



Share **Life**

Four sessions for learning
how to tell people about Jesus



Share Life

Learning how to tell people about Jesus

This edition of **Share Life** has been produced
with a series of brief videos.

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Member of King's Church Edinburgh

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Introduction

Who is **Share Life** for?

Share Life is for anyone and everyone who knows Jesus, and especially for:

- ✔ Those who feel slightly awkward about the idea of speaking about Jesus to people who do not know Him.
- ✔ Those who do not see themselves as evangelists, but who want to learn more about speaking about Jesus to others.
- ✔ Those who enjoy speaking about Jesus to those who do not know Him – and are open to learn to do so more effectively.

What is **Share Life** about?

Share Life consists of four sessions

- 1. Connecting God's story and their story**
- 2. Knowing my story**
- 3. Sharing God's story**
- 4. Choosing a life full of stories**

Share Life is a mixture of training, encouraging each other in twos and threes and discussing in our small groups to apply the training in practice. In addition, at the end of each session there is a task which we encourage you to engage with so as to reinforce the training in practice. Although **Share Life** includes teaching, it does not teach the theology of evangelism and mission. Instead, it is designed to help equip you to tell others about Jesus in practical ways that are realistic today for people like you and me.

This booklet is a summary of what we cover in each session. You may find it useful as a resource to refer back to. The booklet also includes notes for the practical discussion times and for the tasks. Please also use the booklet to jot down additional ideas/people that God speaks to you about.

As you come with an open heart, we are confident that God will equip you through **Share Life** towards a lifestyle of leading people to Jesus. He is **the Life** and **our Life**!

This edition of **Share Life** has been produced with a series of brief videos. Discussion sections are numbered, with suggested timings noted in the margin. Each participant will need the booklet throughout the course.

With this approach, each of the four sessions of **Share Life** will take about 45 minutes.

We have also included in this booklet supporting material.

1

Time to discuss



Speaking about Jesus

1. How do you feel about speaking about Jesus to those who do not yet know him?

2. Is this something you do? *(Not at all ... it's a way of life for me)*

3. What do you think gives people confidence to speak of Jesus?

1

5 mins

Then watch Video 1, before the next discussion (page 5)



Session 1: Connecting God's story and their story

Outline of session 1

- A. Our need to be taken up with God's story
- B. Developing our ability to connect with others
- C. Gaining confidence in starting a conversation
- D. Praying for each other and our people



Key verses for session 1: "When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" Matthew 9:36-38.

In these verses we see how Jesus valued people. He saw the crowds - that is why He felt for them. People are harassed and helpless and are in such need of a shepherd's care, whether in the towns and villages of Israel, the ancient city of Nineveh, Jonah 4:11, or today in your area. Yet Jesus also saw that some are ready for eternal life, like a ripe harvest that requires laborers, John 4:35.

Before we start looking at how we connect with the story of those around us to bring them to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, let's start by affirming our grasp of God's story. We want to ensure we speak clearly of Jesus and his good news to those who do not yet know Him - but need Him.

A. Our need to be taken up with God's story

God has given Himself to us, twice! ... Through his Son and his Spirit, John 3:16, Romans 5:5. He gives us his Spirit out of love for us and to honour - and testify to - his Son, John 15:26, 16:14.



We are caught up in God's story. There are just three occasions that the Father spoke aloud to people in the Gospels ... He spoke about his Son, Matthew 3:17, 17:5 and how the Son would bring Him honour, John 12:27-33. When we find ourselves between the compelling love of Jesus, 2 Corinthians 5:14 and our reverent fear of Him, 2 Corinthians 5:11, we want to obey his instruction to proclaim the Good News to everyone, Mark 16:15. We do this as a way of life and so imitate Him, Mark 1:38.

Sometimes we sadly slip into a different story – there are variations as to how it's told but it's different from God's story as the main character of God's story – **Jesus** - is hardly mentioned. That story can include "Church"; "_____ " [the name of your church]; "Christianity"; "god" (which one?); "My faith"; or even as vague as "It helps me".

In reflecting on God's story, we recognise the benefits of knowing **Jesus** – satisfying identity, freedom, full acceptance, lasting purpose, transforming community, power to love, etc. Yet, it is through faith in **Jesus** that these benefits are realised; faith that comes through hearing the wonderful message that God loves us so much that He gave **Jesus** to save us from our sins and give us eternal life, now and forever. God said "The Life is in the **blood.**" Leviticus 17:11. This text is key to understand the Old Testament animal sacrifices which point to Jesus – it is by shedding his blood that Jesus offers eternal life.

We need to use the life-giving **J** word, Psalm 89:15-16.

The grace of God has appeared bringing salvation

Three **S** words summarize the good news of Jesus and God's grace to us (**Saviour** from **Sin** and the **S**tung of death), 1 Corinthians 15:1-3, 55-57. If we do not mention the death and resurrection of Jesus, we're not delivering the message of Jesus. The order in which we tell these events will vary. Sometimes we will first say that our Lord is alive (as Paul emphasized Jesus' resurrection to the Gentiles); other times we speak first of our Saviour's death for all (as Peter tended to speak first of the cross to his Jewish hearers), but the death and resurrection of the Lord are the essential parts of God's story for everyone.



2 Potential barriers to speaking about our Saviour

1. Embarrassment or cowardice, Romans 1:16.
2. Short-sightedness or lack of sensitivity, Matthew 9:36.
3. Lack of power, Acts 1:8.
4. Discouragement / Loss of vision, Acts 17:26-27, Romans 10:14.
5. Shyness or nervousness, 2 Timothy 1:7.
6. Fear or worry, 1 Peter 3:14, John 12:42-43.
7. Feeling ill-equipped, Ephesians 4:11-12.
8. Not yet fully trained to live like Jesus, Luke 6:40.

15 mins

Time to discuss



Potential barriers

1. What keeps you from speaking more freely about Jesus?

2. What do you think would help you to get over that?

2

Then watch Video 2, before the next discussion (page 7)

B. Developing our ability to connect with others

1. Be present in their world. Like Jesus, we enter into their world, coming alongside others, to invite them into his Kingdom.



