

EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAMS

2025
QUARTER 1



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PRAYER
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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 workers with the good news about Jesus.

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

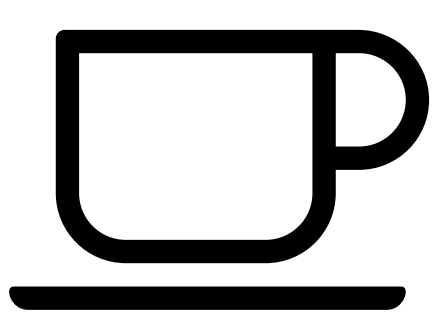


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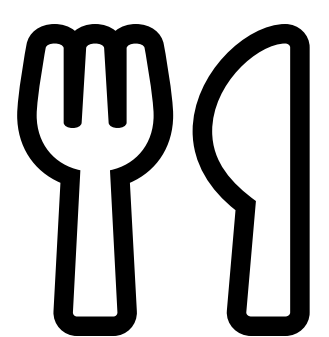
TAKE THE NEXT RELATIONAL STEP

COFFEE



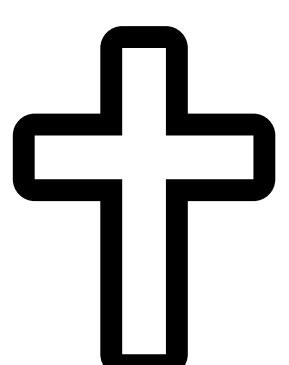
Shared a personal conversation
Knows I'm Christian
Spent social time together

DINNER



I understand their worldview
I've shared the Bible's worldview

GOSPEL



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



EVANGELISTIC
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TEAMS

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OVERVIEW

A FIRM FOUNDATION

HOW WE SHARE JESUS AT WORK

MEETING JESUS USING THE WORD 121

WHY DON'T PEOPLE GET THE GOSPEL?



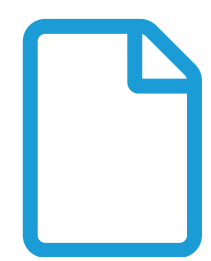
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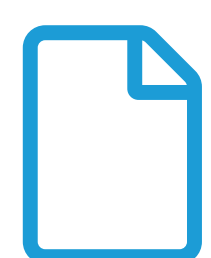
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Course Summary

"The important thing is that you've got a strong foundation before you start to try to save the world or help other people." - Richard Branson

These studies seek to lay a firm foundation for sharing Jesus with our work colleagues and friends. They explore the why and the how of workplace evangelism, especially considering how being a part of an Evangelistic Prayer Team will aid us in reaching the world through the workplace with the good news of Jesus.



Course Structure

Lessons

- 1: God's Vision This Year**
- 2: Prayer - The Best Thing We Can Do?**
- 3: Right Place, Right Time**
- 4: Better Together**
- 5: God and Our Stuff**
- 6: Why we Don't**
- 7: Conquer Fear, Find Yearning, Ignite Passion**



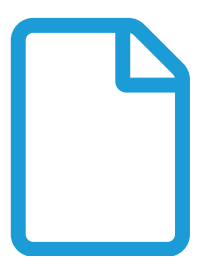
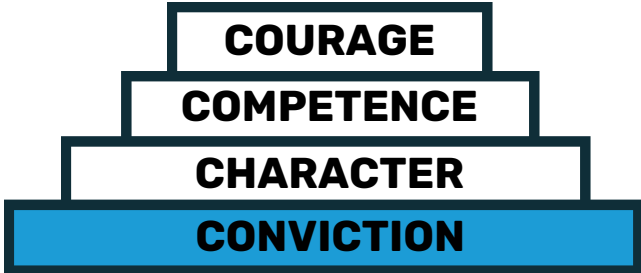
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1: God's Vision This Year



Introduction

Coca-Cola's vision is "refresh the world", Disney's "make people happy".
What's your company's vision?
Vision is a vital aspect of any endeavour. A clear vision helps us discriminate between the good and the essential.

Big Picture

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



Bible Passage

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

Ephesians 1:9-10



Key Truths

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

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

There are so many things we could devote our lives to: improving the lives of others, building better systems and processes, releasing capital for vital projects, loving and caring for family or the marginalised.

