel with us is relationally equivalent to inviting someone to a coffee date. Conversely, inviting someone to come to church with us is more like inviting someone to meet all the relatives at a family reunion over the weekend.

Consider evangelist *Rico Tice*'s words:

"Research suggests that when people put their faith in Christ, on average it's taken two years from the point when they came into meaningful contact with a Christian who witnessed to them—and that time period is growing. Witnessing is a long-term commitment to invest in a relationship, to pray tirelessly, and to speak the gospel over and over again, patiently and persistently. It is a journey of gospel conversations. It really does take effort."

and

"It's harder and harder to take people to hear the Bible taught; you need to take the Bible to them. People who would never consider stepping into a church will feel far less threatened reading and talking about the Bible with a friend."

**Honest Evangelism**

*Thoughts? Questions?*





## Application

We're finding that increasingly people aren't prepared to consider the bigger questions of life upfront. Instead, after reading the Bible for some time, that's when the questions start flowing and the gospel begins to hit home.

Who could you invite to read a Gospel with you?



## Prayer

Take some time this week - who are three people you hope to invite to read through a Gospel with you?

Spend some time next time you meet as a team to share those names and pray through them together.

Pray for opportunities to read a Gospel with friends and colleagues.

## Remember

**COFFEE**



**DINNER**



**GOSPEL**