2. Pray for your own heart, Matthew 12:34, as we want to find ourselves speaking of Jesus.

3. Pray for a bridge or a connection to share the Gospel – we want to be culturally flexible to reach ALL, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

4. Ask questions to understand their questions. Why did Jesus ask so many questions?

Here are some loving open questions:

- 🍷 How are you getting on?
- 🍷 What do you enjoy doing?
- 🍷 What gets you down?
- 🍷 What gets you through?

It's not an interview(!), you're chatting.

5. Listen to their heart's cry. So many are "without God and without hope in the world", Ephesians 2:12. As Alan Scott writes in *Scattered Servants*: "People everywhere are desperately hurting and secretly hoping."

6. Listen to the Spirit of Jesus who is always actively with us in this remit, Matthew 28:20. The Spirit gives us the appropriate tone, insight and power.

7. Move the conversation on to Jesus and the Kingdom, with the same focus on those who are lost that our Saviour had, Luke 19:10.

You could use those seven points as ideas for personal prayer and/or in a prayer meeting.

3 C. Gaining confidence in starting a conversation

15 mins

We start conversations despite feeling nervous ... **EEKK!**

You can learn to do this (better). With practice, many have found that starting natural conversations with strangers has become a way of life.

E dinburgh – How long have you lived here?

E veryday – How do you spend your days?


K irk – Mention your church family or another link with Jesus

K ing Jesus

Time to discuss



Starting a conversation

3  Practise **EEKK** with someone as if you have just met them for the first time. You have just introduced yourself to them at the end of a church activity.

If there is time look at the “Ideas to move a conversation on”.
Close the session by praying for each other (Page 11)

Ideas to move a conversation on

We need to keep learning to add salt to everyday conversations to increase, and draw out, someone’s thirst, Colossians 4:6, so that we can move the conversation on from **EE** to **K**ing Jesus.

1. When someone has a difficulty, you can ask:
“What helps get you through?”

2. When someone is ill or needs a miracle, you can ask:
“Can I pray about that?” And if appropriate, pray briefly and aloud with faith.



3. When someone gives a view different to a Christian view, you can say:

“I have a slightly different way of looking at that, can I share how I see it?”

4. When the topic of church, religion or spiritual practises comes up, you can ask:

“Do you have a faith yourself?” or “Do you pray?”

5. ... Whatever the Spirit tells you. You are partnering with God Himself to tell His story about Jesus!

**Time to
practise**



Moving the
conversation on

God loves people so much that He gives us all spontaneous opportunities to **move** the conversation on. We can practise just now, but this life is not a practice run – let’s take the opportunities as they come. That’s the best way to learn. Here are some examples to practise (Yes, every situation is different. This exercise is not to prepare mechanical answers, but to help us to be ready in our hearts for those in-the-moment opportunities that God gives each of us):

1. You are getting to know a new colleague who one Monday lunchtime asks how was your weekend and you mention that you had a couple of friends from church round for a meal. The colleague asks which church is that?

What could you say?



2. You are walking to the shops with a friend and she expresses concern for her boy who is struggling at school. You ask why she thinks her child is finding things difficult and she says he just seems to have poor concentration and she's really worried about it.

What could you say?

3. You are out for a coffee with a friend who comments about a mutual friend's marriage breaking up and then says ... I can't really see why people bother with marriage.

What could you say?

4. You see someone in the supermarket struggling with their kids who are playing up because they're not getting what they want, they look at you and say "You do your best but you just can't win can you?"

What could you say?

5. You greet someone at the street door of your flat on a sunny Saturday morning and they stop to complain about people dropping their rubbish in the stairwell. They pause in the sun, and appear ready to chat.

What could you say?

6. You're chatting with a colleague at tea break and they say that they just find getting out into nature, especially the hills, so refreshing.

What could you say?

Time to pray



For God's power in us

D. Praying for each other and our people

Prayerfully write the names of individuals/groups you love.

... People who you want to see come to Jesus.

Perhaps keep the bookmark in your Bible. As you pray, God will show you the next steps He wants you to take.



With the help of God, I will pray for these people, be a friend to them, invite them to consider Jesus, encourage them to receive him as Lord and Saviour and be baptised in his name and accompany them in their new life.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

4 Prayer for each other:

5 mins

An opportunity, Colossians 4:3.

B Boldly, Ephesians 6:19-20.

C Clearly, Colossians 4:4.

4

Note how, even after years of service as an apostle, Paul kept asking others to pray for him in his evangelism. Why do you think he does that?



**Time to
discuss**



My response to session 1

What was the easiest or hardest part in this first session?

What did you think about moving the conversation on?

Notes:



And a task for the next week or two:



Invite someone who doesn't know Jesus for a coffee or a walk.

And as we progress through **Share Life**, we'll share how we get on.

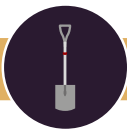
Let's pray for each other in this.

Please bring this booklet to the next session of **Share Life**.



Session 2: Knowing my story

5



Feedback on session 1

5 mins

- ✔ Have you had coffee or a walk recently with someone who doesn't know Jesus?
- ✔ Do you think the conversation was helpful? In what way?

5

- ✔ Practise **EEKK** (page 7) as if you have just met the person - they seem worried.

Then watch Video 3, before the next discussion (page 17)

Outline of session 2

- A. Recognising my style
- B. Being ready to tell my story
- C. Telling my story



Key verse for session 2: Jesus said “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19.

As we see in Matthew 4:19, being a fisher of people is an integral part of following Jesus. In this session we see that God uses all kinds of people with very different styles, using all kinds of stories, to bring the message of Jesus to all kinds of people, 1 Corinthians 12:6. Fishing for people really is for ALL, including you! In fact, this session is focussed on your style and your story.

Ask one or two others to say in less than ten words, how did you come to know Jesus?



A. Recognising my style

We are going to use a questionnaire to help us to identify our own style(s) for telling others about Jesus. When you've finished the questionnaire, write down your main styles and your weakest style.