These are all good things. But are they essential in God's vision?

Vision is about discriminating between good and essential and in God's plan, there's only one focus – that Jesus is Lord of all.

Our lives need to align with God's vision.

If Jesus is to be the Lord in your workplace, those who aren't followers of Jesus need to follow him. They need to meet him and submit to his rule.

Who could you invite to meet Jesus this year?



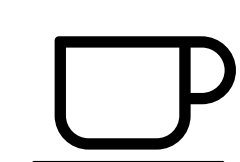
Prayer

Who will you be praying for in your workplace this year?

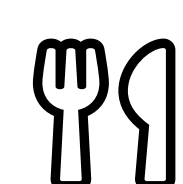
Share together about the people you want to pray for this year.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



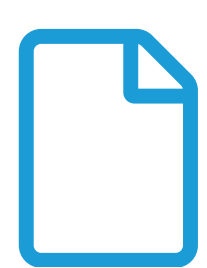
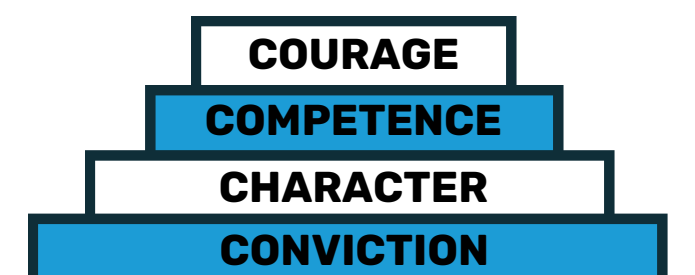
GOSPEL





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2: Prayer - The Best Thing We Can Do?



Introduction

In a hectic world, If you want to get anything done, you have to get in and get it done.

How does this resonate with you?



Big Picture

God calls us to share the good news of Jesus with those around us, but God is the great evangelist who calls people to himself. Therefore, prayer is the best thing we can do!



Bible Passage

And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

"Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me."

John 6:39-45



Key Truths

1. No one comes to Jesus unless God draws them. People come to Jesus as they hear from the Father and learn from him. (v44-45)
2. A close relationship with a Christian is a good start for sharing Jesus, but it doesn't guarantee someone will accept him as their Lord. The grumbling Jews knew Jesus and his family personally! But they still didn't believe in him.
3. It is God who calls us, it is God who saves us, and it is God who saves our friends - NOT us.
4. No one is outside of God's ability to save, and everyone is someone we could potentially invite to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

As we consider sharing Jesus with our friends and colleagues, we can sometimes fall into the trap of thinking how people respond depends on us. Have you found yourself thinking like that?

What changes do you need to make to your prayer life this year?



Prayer

Ask God to give you a greater sense of urgency to pray for people.

Pray for that next step for our colleagues meeting Jesus.

Remember

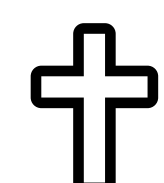
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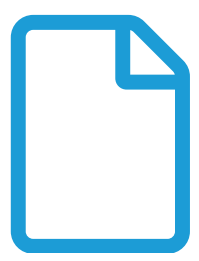
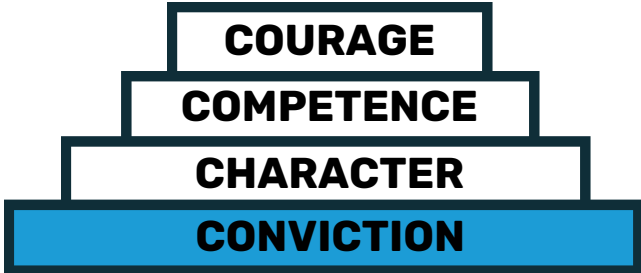
GOSPEL





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3: Right Place, Right Time



Introduction

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

So often our attention is drawn to the next thing or else we dwell on the past. It can be difficult to notice what is happening right here and now.

How often do you pause to reflect on why you’re in the role you’re currently in?



Big Picture

God has put us in our exact time and place 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 (including where we work) so that we might seek him, reach out and find him (though he's not far from any of us).
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've seen, it's clear that sharing Jesus was part of God's purpose. 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?



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.

Remember

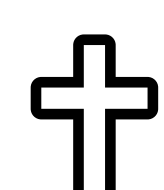
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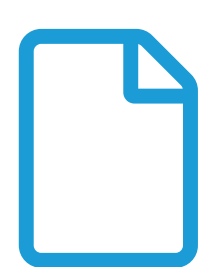
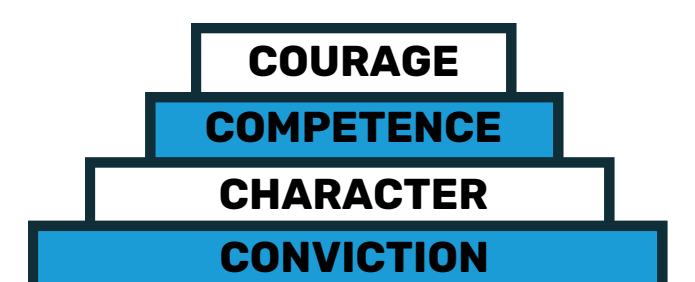
GOSPEL





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4: Better Together



Introduction

If you were going to build an international movement, how would you do it?
 Recruit a world-famous rapper?
 Find an exceptional evangelistic speaker to tour the globe?
 Launch a viral advertising campaign?



Big Picture

As we seek to build God's kingdom, we need to understand that we work better together.



Bible Passage

*Two are better than one,
 because they have a good return for their labour:
 If either of them falls down,
 one can help the other up.
 But pity anyone who falls
 and has no one to help them up.
 Also, if two lie down together, they
 will keep warm.
 But how can one keep warm alone?
 Though one may be overpowered,
 two can defend themselves.
 A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12



Key Truths

Have you noticed how God chooses to build his kingdom? God doesn't use exceptional people but small groups of ordinary people.

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

1 Corinthians 1:26

Consider this. Jesus gathered twelve unlikely and unknown people to kick off God's kingdom (even more amazing when you consider the infighting, gaffs, and betrayal recorded in the Gospels). When Jesus sent out the 72 followers he sent them out two by two (Luke 10:1). Finally, when Jesus commissioned his disciples before he ascended, he commands them all (plural) to make disciples. Jesus has a pattern of calling teams of people to his mission.

But what of that great evangelist, Paul?

Surely he's an exceptional person? He is, but even he never operates alone – he's always a part of a team. Barnabas, Timothy, Titus, Priscilla & Aquilla, Epaphras, Luke, Demas (Romans 16:3-21, 1 Thessalonians 3:2, Philemon 22-25, Colossians 4:7,10-17, 2 Corinthians 8:23).

God rescues individuals to be a people for his own possession, a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9) – we become part of a team. We need to understand – we're better together. Even from the start, in Genesis 2:18, God states, "It is not good for the man to be alone." We're better together, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17) and as the author of Ecclesiastes states in our passage above, "two are better than one" and, "a cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Many use this passage to speak about marriage, but it's actually talking about having a brother or son as a business partner.

Being on our own is hard; we're better together.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

When it comes to sharing Jesus with our friends and colleagues, we were never meant to go it alone. Evangelism works better when we're a part of a team. We can sharpen one another, we help each other, support one another, encourage one another, and keep each other accountable.

Evangelistic Prayer Teams seek to help Christian workers to share Jesus with their friends and colleagues. They help us focus on evangelism, we depend on God in prayer, and they also get us working together towards seeing people meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible.

How could you work together as a team to help each other share Jesus with your friends and colleagues?

(Maybe spend some time brainstorming how you can support one another in sharing Jesus)



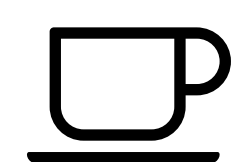
Prayer

Pray that God would form you into a solid team and that he would bear fruit through you.

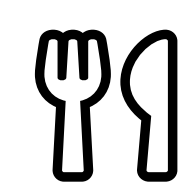
Pray for that next step for our colleagues meeting Jesus.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL





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5: God and Our Stuff



Introduction

Former Primer Minister Malcolm Turnbull, once said, “I don’t believe my wealth... is entirely a function of hard work. Of course, hard work is important but... there are taxi drivers that work harder than I ever have and they don’t have much money.”