Take time now to complete the Questionnaire at www.kingschurchedinburgh.org/share-life. You will also find it at the end of this booklet.

What is/are your main style(s)?

What is/are your weakest style(s)? (That's to recognise our need to serve together).

Eight Styles:

Mark Mittelberg in *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, identifies six styles with biblical examples:

- ✔ The direct style (Peter boldly and directly proclaimed in Acts 2:23-24, 36-40).
- ✔ The intellectual style (Paul reasoned, explained and gave evidence in Athens in Acts 17:22-31).
- ✔ The testimonial style (The blind man emphasized what Jesus had done for him in John 9:25).
- ✔ The serving style (Tabitha was always doing good and helping the poor in Acts 9:36).

- ✔ The invitational style (The woman at the well invited others to see for themselves in John 4:29).
- ✔ The relational style. (Matthew held a party for Jesus where others could meet Him in Luke 5:29).

Mittelberg's book is not currently in print, but we can point you to material on suggestions for you to develop your evangelism style.

Two further styles are:

- ✔ The signs and miracles style (When Philip spoke of Jesus, people were healed and demons were cast out, Acts 8:5-8).
- ✔ The prophetic style (Peter received a prophetic vision and acted on it in Acts 10:9-23).

**Time to
listen**



To each other's styles and encourage each other

Whichever style you have, it is God-given as you are personally created by God. Yet, we don't want to lean on a style; instead we rely on the Holy Spirit who can speak to all kinds of people through us, even when we feel weak. In the church we have a variety of styles and so we serve best together in telling others the Good News - that is God's design.

Notes:



B. Being ready to tell my story

There are various factors to being ready. We want to be spiritually awake and maintain a **state of readiness** to the Spirit's promptings to speak to others who do not know Jesus, 1 Peter 3:15. We do this with gentleness and respect – Our compelling motivation to do so is Christ's love and the desire to honour Him. We live with that tension of living *distant* from sin, to maintain integrity, but *near* to the sinner, to give unconditional love. This is what it looks like for those who commit to follow the example of Jesus and so be made by Him into fishers of people:

✔ **Heart:** We want to have a heart full of God's story, hearts so full that the heart overflows when we speak, Jeremiah 20:9, Matthew 12:34. This implies guarding our heart from wasted time and energy, "because the days are evil" Ephesians 5:16.

✔ **Pace:** Keep in step with the Spirit. We walk a bit slowly to Stop, Look, Listen as illustrated by Jesus stopping to speak with Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10. Some people, like Zacchaeus, can come to know Jesus apparently very quickly (God doesn't limit himself to start working when we come along!).



✔ **Initiative, public spaces and homes:** Jesus took the initiative in the conversation as well as in moving from the street to Zacchaeus' home. We love our own space, our families, and our church family, but let's keep looking outwards, avoiding the traps of having an impenetrable hedge around yourself, your home and/or a church bubble. This will enable us to follow Jesus, in telling others the Good News in both public spaces and in homes. Where possible, spend time with people in both your home and their home.

✔ **Party:** We want to be ready to party with a kingdom-of-God purpose and run the risk of accusation of liking beer/red wine or cake too much, Luke 7:34.

✔ **Diet and money:** Let God's heart shape your dietary conscience/preferences (consider the costly change for Peter in

entering a place full of Gentiles, Cornelius' house, Acts 10). May God direct your use of money as well so that your spending also reflects God's heart. Bringing in a harvest will cost you.

6

Time to discuss



Maintaining a state of readiness

5 mins

1. What have you found helpful about “Being ready to tell my story”?

2. Ask the Holy Spirit how He wants you to respond.

6

Then watch Video 4, before the next discussion (page 19)

Moving from their story to your story

In the last session we looked at how we can connect with people and move the conversation on to Jesus and the Kingdom of God. As we move forward, we read God's signs during a conversation. We also saw how to start to move the conversation further forward. If there is a green light, what is the next natural step?



Red - Stop!

Amber - Be careful, and maybe continue.

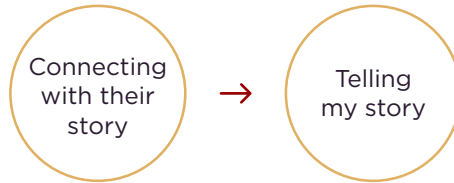
Green - Great, ask if you can **tell your story!**

Paul had an intellectual style, the woman at the well had an invitational style, Peter had a direct style, yet all told their story. This is for all who have been saved by Jesus, Psalm 107:2.



C. Telling my story

God's Story



Again and again in the Bible we see that telling our story is the most natural way to deliver a supernatural message. You are the expert and, when authentic, your story of Jesus is powerful in God's hands, Revelation 12:11. It will be powerful because you are showing that God truly WORKS today in a real world in your real life.

We want to learn to tell our story well

Testimony means “to give witness to”. The Spirit goes with us in giving witness to what Jesus has done for us.

- T** Three parts of equal length (before, met Christ, after).
- E** 1- Errors – how you got it wrong.
- S** 2- Saviour and the cross.
- T** 3- Transformed by Jesus.
- I** Interesting and Intelligible.
- M** Mighty in God's hands. If it helps, Memorise it.
- O** Own story, not someone else's.
- N** Necessary and Natural to move conversation on.
- Y** Your thoughts? Paul finished his story by asking a question in Acts 26:27-29.

When telling your story, be aware that a common reaction today is a response like: “I'm glad that works for you” or “I respect all religions” or “That's your truth”.

We are learning to tell our story as a link to God's truth about Jesus which is supported by eye witness evidence of his death and resurrection.



1 Peter 3:15 says, “Be always ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you” and preparing a testimony means you will be ready to do just that. Paul described himself as “a skilled master builder”, 1 Corinthians 3:10. His competence came from God who enables us to do things well. We’ve added here some questions to help you prepare your story. These questions are based on the approach Paul used to tell his story in Acts 26 and so are perhaps more geared towards those who came to Jesus after childhood.

If however, you came to Christ as a child, use the three parts to tell of a situation where you needed to live out your faith for yourself, secondly, say how Jesus helped you and thirdly, what He means for you now. Regardless of your age when you came to Jesus, this is just an outline; you’re not learning a script – every person you speak to is unique - and your approach will vary.