To what extent can we take credit for our success?



Big Picture

*God doesn’t need anything from us but gives us all things.
When we give to support God’s mission, we’re not doing God a favour, it’s a chance for cheerful worship!*



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.

Acts 17:24-25

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7



Key Truths

1. God made everything and gives to everyone impartially.
2. God isn't short of cash – he doesn't need our service, or our giving.
3. God gives life, breath, and everything. There's nothing we can give to God that he doesn't already own.
4. When we give to the growth of the kingdom, we're not doing God a favour. It's a chance for cheerful worship.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

Can you give to the work of City Bible Forum?

City Bible Forum exists due to the generosity of God expressed through his people. Almost half of our support comes from individual Christians giving regularly to more people come to know the lord Jesus.

We know there are many great ministry opportunities to support, however we hope your involvement in this Evangelistic Prayer Team will lead to you also regularly financially supporting City Bible Forum as you see God working through your work.

How might you be able to support City Bible Forum this year?

(You can give at citybibleforum.org/donate. Tax deductible options are available, talk to a staff member citybibleforum.org/about-us)



Prayer

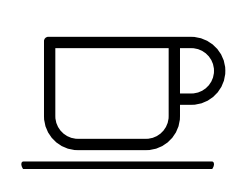
Pray that God would grant you to be a cheerful giver.

Pray for the financial needs of City Bible Forum.

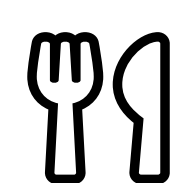
Pray for your taking the next relational step with your unbelieving colleagues.

Remember

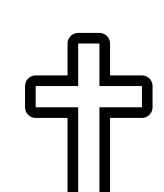
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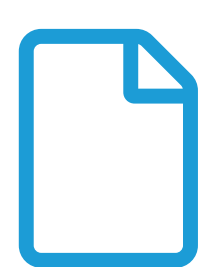
GOSPEL





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6: Why We Don't



Introduction

Think back to a moment where you had an opportunity to share Jesus with a colleague and you let it slip by you.

What kept you from sharing in that moment?



Big Picture

Evangelism is the expression of love for God and love for others that Jesus calls every Christian to.



Bible Passage

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

[Luke 10:25-28](#)



Key Truths

1. Above all else, Christians are called to love God with everything and love our neighbour as ourselves.
2. Jesus deserves our absolute devotion. He is the very God, who in love willingly gave his life for us. If we are captured by Jesus' glory, we can't help wanting the world to sing his praises – we will want everyone to join us in our devotion to Jesus.
3. Our love for others means we love them enough to want them to share in our certain future in Jesus, and avoid the terrible, fixed, and final reality of hell.
4. Do we love our colleagues enough to speak up even when it is hard?

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

In *Honest Evangelism* Rico Tice says that in a culture increasingly hostile to Jesus, if you're going to share Jesus with someone who doesn't know him, you're going to get 'hit'. It's more likely the 'hit' will be a negative comment or at worst a loss of relationship rather than a physical 'hit', but if we are to share Jesus there is a painline that needs to be crossed. We all want to stay on the comfortable side of the painline, because we're wired to avoid pain. Pain usually means something has gone wrong – so we stop, or we change what we say. But nothing has gone wrong, we're following the crucified one – the world hates Jesus (John 7:7, 15:18) and it will hate his followers. While we live in fear of getting 'hit' we'll never share Jesus.

Does this sound familiar?

So why would we ever risk getting hit? Because we might find hunger! God is calling the lost to himself – God is working to build his kingdom!

But even knowing this we can still shy away from sharing Jesus – because our hearts are disordered. An idol is anything we love more than Jesus and our hearts are idol factories. We are built to worship, but the tragedy is we worship anything other than Jesus. Often when we balk at crossing the painline in sharing Jesus, it's because we have replaced our love of Jesus with something else – wanting to be liked or to remain comfortable perhaps. We need to recognise when our hearts have gone astray and renew our love for God and our neighbour.



Application (cont.)

Rico Tice says

"I've come to see that I can have all the understanding I need, I can have a great way of explaining the gospel, I can talk the talk with other Christians, I can read (or even write) books about Evangelism...but unless I have identified and am uprooting the idols of my heart, I still won't actually get across that painline and tell people about Jesus. And neither will you."