Before Christ

Met Christ

After Christ

Before Christ	Met Christ	After Christ

1. Before Christ – What was the situation before you turned to Jesus?

Think about: What if anything did you think of Jesus before? Why did you see the need to change? The emphasis is not on how bad you were but on how great the grace of God is through Jesus.



2. Met Christ - How did you turn to Jesus?

Think about: What actually happened?
Why did you decide to trust Jesus?
Was there some key truth or Scripture or sign God used?

3. After Christ - How did things change after you turned to Jesus?

Think about: What evidences are there that God gave you a new life / helped you in your life with Jesus?
When you think of your situation before you turned to Jesus, what difference has Jesus made in your life?

**Time to
practise**



Telling my story

In pairs, take two minutes each to tell your story. Start with the question: "Can I tell you my story?"

Then take a minute to give helpful, gentle and honest feedback to each other (You may want to refer to the points of TESTIMONY on page 18).

What encouragements /recommendations did you receive from the person who heard you?

7

Then close the session by praying for each other to have courage to tell your stories.

In practice, your story does not have to be in this order - you could speak of your new life now, and then say but my life wasn't always like that, and speak of how Jesus began to change you. In a conversation we will often have just **one** minute to tell our story so if even two minutes seems quite short, see how you can summarise even further. You will have many opportunities in life; a brief account often leads to further conversation!

And relax. The Good News is **urgent** but we also are in, or look for, relationships in which we seek an **ongoing** conversation e.g. explaining the Good News over a drink, Acts 17:32, 17:11-12.

God is sovereign. He is the Lord of the harvest. God is the Saviour.



**Time to
reflect**



Conversations about Jesus

Reflect on a conversation or two about Jesus you have had with someone who does not know Jesus.

1. A conversation when you felt someone was left nearer to Jesus.
2. A conversation that you'd handle differently now.

[Note: Many decided not to follow Jesus as He explained what it meant to follow Him e.g. John 6:66. We are not “failing” if we lovingly share the Good News of Jesus with someone and they do not want to repent and trust Him].

**Time to
discuss**



My response to session 2

What do you have faith for in terms of God working through you?

What was the easiest or hardest part in this session?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident do you feel about using your story to speak to people about Jesus?

Notes:



And a task for the next week or two:



Ask a Christian or someone who doesn't know Jesus if you can briefly tell them your story.

And we'll hear how you get on in **Share Life**.

Let's pray for each other in this.

Please bring this booklet to the next session of **Share Life**.



Session 3: Sharing God's story

8



Feedback on session 2

5 mins

8

- ✔ Have you been able to tell your story recently to someone?
- ✔ How did it go?
- ✔ If there is time, try **EEKK** (page 7), (the person looks quite low), testify to how your faith in Jesus helps you get through, ask if they have a faith and then very briefly tell your story.

Then watch Video 5, before the next discussion (page 25)

Outline of session 3

- Practising telling the Good News of Jesus
- Recognising our family
- Learning to lead others to Jesus
- Planning to make disciples



Key verse for session 3: “When they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra” Acts 14:21.

What a report! Paul and Barnabas had preached the Gospel to a city and had made many disciples. Mission accomplished! We too want to give the word of life to a city or region. The **Life** is Jesus, Acts 8:35, Matthew 1:21, John 14:6. We aim to bring others to Him, then we walk alongside them in their new life and so see many disciples made. In this session, we'll see more of how God enables us to do this effectively.



A. Practising telling the Good News of Jesus

How to tell the Good News

A moment – in the time it takes to boil a kettle!

Boldly

Clearly

We are proclaiming the truth (Jesus). God has not asked us to merely give our opinion about Him. We want to learn how to do this clearly.

You’ve just told someone your story. You can see they have a bit of interest, so you could say “That’s my story - would you like to hear a bit more?” And then you tell the Good News of Jesus.

God’s Story



9

Time to practise



Telling the Good News of Jesus

10 mins to page 26

Practise in pairs telling each other the Good News of Jesus, starting with the question: “Would you like to hear a bit more?” The four points here will be of help as a broad framework. However, the Gospel is not a formula – we need to show how Jesus clearly speaks to our hearer’s cultural reaction to sin, whether that be 1) guilt, 2) shame or 3) fear, and that in response Jesus graciously offers 1) right standing, 2) honour 3) secure victory. Then note down the feedback you receive.

1. **God** loves us.

1 John 4:16a (love), Isaiah 6:3 (holy) and Psalm 9:16a (just).

2. **We** have rebelled.

Romans 3:23 (all of us), Romans 6:23 (sin brings death).

3. **Jesus** died for our sins.

Philippians 2:5b-7b (became a man), 1 Peter 3:18a (took our place), Ephesians 2:8-9 (free gift).

4. Jesus rose again and is alive. **You** must ask Him to save you and lead you.

John 1:12 (to receive Him), 1 John 1:9 (God forgives), 2 Corinthians 5:17 (new life).

What encouragements/recommendations did you receive from the one or two who heard you?

9

Then watch Video 6, before the next discussion (page 26)

10 B. Recognising our family

God has grown a large family. He empowered someone to bring you to faith in Christ and now wants to enable you to lead others to Christ.

Many can recognise their **parent in the faith** - someone who either led them to Christ and/or has been a significant influence in their growth in Christ.

Who is your parent(s) in Christ?



Children in the faith are either those whom you are privileged to lead to Christ and/or you have given yourself to see them grow through nurturing them. We want God to stir in us a longing for spiritual children, Genesis 30:1.

Do you have children in the faith? If so, who?

Grandchildren in the faith are those in turn whom your “children” have nurtured.

Time to discuss



Vision for my family tree

Draw your family tree in Christ, starting with the person who was a spiritual parent to you and then note down any children in the faith that God has given you. If you are at an early stage of making disciples, and cannot yet readily identify a child in the faith, maybe write, in faith, the names of one or two people you are praying for e.g. Mark.



1. What was a key characteristic in your parent(s) in the faith?

2. How would you like your family tree to be at the end of your service?

10

Then continue to the next discussion (page 31)

If you have children, aim to be a grandparent! Each generation is important. You can be more confident you are seeing sustainable multiplication of disciples when it reaches the fourth generation.

God's growing family

Remember the wider context of your family tree: we are all in God's extended family, the church. This growing family consists of brothers and sisters who are loved by the Father. From the earliest stages, both before "new birth" and when "a baby" is born into God's family, various people can play supportive roles simultaneously (like uncles and aunts in some physical families). As the "child" grows, more people will normally contribute at different times in nurturing the "child" to Christian maturity. A healthy parent-child discipling relationship will adapt appropriately as the person becomes an "adult" or fellow worker in making disciples as a mature disciple of Jesus. The entire process is only possible because God graciously partners with us.

C. Learning to lead others to Jesus

As Andrew did with Peter and Philip did with Nathanael we **Find - Tell - Bring - Seek revelation**, John 1:41-51. That pattern is twice recorded in John chapter 1. In physical life it takes years to grow up and have a family. In spiritual life people can begin on day one (as Andrew did). We involve people in this wonderful work before they come to Christ by asking: “Do you know anyone else who may be interested?” and suggest meeting up the three of you.

We want to learn to recognise where someone is at:

Every stage is important in the ripening of the harvest. We want to care for the plants through the year, but harvest time is special! Similarly, although we value the process in spiritual matters, our gracious God passionately wants to see a harvest of people trusting his Son and receiving **Life**. How can we recognise when someone is ready to come to Jesus?

The Good News is good news for the poor, Luke 4:18-19. We all need God but we especially look for those who have a sense of their need. Let’s be aware of the season in someone else’s life. Sometimes **difficulties in life** lead people to question their values and beliefs; also, **life changes** (whether good or bad) can be times when people are more open to the Good News.

There are two key factors in assessing whether someone is ready to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour: knowledge and heart condition.

- 🍷 People vary in **Knowledge** - compare Acts 2 and Acts 17.
- 🍷 People vary in **Heart condition** - compare Mark 12:34 and Mark 7:6. This is key.

God’s Story



Asking for their response

You have connected with their story and told your story; you've then asked them if you can tell a bit more (i.e. you've explained the Good News of Jesus) and they are listening. Then what? In Matthew 16:13-16 Jesus asked for a response. When doing this, He used a style of double question, asking an indirect question and then a direct question. We can imitate Him by asking, for instance:

1. Do you think we need to ask God to forgive us? (indirect question).
2. Would you like God to forgive you? (direct question).

You could lead in a model of "sorry, please, thank you" or use a prayer like the following:

"Father God, I recognize that I have sinned and that I need your forgiveness.

I believe that your Son, the Lord Jesus, died for me and I want to leave my sins behind.

I trust in Him as my Saviour. I ask you to give me your Spirit and so empower me to change and obey Jesus as my Lord.

Thank you for graciously hearing my prayer. Amen."

Now celebrate together the start of their new **Life** but let's give space to those who come to Jesus so that they can tell their own story to others - it will build their faith.

**Time to
practise**



Leading others to Jesus

Practise leading someone to Jesus, starting by asking the two questions about our need to be forgiven.



Time to pray



for enabling power to be fruitful labourers

11

D. Planning to make disciples

There are both key turning points and a process. We want to be able to move on from God's opportunity to God's plan of making disciples, Matthew 28:18-20. His authority answers our doubts and embarrassment. His presence deals with our timidity.

Let's go back to where you are in your conversation(s): You've connected with their story and told your story; then you've briefly shared the Good News of Jesus. You've asked if they want to ask God to forgive them. Then if they have said yes, or are still interested, **then what would you do?**

It's good to text them the following day, but you also need a plan for what you will do when you meet up. Plan to chat together about what's going on in your lives over a drink/food and share the Good News in a bit more detail, 1 Thessalonians 2:8. POD 1 is good for this. Arrange together when you will next meet again, within a short period, if possible. Either they or you could invite someone else as well.

11

Who do you want to disciple?

Then close the session by praying for those you are discipling / those who you want to disciple and lead to baptism.




There are many ways to spend time with others and unpack the Good News. We want to be able to serve different kinds of people:

- 🌱 Those who are unsure about Jesus but are open to learn more about Him.
- 🌱 Those who have said “Yes” to God, and want to understand the Good News of Jesus better.
- 🌱 Those who want to help others to know and follow Jesus.

Here are some practical tools to help you do that:

 - for anyone and everyone, but especially for those open to learn. pathofdisciples.org

 **Alpha** - for those who want to have a look and maybe explore the Christian faith. alpha.org

Events and meetings as a church

**Time to
reflect**



Making disciples

What is your next step in making a disciple of Christ?



A tale of three chillies

For some, you may face an amber light and so this will be a longer process. We can think through occasions that we invite people to.

Think of occasions like having the flavour of one chilli, two chillies or three chillies in which you start from just letting people know you are a Christian (that's valuable, just as the act of turning on a light changes the atmosphere in a room). Then there will be occasions where, as the Spirit gives opportunity, you increasingly share Good News content to lead people to Jesus.



One chilli – an initial connecting conversation in which you throw salt into a conversation, perhaps over a coffee.



Two chillies – a follow on occasion where there is some more obvious Good News content e.g. you invite to a meal where there will be one or two other Christian friends who are prepared to **briefly** tell their story.



Three chillies – an invitation to a guest Sunday church meeting; or to an explorer's course like POD or to Alpha.

We want to help people take steps to cross over from death to **Life**, John 5:24.



Where is God sending you?

“Give me Scotland, or I die.” John Knox (1514-1572).

Jesus said: “The field is the world”, Matthew 13:38.

Jesus said: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” Acts 1:8.

Jesus is not (yet) worshipped in every people group.

Edinburgh – Scotland – the World

Think of 1000's of people groups with no church and no Christian witness. For example, there are 5000 Christians who gather in churches amongst 75,000,000 Turkish-speaking people in Turkey.

- 👉 Be informed.
- 👉 Pray for one unreached people-group or city.
- 👉 Financially support someone trying to reach the lost.

**Time to
discuss**



My response to session 3

What was the easiest or hardest part of this third session?

When you think of your family tree, what do you have faith for?

Notes:



Pray for God's power to witness effectively

An Opportunity, well lots of them!

Boldly

Clearly

Disciples

And for this coming week:



Ask someone who doesn't know Jesus if you can briefly tell them what keeps you going (the Good News)

And next week, at small group, we'll hear how it went

Let's pray for each other in this.

Please bring this booklet to the final session of **Share Life**.



Session 4: Choosing a life full of stories

12



Feedback on the first three sessions

- What did you find most encouraging or challenging about the first three sessions of **Share Life**?

5 mins

12

- Have you been able to share your story or God's story with someone recently? How did it go?

Then watch Video 7, before the next discussion (page 38)

Outline of session 4

- A. Scripture
- B. My mission sphere
- C. Using current regular rhythms
- D. Introducing new rhythms
- E. Mission rhythms in small group



Key verse for session 4: Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you ... Receive the Holy Spirit' John 20:21-22.

We have been encouraged through **Share Life** to be willing and available for Jesus to make us into fishers of people.





A. Scripture

(Group discussion)

As we have just read in John 20:21, the Lord Jesus sees us as a missionary people, an apostolic people sent with His authority. Mission neither depends on our individual gifts nor is mission an optional area of service or activity; mission is integral to our identity as God's people. Wherever we are, we live this out by choosing a lifestyle of being **sent** to love others and to tell them the Good News of **Jesus**.

 Read **2 Corinthians 5:14-21**.



Vs.14-17. How can we know we have been reconciled to Christ?

Vs.18-21. How would you describe the role of an ambassador?

What attitudes would you expect to see in an ambassador?

We want to imitate Paul and his team who were motivated by love for those they disciplined; this made the task a delight. The team **spoke** about the gospel of God and also **connected** with them, caring for each one, individually, as a father or mother.

In simple terms we can describe two types of people:

-  Some find it easy to **speak** about Jesus with those who do not know Jesus but find it more difficult to build a connection.
-  Others find it easy to **connect** with people who do not know Jesus, but find it more difficult to speak about Jesus with them.

Time to discuss



Ambassadors are speakers who connect

1. Which type of person are you more like? A speaker or a connector?

2. What do you think may hinder us from connecting with those who do not know Jesus?

In this session we want to reflect on how we connect with those who do not know Jesus.

Continue with the next discussion (page 39)

14

B. My mission sphere

(Individual exercise)

5 mins

Who are the groups of people/individuals amongst whom God has placed me? (List both the groups of people and individual's names).

14

Continue with the next discussion (page 41)

C. Using current regular rhythms

(Individual exercise, followed by brief discussion in twos and threes)

In seeking those who are lost in our regular lives, we prayerfully watch and listen to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is working. Since most of us do not have a load of spare time to build new relationships, we want to look for ways to connect with others in what we are already doing. Jesus modelled a “sent” lifestyle that practically is more relational than the way some of us grew up. Whether we are introverts or extroverts, this leads us to reflect again, and again, through different stages of life, on how we can connect with those who do not know Jesus.

Let’s think about regular rhythms of life that we can currently use to greater missional effect to bring others to Jesus.

Here are some ideas. They should serve as inspiration rather than being considered a long to-do list.

Put one tick beside those that are realistic for you (and perhaps you already do) - and put two ticks beside any ideas that you have faith to see God use in your life to be able to speak to others about Jesus.

🌿 **Be friendly!** For example, say “Good morning” to people you pass during the day.

- 👉 **Consider yourself at home:** Without acting as if you “own the place”, avoid having a mindset of being a stranger where you go e.g. At the gym. Go the same time each day and remember people’s names.
- 👉 **Learn to linger a moment:** Sometimes a feeling of hurry can come from a sense of self-importance. Fill up your car at the same place each time and, if it’s not busy, ask the attendant how their day is going. Smile when you thank them.
- 👉 **Go slower:** Walk or take public transport instead of taking the car – you meet more people that way. Ask God to open your eyes to where He is at work.
- 👉 **Be known in your own area:** Go to local shops and businesses. Get to know real people.
- 👉 **Be regular:** Use same coffee shop/pub and get to know manager/staff/regular customers. Be regular to know and be known. It’s ok to have a quiet coffee with a friend! ... but be prepared for divine interruptions.
- 👉 **Nurture community:** Sit in the same seat at breaks at college or work and get to know people around you e.g. bring extra snacks when you make your lunch to give away to others. Instead of eating lunch alone, intentionally eat with others and learn their story. Attend more work parties? (It’s a good sign when you enjoy your own company too! – Most of us need a regular break by ourselves.)
- 👉 **Be missional and have fun at the same time!** Hobbies can be a great way to get to know people.
- 👉 **Church:** Invite people to come along – you are meeting every week anyway! The number one reason why people say they do not go to church is because ... no one has ever invited them. Be relaxed about it. Say ‘I would love to see what you make of it’. Or ‘We are in a series at the moment about ... ’ Or, ‘Let’s get a bite to eat afterwards’. Or ‘A mutual friend is getting baptised and I reckon we should support him’. Or, ‘Our church is doing something cool for Christmas ...’

- ✔ **Enjoy sport or do exercise with others:** Switch from running solo to running with a running club. If you are already watching the match at home or at the pub, invite people to watch with you.
- ✔ **Eat with others:** Most of us eat 21 meals per week. Just ask neighbours and friends – some will say ‘yes’. Meals are a powerful expression of welcome and community.
- ✔ **Other:** _____

Time to discuss



Current regular rhythms

Briefly review section C together and note here what the Spirit highlights.

15

D. Introducing new rhythms

(Individual exercise, followed by brief discussion in twos and threes)

The Spirit of God enables us to be creative and imaginative in how we connect with others who do not know Jesus. Here are some examples, certainly not intended as a complete list nor to leave you feeling exhausted. We are all different; consider the ideas as a way of facilitating discussion of the “nitty-gritty” of relating to others who do not yet know Jesus. No one can do all of these and you may well think of other ways that work better for you! Just put a tick beside **one** that may be realistic for you:

10 mins to page 43



- ✔ **Walk:** Plan or join a regular cake walk or a picnic, and not just for Christians.
- ✔ **Invite** neighbours over for a drink, for dessert or for dinner (or all three at once!).
- ✔ **Attend Street Café:** Come along and learn on the job.
- ✔ **Attend neighbourhood meetings:** Participate in neighbourhood/building/residence functions.
- ✔ **Be flexible with your diary:** Attend the parties you are invited to by neighbours or people from your work.
- ✔ **Team up with a Christian friend:** Agree that you will give one night per month to inviting unbelieving mates over. Pray for opportunities to speak about Jesus while you hang out together. Meal? Wine-tasting? Book club? Or, join an existing club (we don't need to run every activity).
- ✔ **Create** a building / street email and phone contact list - another way to get to know people.
- ✔ **Christmas or New Year:** Invite people over to yours.
- ✔ **Start** a walking / running group in the neighbourhood.
- ✔ **Volunteer** to coach a sports team.
- ✔ **Team up with Christian neighbours** - they may not be from your church - to host something together in your street / complex e.g. first Monday of the month Film club?
- ✔ **Other:** _____

What ideas did individuals have for connecting with those who don't know Jesus?

Time to discuss



Introducing new rhythms

Briefly review section D together and note here what the Spirit highlights.

15

Continue with the final discussion (page 43)

16 E. Mission rhythms in small group

(Group discussion)

If you've run out of time – that's completely fine – this is a good point to break and pick up the following week when the group has been able to digest what you have discussed.

- ✔ How have you seen a small group reach out to new people?
- ✔ How do you think having a “sent” mindset might affect our life as a small group?
- ✔ What kind of meeting could we hold that we could invite others to?
- ✔ If we had an occasion more open to guests, is there some other venue where others are more likely to meet with us? How often is it realistic to have such an occasion?
- ✔ Plan an occasion that will be more accessible to others.

10 mins

16

Close this final session with prayer



We are a missional people!

Keep a missional mindset as a small group

You will find various ideas for telling others about Jesus as a small group in the Ideas Box 4 in our resource POD for Small Group Leading. Here are some ideas to reinforce the learning from **Share Life**.

- ✔ Use the section about Connecting with Others in a prayer time (pages 5-6, session 1).
- ✔ Practise **EEKK** as a group (page 7, session 1).
- ✔ Ask the group to mention or imagine some more scenarios like those on pages 8-10 and invite the group to discuss what they would say.
- ✔ Practice telling your story in pairs (pages 19-20, session 2).
- ✔ Practise telling God's story in twos and threes (page 26, session 3).
- ✔ Give time for stories of opportunities God has given in everyday life (session 4).

Styles questionnaire

Disciples of Jesus who are filled with the Holy Spirit tell others the Good News of Jesus with God's love and power.

This questionnaire will point you towards styles of telling the Good News which fit the way God has made you. Read each of the statements and record how you think that statement fits you. This is just for you. Your choices are from 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest match to who you are, and 5 the highest. Here's a description of what each number means:

- 5** That's totally me
- 4** Often like me
- 3** Somewhat like me
- 2** Rarely like me
- 1** That's not me at all

1. It is easy for me to speak to people about the need to turn away from sin to God.

2. I like to show others the evidence I have analysed for Christian faith.

3. I like getting to know other people by listening well to their story.

4. I choose to do the practical jobs no one else wants to do.

5. I get excited when there is a party planned that I can invite my friends to.

6. When I read the book of Acts the signs and healings are what stands out most for me.

7. I have dreams of people and places I feel led to pray for or to go and find.

8. It's natural for me to build friendships with those who do not know Jesus.
9. When I have a goal in a conversation, I just go straight to the point as I don't want to waste time.
10. I enjoy getting into a debate with people from other beliefs.
11. People enjoy it when I tell a story.
12. When I'm at a party I always offer to help out in the kitchen.
13. When I hear about a Christian event, I actively plan which of my friends the event is most appropriate for.
14. I strongly believe that many people need to experience the [miraculous] power of God in order to be saved.
15. God leads me to people through pictures and/or names.
16. I love chatting with people to get to know them rather than get them to discuss ideas.
17. It is easy for me to speak to a stranger on the street about Jesus.
18. I give time to study to be able to answer tough questions about faith.
19. When I tell my Christian story, I do it in a way that relates to the listener.
20. During a team effort I am happiest serving Jesus practically, behind the scenes.
21. When there are flyers for a special occasion, I always take a few extra to make sure I have enough.
22. When someone tells me that they are unwell, I often feel stirred that God wants to heal them and I offer to pray for them.
23. Individuals in a crowd will 'stand out' to me as if God had put a spotlight on them.
24. I have a number of friends who I hang out with and over time want to speak to about Jesus.

25. I tend to give my opinion even on current controversial topics.
26. I like to set out a logical pathway for people to come to know Jesus.
27. I get excited by the opportunity to tell people what Jesus has done in my life.
28. I like to make friends with people that others may find challenging.
29. I find I can easily bring friends along to a gathering at church or in the home.
30. I pray that we may see more demonstrations of God's power amongst us.
31. An inner voice prompts me to ask a specific question that leads to a God-focussed discussion.
32. It's easy for me to gather some non-Christian friends for a meal or party as they seem to enjoy my company.
33. I aim to be as clear as possible with people about the Gospel so that they get the point.
34. I pass on books or Podcasts that address common questions about Christian faith.
35. I'm more interested in talking about what Jesus has done in my life than I am in debating ideas.
36. I feel as if I help to make things happen in ways that may not be obvious to free up others to speak about Jesus.
37. I have an ability to gather new people around me.
38. When I see demonic oppression, I recognise it and pray in the moment to see the person set free.
39. God gives me pieces of unknown information as I am building a connection or sharing about Jesus.
40. If I meet a friend to disciple them, I'm likely to spend more time just enjoying their company than talking about faith.

Response Sheet

Direct	Intellectual	Testimonial	Serving	Invitational	Signs and miracles	Prophetic	Relational
1 ___	2 ___	3 ___	4 ___	5 ___	6 ___	7 ___	8 ___
9 ___	10 ___	11 ___	12 ___	13 ___	14 ___	15 ___	16 ___
17 ___	18 ___	19 ___	20 ___	21 ___	22 ___	23 ___	24 ___
25 ___	26 ___	27 ___	28 ___	29 ___	30 ___	31 ___	32 ___
33 ___	34 ___	35 ___	36 ___	37 ___	38 ___	39 ___	40 ___

11

“Disciple”, “Discipleship” and “Making disciples”

A **disciple** is an apprentice, a person who learns from someone else through choosing to be with them, in order to listen to their instruction and follow their way of life. We are disciples of Jesus.

All Christians can seek help from others to keep on growing in Christ. We can also mutually encourage each other. Christians widely use the slightly ambiguous word **Discipleship** to speak of their own walk with God **and** supporting each other as disciples **and** making disciples!

(As long as we understand what we’re doing ...!)

In **Share Life**, as part of our own growth in faith, we focus on how we can help others to know Jesus and learn to follow Him – Our risen Lord calls this **Making disciples**.

Every Christian can help those who do not believe to become Christians by telling them the Good news about Jesus. That is Making disciples, Acts 14:21. And then when people believe, every Christian can help these new believers grow to become mature. That too is part of the whole process of Making disciples, Matthew 28:18-20.

Making disciples is a key part to ensure we keep growing ourselves as apprentices of Jesus.



To further equip you in speaking about Jesus:

The Cross of Christ by John Stott. Re-published in 2006 by IVP. As the earliest work in this list, Stott's work has passed the test of time to become a classic. Wayne Grudem, renowned for his **Systematic Theology**, commends Stott's "treatment of the biblical, theological and practical meaning of the cross [as] more needed today than ever". Spiritual steak rather than milk, for a better understanding of the Good News.

Confronting Christianity by Rebecca McLaughlin. Subtitle "12 hard questions for the world's largest religion". Published by Crossway, April 2019, and named "2020 Book of the Year" by Christianity Today, and apologetics and evangelism book of the year by The Gospel Coalition. And in case you didn't want to ask: "Christian apologetics" is the part of Christian theology that defends Christian faith against objections.

The Reason for God by Timothy Keller. Subtitle "Belief in an age of scepticism". Published by Hodder. A classic on apologetics. One or two early chapters are more challenging academically than McLaughlin.

Prophetic Evangelism by Mark Stibbe. Subtitle "When God speaks to those who don't know Him". Easy, practical read. Some helpful steps, ends with encouraging church leaders to go out to evangelise. The illustrations of "Stop Look and Listen" and "Find, tell, bring" both came from this book.

Naturally Supernatural by Wendy Mann. Subtitle "The normal Christian life". Published by Malcomn Down Publishing. Accessible with stories of God's power at work today and clear explanations of how you can experience this for yourself.

Becoming a Contagious Christian by Mark Mittelberg & Lee Strobel. Published by Zondervan. This book that emphasizes building relationships, supports the course of the same name. Its core strength is the description of various evangelistic styles which are referred to in this course's second session. A description of some of

these styles, including suggestions for development, can be found by searching online “Six effective evangelistic styles”.

Global Humility by Andy McCullough. Subtitle “Attitudes for mission”. Published by Malcolm Down Publishing. This book provides excellent guidance on working across cultures as we are doing in Edinburgh, Scotland and beyond. Insightful on sin as a tyrant holding people as victims, also on shame/honour culture and suggesting that UK is shifting from guilt to shame as a motivation for behaviour.

Online resources:

For a missional lifestyle, try <https://www.vergenetwork.org/category/resources/> I (Guy) haven't reviewed all their content but the fourth session has leaned on ideas from here.

Try <https://speaklife.org.uk/> Speaklife is led by Glenn Scrivener. We have used some of his video and written resources at King's Church Edinburgh.

For enquirers:

Life Tastes Better by Terry Virgo. Subtitle “The surprising truth about what Jesus offers”. 40 pages. Published in 2018 by The Good Book Company. Easy read for an enquirer. As with recommending any book, it is good to read it yourself to check it is appropriate to pass on to the person you have in mind.

Do Nothing to Change Your Life by Stephen Cottrell. Subtitle “Discovering what happens when you stop”. 89 pages. Published in 2008 by Seabury Books. A relaxed easy read for those tired of life, pointing them to faith in Jesus.

(Again) **Confronting Christianity** by Rebeca McLaughlin.

(Again) **The Reason for God** by Timothy Keller.

Your testimony – consider writing out your story and getting it printed. Guy can assist you in preparing this e.g. using a pre-made template.



POD Resources

POD 1

Four lessons to teach the Good News of Jesus laying a firm foundation for those who are open to learn – POD 1 has also proved useful to give training in discipling others.

POD 2

Four lessons to teach about walking with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as well as with each other in the church.

POD 3

Four lessons to teach about serving God the Father, with the love of Jesus, and in reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Making Disciples with POD

Leader's Guide for teaching POD 1, 2 and 3 with a view to multiplying and equipping loving disciples of Jesus.

POD for Small Group Leading

Trainee's guide: Four training sessions for leading a small group.

Training Small Group Leading with POD

Trainer's Guide for teaching **POD for Small Group Leading** with a view to multiplying Christian leaders.

Training others with Share Life

Trainer's notes to help you equip others to tell people about Jesus, using **Share Life**.



Further information is available at pathofdisciples.org including downloads.

We are happy to arrange an Introduction to POD, including how to start using POD. To discuss POD or for ordering any of these materials, please contact:

POD@pathofdisciples.org



Share Life

God's Story

Connecting
with their
story



Knowing
my story



Sharing
God's story



Choosing
a life full of
stories

Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are
few. Ask the **Lord** of the Harvest therefore, to
send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:37



Keep your head in all situations, endure
hardship, **do the work of an evangelist**,
discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:5