Honest Evangelism

What do you think?



Prayer

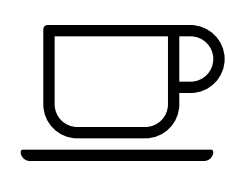
Ask God to continue to reveal the idols that threaten to take hold of your heart, pray that God would enable you to uproot them.

Pray for boldness to resist the urge to shy away from sharing Jesus.

Pray for that next step for our colleagues meeting Jesus.

Remember

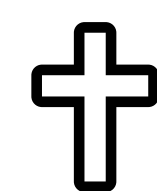
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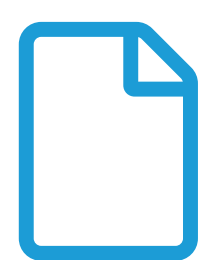
GOSPEL





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7: Conquer Fear, Find Yearning, Ignite Passion



Introduction

Christians love Jesus, they love people, they desire to see Jesus honoured by all, they love to hear of people becoming Christians.

In other words, Christians love evangelism. Yet many Christians find evangelism too hard – why is that?

This is a study based upon material from Rico Tice's *Honest Evangelism*



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.



Bible Passage

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

1 Corinthians 2:2-5



Key Truths

1. Fear of crossing painlines

We live in a culture that is apathetic towards Jesus. No matter how charming, smart, or funny you are, it doesn't matter how right your answers are... you are going to be hit if you share Jesus. The hit might be a snide comment, or it could be relationship damaging, it might be your reputation, your career, or even being hit.

*"We're wired to assume that if we're getting hit, something's gone wrong. And so whenever I tell someone the gospel message, and get hit (metaphorically speaking), there's a temptation either to stop saying anything, or to change what I'm saying. I know there is a **painline** that needs to be crossed if I tell someone the gospel; but I want to stay on the comfortable side of the painline. Of course I do!"*

Rico Tice, *Honest Evangelism*

To what extent does this resonate with you?

2. Following Jesus – the crucified one

Shockingly, Jesus prepared his disciples for this – things haven't gone wrong, it is just the new normal. Jesus said, "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves." (Matthew 10:16). Wolves bite sheep. Wolves devour sheep. The world hates us because it hates God. Jesus said, "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first." (John 15:18). This is why it is so hard to talk about Jesus – the crucified one.

"I bet that if you have stopped trying [to share Jesus] it's because you've come to one of two conclusions. Either you don't think it's working, because you got hit; or you don't think it's worth it, because you got hit"

Rico Tice, *Honest Evangelism*

If we are going to start (or restart) sharing the great news of Jesus with our colleagues, we're going to have to be willing to cross the painline. Unless we're willing to cross that painline and risk getting hit, we won't share Jesus.

What do you think?



Key Truths (cont.)

3. Hit or Hunger?

While our culture is increasingly hostile, there is also growing spiritual hunger. The endless pursuits of materialism and hedonism are hollow and dissatisfying – people are starting to realise. God is calling the lost to himself, and he calls through his people as they declare the great news of Jesus and him crucified. This is what Paul did – he opened his mouth and spoke, and God worked by his Spirit. Paul crossed the painline and churches were born.

“Until you cross the painline, you don’t know what response you will meet with. Sometimes you will get hit, just as Paul did. Sometimes you find hunger, just as Paul did”

Rico Tice, *Honest Evangelism*

4. Why we share Jesus

So when we cross the painline to share Jesus, we will either get hit, or find hunger. So why would we take the risk? Rico Tice gives three reasons:

1. Jesus glory

Jesus deserves the world’s adoration. He is the very God who died to free us from sin and rose again to rule over all. If we’re not captured by the wonder of who Jesus is, sharing Jesus will not be a priority for us.

2. The new creation

Jesus has defeated death and will bring about the new heavens and earth. If we’re not excited by our future in Jesus, we’re not going to cross the painline.

3. The grim reality of hell

Our future is assured in Jesus, but our colleagues’ future depends on how they respond to Jesus. Recall Jesus’ warning to cut off a hand or a foot or pluck out an eye rather than be thrown into hell – Hell is real, fixed, and final.



Key Truths (cont.)

5. Why we don't

Often when we don't cross the painline it's a heart problem. When we love something more than we love God – that's an idol. When we don't share Jesus, it could be that we've substituted our love of God for an idol – our desire to be liked, our hope to avoid an awkward situation, keeping our jobs

We need to rekindle our love for the Lord Jesus, to recognise how wide and long and deep is the love of Christ. There's no secret formula – we need to keep reading our Bible and praying so we can know Jesus better.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

What causes you to shy away from sharing Jesus?

What needs to change in your attitude towards sharing Jesus in your workplace?



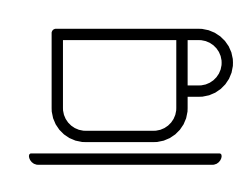
Prayer

Pray for a heart for the lost God has placed into your life.

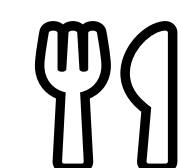
Pray for that next step for our colleagues meeting Jesus.

Remember

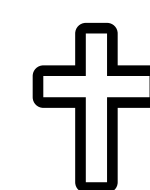
COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL



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HOW WE SHARE JESUS AT WORK

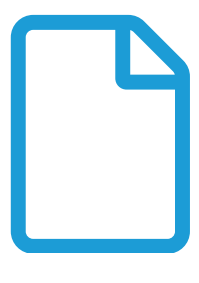


EVANGELISTIC
PRAYER
TEAM



HOW WE SHARE JESUS AT WORK

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 culturally against going deeper and asking the bigger questions, so we engage our friends and colleagues relationally – or – Coffee, Dinner, Gospel.



Key Truths

1. **We're weird about religion.** In Australian culture, we compartmentalise our lives. We talk about work/life balance; recognising that who we are and how we act in our private lives is not the same as at work. This speaks to a deeper reality – the sacred/secular divide: which a trip to your local Thai restaurant will tell you is a uniquely western thing.
2. **Sacred/Secular Divide.** The sacred/secular divide says that some things are secular – they are public/observable/factual, and there are sacred things – which are private/subjective/complex. When the sacred is brought into the secular it can make people feel uncomfortable or even lead to fights – so we avoid them, at least until we know people better.



Key Truths (cont.)

3. **And so.** Religion is firmly in the private, sacred realm – work is secular.

So how do we talk about Jesus?

4. **Coffee, Dinner, Gospel.** The deeper we go in relationship, the more people will trust us to hear about Jesus and our response to him:

Coffee – is public and safe, relationships at this level are surface and conversations are limited to public/secular topics – weather, sport, and news. However, the more we have “coffee” conversations the deeper we can go, and move into:

Dinner – is more deeper and there is more possibility to move into more private issues, values, worldviews, politics, religion, and opinions. This is the time to actively listen – asking open ended questions (Do you have a faith? Do you pray? What values do you want your kids to have? How did you come to believe that? Notice that these are still factual questions, what and how, not why yet). Active listening involves demonstrating that you have heard the thought, understood the concept, and accepted the associated feeling; I hear, I understand, I feel something of what you feel.

Gospel – once we have explored more private issues we can step into the gospel which impacts our most central part – our autonomy.

5. **Sharing Jesus today often means going deeper in relationships.** Our culture resists speaking about matters of the gospel of Jesus until we’ve built relational trust.

6. **Sharing Jesus takes confidence... in God.** In the end it is God who changes hearts and “reveals the 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, even better than they do! We can trust God to draw people out and bring the hidden things to light.

7. **Sharing Jesus means getting to know people better, but it’s not about becoming BFFs.** Sometimes we can hold back on sharing Jesus for longer than we should – and then it becomes *really* weird.

We are talking about getting to know someone to the point where asking them to have a coffee or to come over for a barbeque isn’t weird – at that point you’re probably able to start inviting them to consider Jesus with you.

Thoughts? Questions?



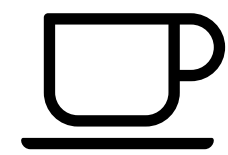
Prayer

Think about the people who don't know Jesus in your circle of friends and colleagues. Where do they stand in the Coffee, Dinner, Gospel scale relationally?

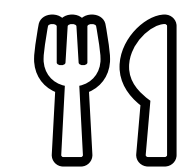
Pray for deepening relationships with colleagues in your team for the sake of the gospel.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL



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The Word

one to one

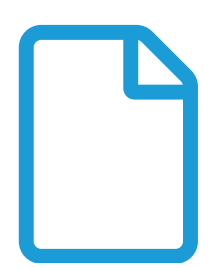
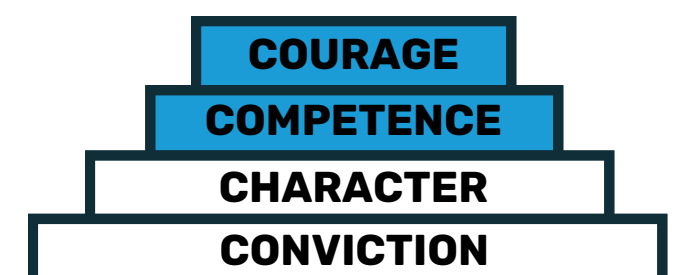
**MEETING JESUS USING
THE WORD 121**



EVANGELISTIC
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TEAMS

The Word

MEETING JESUS USING THE WORD 121



Introduction

City Bible Forum seeks to reach the world through the workers with the good news about Jesus. We aim to do this by seeing 1000 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,
- and then the episode finishes with the whole passage on a page or two.



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 them questions - 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 it is unlikely they are thinking next week.

So, offer to contact them in a week or so to arrange another time to week.



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The Next Step

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

1. Pray

2. Ask

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?



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"



The Next Step

Get the booklets at theword121.com

or you can download the app at Google Play or the App Store.

- Get Trained

Maybe you're not feeling confident yet. Perhaps you could benefit from more time training. There is free online training available at theword121.com.



Prayer

Think of 5 friends you could ask to read the Word 121.

Pray for those 5 friends - remember God loves to answer!

Ask remembering that 1 in 5 say yes.

Pray for confidence in asking 5 people this week.



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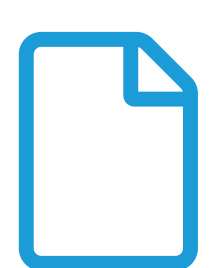
WHY DON'T PEOPLE GET THE GOSPEL?



EVANGELISTIC
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TEAMS



WHY DON'T PEOPLE GET THE GOSPEL?



Introduction

We all know people who are wonderful, honest, and kind – who look like Christians, but aren't. We also know people who are mild, easy-going – who get suddenly agitated by the mention of Jesus.

Have you ever wondered why?



Big Picture

We live in a world blinded to God's gospel by the spiritual forces pitted against God. Only God can make his light shine in our hearts so we see Jesus clearly.



Bible Passage

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:1-6



Key Truths

1. The gospel of Jesus is veiled to those who are perishing. The gospel isn't unclear or confusing for some people; they are actually blinded to its truth.
2. People are blind to the gospel because the god of this age has blinded their minds. There are spiritual forces actively opposed to people seeing Jesus and his magnificence.
3. People don't come to Jesus morally neutral; they are biased against Jesus. If we understand this, we won't be surprised by people's responses.
4. As we seek to share Jesus with our colleagues, we can be confident that God will open blind eyes. If God can cause light to shine in darkness on the first day of creation, how much more can he cause light to shine in our hearts. And if he's done it for us, he can do it for our colleagues too.

Thoughts? Questions?



Application

If blind eyes are to see, it's going to take an act of God. So too, when it comes to spiritual blindness, only God can help people see Jesus clearly - not our cleverness, or strategies, or persuasiveness.

As we help people meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible, we do so trusting that God will graciously drop the veil from some people's eyes. We hope that God will help people see Christ as he truly is in all his glory - before they see him in all his glory when he comes again to judge.

We hope that our friends and colleagues will see him now, rather than when it is too late.

 **Prayer**

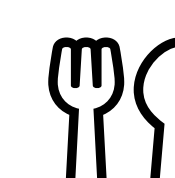
Pray that God will allow our colleagues and friends to see Jesus truly as they read through a Gospel with us.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL

