



SHARING MY FAITH

LIFE





SHARING MY FAITH



more LIFE resources available at
toolkit.salvos.org.au/youthandkids



1/5

WHY SHOULD I SHARE THE GOSPEL?



How easy do you find it to share the gospel with others?

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

John 3:16
Luke 19:10b
1 Timothy 2:4-6

2 Peter 3:9
Colossians 4:5-6

Write down the 3 people who you would like to share the gospel with over the next 5 weeks. Pick one friend, one family member and someone you haven't even met yet.

2/5

WITH ACTIONS, WORDS OR BOTH?



Do you find it easy to share the gospel with words and actions?

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Matthew 5:13-17
1 Peter 2:12
1 Thessalonians 2:9-12

Choose one person to share the gospel with using *words*.
Choose one person to share the gospel with using *actions*.

[illegible]

NOTES

Be ready this week to share the gospel with someone that you speak with.
If you have someone in mind, write their name down below.

Titus 3:3-7
Ephesians 1:3-14

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

How would you summarise the gospel?



WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

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Pick a place to share your testimony this week. With your family, at church, with a friend as you hang out, or any other place you can think of. Pray for opportunities and boldness!

1 Peter 3:15
Acts 2:4-21

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Who's story about how Jesus changed their life has inspired or helped you in the past?



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

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Write out the verse in full and read it every day. This week to encourage you to share your faith.

Fill in below one or two of the passages that encouraged you this week.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

What is the main reason you don't speak to others about God or Jesus?



WHAT STOPS US?

3/5

1/5

WHY SHOULD I SHARE THE GOSPEL?

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summary

The purpose of this LIFE guide is to lay the foundation for why we should share the gospel, what God's attitude to sharing the gospel is and what ours should be.

this week you will need

- Printed copy of the Bible verses in *appendix 1* (if you have more than 5 group members print 2 copies)
- Scissors
- Craft materials for the 'Involve' section (if you choose activity 1)
- A piece of cardboard for sticking the sticky notes to (you will need enough room on your card for each member to add 3 sticky notes each)
- Sticky notes (a different colour for each person would be ideal but is not necessary)

CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » If you could live one day of your life again, what day would you pick?
- » If you were a crayon what colour would you be and why?
- » What was the best thing that happened to you this past week?
- » What is one characteristic of Jesus that you admire?

INVOLVE



Choose ONE of the following activities for your group:

activity 1

Watch the "Vision of the Lost" DVD clip together and then take time to prayerfully create a piece of art that reflects that vision.

You could make materials available for the group to paint, stick, sculpt or draw.

Encourage them to pray as they create, and put themselves into the art.

They might choose to put themselves on the rock having fun, drowning in the water or helping pull someone out of the water.

activity 2

Treat the room that you are in like a graph. One wall is the horizontal axis (how easy you find it to talk to people about the gospel) and another wall is the vertical axis (how often you talk to other people about the gospel).

Get each member of your group to position themselves on the grid around the room. Ask everyone to look around the room so they can learn how their fellow group members feel.



See the Leader's Notes for a sketch of how this might end up looking for your group and how to interpret where everyone is.

DISCUSS



- » Give each person in your group a print out of one of the following verses (see *Appendix 1*):

John 3:16 (CEV)

Luke 19:10b (CEV)

1 Timothy 2:4-6 (CEV)

2 Peter 3:9 (CEV)

Colossians 4:5-6 (HSCB)

Ask them to spend a few minutes on their own thinking about what the verse means. When they have had a few minutes, invite them to read their verse and share what they think it means with the group.



If you have more than 5 group members, you can give a few people the same verse.



If some of your group members have difficulty reading work through the verses together.

- » Based on these verses, how do you think God feels about people who don't yet know Him personally?
- » What lengths has God gone to, to save these people?
- » Do you think He wants us to do anything for people who don't know Him? Why/why not?
- » What is the message God wants people to know?
- » Do you agree with the following quote?
"To win men to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour is the only reason why Christians are still on earth." Why/why not?

for established Christians

Ask for a volunteer to read **Matthew 24:36-44** from their Bible or off their iPad.

- » Based on these verses, what kind of attitude do you think we should have to telling people about Jesus? (Urgency to tell people who don't know Him; steadfastness to remain in Jesus)
- » How does reading this account make you feel about people who don't know Jesus?

APPLY



Invite everyone to choose THREE people that they would like to share the gospel with over the next 5 weeks.

It might be helpful for them to think of:

- » One family member
- » One friend
- » One person who they haven't met yet (this leaves opportunity for God to work and bring new people into their lives that they can share the gospel with).

Ask them to write each person's name on a different sticky note.

Once everyone is finished, stick all of the notes to the cardboard so that you have a "LIFE group evangelism poster".

Pray for your fellow members and each non-Christian person by name.



It is important to keep this poster safe (maybe even somewhere visible for your group) so that it can be used in all of the 5 weeks of this LIFE series.



Remind your group that Jesus promises to be with them as they go out to tell people about Jesus and that He has also promised them the Holy Spirit, who lives within them and helps us to speak God's truths to others.

Continue this week to pray for the three people that you said you wanted to share Jesus with this week. Pray for

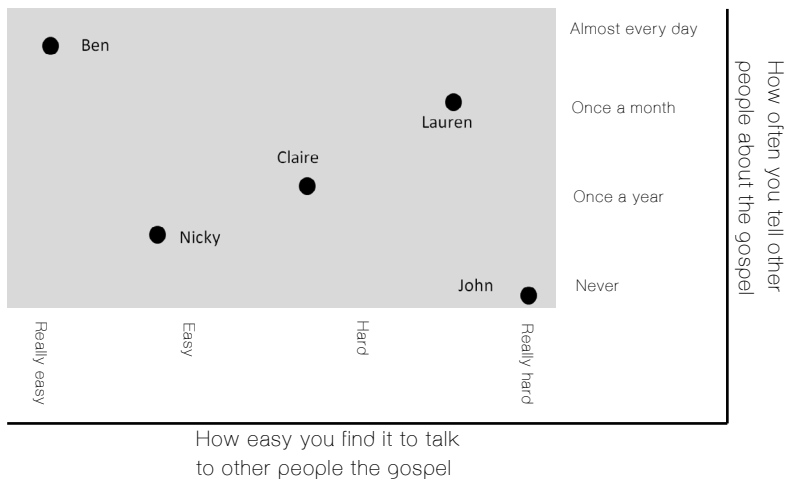
- » God to grant you opportunities
- » Boldness to speak the Gospel to people
- » Your fellow LIFE group members



Because this LIFE series is based on sharing the Gospel with people around us, each week there will be a chance for the people in your group to speak about the people they want to share the gospel with and how they have been going for the past week. Tell your group this so that they can be intentional throughout the week and then be prepared to share in LIFE group the next week.

LEADERS NOTES

- The goal is not to pressure your group members into sharing the gospel (evangelising) nor do we want to prescribe rules for how, when or how often they should be sharing the gospel. Rather, we want to get them excited about sharing the good news of Jesus. The aim is to also help create and leave space for the Holy Spirit to convict your group about the privilege it is to be part of God's mission!
- It is good for your group to know they don't have to be experts or know all the answers before they start talking to people. Comfort them with this if they are worried or anxious.
- The LIFE Group Graph:



- Understanding the LIFE Group Graph:
 - Ben finds it really easy to tell people the gospel and does it almost every day
 - Nicky finds it easy to tell people the gospel and tells people a few times a year
 - Claire finds it hard to tell people the gospel and she has a gospel conversation with someone about once a month
 - John finds it really hard to talk to people about the gospel and would never do it or rarely ever
 - Lauren finds it somewhere between hard and really hard to talk to people about the gospel but she still tells people quite regularly

- If your group are keen to explore more about God's attitude towards those who are lost, encourage them to read **Luke 16:1-32**. As the leader you might find it helpful to read this before your LIFE group
- About 3 days after your group has met follow them up with a call, text message or facebook message asking them the following:

Have you spoken to one or more of your 3 people about the gospel this week?
How did it go?

APPENDIX 1



John 3:16 (CEV)

¹⁶ God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.

Luke 19:10b (ESV)

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

1 Timothy 2:4-6 (CEV)

⁴ God wants everyone to be saved and to know the whole truth, which is, ⁵ there is only one God, and Christ Jesus is the only one who can bring us to God. Jesus was truly human, and he gave himself to rescue all of us. ⁶ God showed us this at the right time.

2 Peter 3:9 (CEV)

⁹ The Lord isn't slow about keeping his promises, as some people think he is. In fact, God is patient, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost.

Colossians 4:5-6 (HSCB)

⁵ Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶ Your speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.



2/5

WITH ACTIONS, WORDS OR BOTH?

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summary

Can we just act like Christians but never talk about Jesus?
Is this enough?

Can we only speak about Jesus but not live out the gospel
in our lives?

This week, we'll look at how to share the gospel with our
words and our actions.

this week you will need

- Your evangelism poster from last week

CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » Would you rather never have TV again, or never have the internet again?
- » Celebrity Imposters: Think of the name of a celebrity. Your job is to get the group to guess who you are by acting and talking like the person, without using any names or titles. People can ask questions too.
- » Who is someone you look up to whose actions match their words?

recap

- » Spend time sharing how your group members went last week at talking to one of their 3 people about Jesus?



"Recap" is a helpful time in LIFE groups to discuss how people went with the "Apply" from the previous week. We don't want people to feel guilty if they didn't do any of the apply suggestions so make this a causal discussion rather than a time of grilling.

DISCUSS



- » Do you care more about what people say or what they do? Why?
- » How do you feel when someone's actions and words don't match up? (e.g.: They tell everyone they should eat Fairtrade chocolate but regularly eat chocolate that is not fair-trade.)
- » Have you ever heard the saying: "Practice what you preach"? What do people mean when they say this?
- » There is a quote that says: "Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words." What do you think this means? How can you preach the gospel without speaking?
- » Do you find it easier to tell people about Jesus using actions or words? Can you give an example?

Ask volunteers to read **Matthew 5:13-16** and **1 Peter 2:12**

- » What do think these verses mean?
- » Why do you think Jesus wants us to live like this?
- » What do you think could be the results of living like this in front of people who don't know Jesus yet?

Ask a volunteer to read **1 Thessalonians 2:9-12** together.

- » In what ways did Paul and his companions preach to the people through their actions?
- » In what ways did they preach through their words?

INVOLVE



This is a good opportunity to help those in your group who learn better when moving around. Get up and about as you do the role plays.

Pick some (or all) of the following scenarios & have group members act out how they would respond. Ask them to consider how they could:

- » Preach the gospel in *words*?
- » Preach the gospel in *actions*?

A lady from church in her 60's has just fallen sick & hasn't been as positive as she normally is.

A friend is struggling with her school work and exams and asking how you cope with it all.

You're in line at Maccas and the person in front of you is really rude to the person behind the counter.

The kid's leader at your church is looking for helpers for the kids program at church on a Sunday.

Your mum has had a big week and is really tired and hasn't done the washing up after dinner.



Role plays can feel weird and forced, but like practicing a speech in front of a mirror it really does help in the long run.

If your group is really uncomfortable acting their responses out you could have them simply say what they would do/say.

APPLY



Choose ONE of the people from your LIFE group evangelism poster who you will show Jesus' love to using *actions* this week.

AND

Choose ONE of the people from your LIFE group evangelism poster who you will share the gospel with using *words* this week.

LEADERS NOTES

- It is important that we don't water down how important it is to speak the WORDS of the gospel to people. If we simply live good lives then people won't know the reason why and they might just think we are just 'nice people'. For people to understand that we live differently because of Jesus we actually need to tell them.
- Encourage your group members if you have seen or heard of any stories of them living out their lives as Christians and speaking to people about the gospel. It is good to encourage your group with 'good-news' stories!
- About 3 days after your group has met follow them up with a call, text message or facebook message asking them the following:

Have you tried to show Jesus to anyone this week through words or actions? How did it go?

3/5

WHAT STOPS US?

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summary

Do you find evangelism tough? You're not alone.

This week, we will look at the things that often stop us from sharing our faith and we will be encouraged that we don't need special skills. If we are willing - God can use us as we are.

this week you will need

- Pens and textas to share with the group
- Small pieces of paper (3 times the number of group members - A5 sized paper is sufficient)
- One strip of Blu Tac
- A print out of *appendix 1*, with each bible verse cut into separate strips

CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » What is your favourite horror movie (or scary movie)?
- » What are some of your phobias?
- » Would you rather visit the doctor or the dentist?

recap

- » Who did you share the gospel with this week using actions/words? What happened?

Pray for each other in light of what people have shared.

INVOLVE



This Involve & Discuss activity can take up most of your LIFE group time! Spend quality time talking and discussing, hearing people's struggles and encouraging them!

Sit in a circle. Place the A5 paper, blu tac & pens in the middle of the circle.

Go around the circle, giving each person an opportunity to complete the following sentence: "I would share the gospel with people more but..."

After each person shares, get them to write down what they said on a sheet of paper and Blu Tac it to a wall.

Keep going around the circle until the group runs out of answers.

DISCUSS



Look again at the pieces of paper on the walls.

Ask your group members to share:

- » Which of the reasons do you struggle with the most?
- » Why do you think you find that thing difficult?



Let the group know that they are not alone! Sharing our faith can be difficult, but the Bible has some really helpful encouragement for us.

Scatter the cut up Bible verses on the floor/table. Give your group members a few minutes to look at the Bible verses.

Ask them to pick up one that means something to them or speaks to them.

For EACH Bible verse, ask the following:

- » Can someone read the verse out loud?
- » (For the person who chose the verse)
What made you choose this verse? What do you think it means?
- » Looking back at the reasons that stop us sharing the Gospel, does this Bible verse relate to any of them or encourages us?

Write the relevant bible verses on the A5 sheets of paper.



If your LIFE group is up to it, you could even ask them if they can think of any other encouragement from Scripture that speaks to the struggles they wrote down.



See *appendix 2* for some longer and more detailed responses regarding reasons for not wanting to share the gospel and for relevant encouragement and Bible verses.

APPLY



What is one thing that you are going to do differently this week based on what we've discussed?

OR

Choose the Bible verse that is most relevant to you. Write it down and read it every day this week to encourage you to share your faith.

OR

There are many instances in the Bible where people have had to "step out in faith" and let God use them as they are. Just think of David stepping out against Goliath, or Peter stepping out onto the waves to meet Jesus. This week read some of these stories to encourage you that Jesus can use you as you are if you step out in faith and trust Him.

LEADERS NOTES

- In this LIFE series each week builds on the last. How is your group going? Are they growing in their understanding of the importance of evangelism? Are they stepping out and trying to share the gospel? Remember we want peoples lives to change because of what Jesus has done for them – we don't want them to only grow in knowledge.
- Make sure you're following up your group members and encouraging them to keep being bold for Jesus. If there are members who are really struggling maybe you could meet up with them 1-to-1 and help them out. You could go with them to a local park or shopping center and talk to some strangers about Jesus. By modeling this to your group members you can help them to be encouraged to try it themselves.
- About 3 days after your group has met follow them up with a call, text message or facebook message asking them the following:

This week we discussed some reasons we find it hard to share Jesus with people we know. Have you been encouraged or found it easier to share Jesus this week?

APPENDIX 1

PAGE 1 OF 2



"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:26

"We can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:6

"It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy." Romans 9:16

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." James 1:5

"Some of you used to be like that. But now the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of God's Spirit have washed you and made you holy and acceptable to God." 1 Corinthians 6:11

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

"If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed because the Spirit of glory—the Spirit of God—is resting on you."
1 Peter 4:14

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

APPENDIX 1

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"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20

"With Jesus' help we will continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by telling others of the glory of his name. Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to him." Hebrews 13:15-16

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

"...Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God..." Romans 12:1-2

"...Make the most of every opportunity." Colossians 4:5

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Revelation 3:15-16

"Do you suppose that I came to bring peace to the world? No, not peace, but division." Luke 12:51

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." Romans 1:16



APPENDIX 2

PAGE 1 OF 5

**Reason:**

I'm scared

Helpful encouragement:

Sharing our faith can be scary, but we often fear the wrong things. Check out this verse that reminds us we should fear God more than people: "Don't be afraid of people. They can kill you, but they cannot harm your soul. Instead, you should fear God who can destroy both your body and your soul in hell." Matthew 10:28 (CEV). Pray and ask God for boldness.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"We can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:6 (ESV)

Reason:

I'm not a good speaker/good at talking to people

Helpful encouragement:

Moses used that excuse too in Exodus 4:10. He told God that he was not able to speak well. God's reply was that He (God) had made Moses exactly like he was.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:26 (ESV)

Reason:

I don't know how to start the conversation

Helpful encouragement:

It can be tough initially but one of the easiest methods is to just ask a person what they believe about God. People are often happy to chat and you get a chance to hear what they think so you can know what angle to take when you get to talk about God.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." James 1:5 (ESV)

APPENDIX 2

PAGE 2 OF 5

Reason:

I don't really care OR I don't think it is important

Helpful encouragement:

We have forgotten the reality of hell if we think that it is not important to share the gospel with others. We have likely become distracted by entertainment, work, social and technological distractions that take up most of our time.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Revelation 3:15-16 (NIV)

Reason:

People can just work out I'm a Christian by what I do.

Helpful encouragement:

We sometimes assume that if we "live out the Gospel" through our lives that we'll never have to actually verbalise our beliefs and put them into words. But in this world there are lots of kind, honest, generous, humble and truthful people. We need to explain with words why we are living like we are.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"With Jesus' help we will continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by telling others of the glory of his name. Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to him. " Hebrews 13:15-16

Reason:

It's not MY responsibility

Helpful encouragement:

Remember our discussions from the first week. Jesus' command to go to the nations and share the gospel was for all who call Him their Lord. Christ did not pick out certain people to be His witnesses. He has commissioned us for this.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

APPENDIX 2

PAGE 3 OF 5

Reason:

I'm afraid people will judge me for the person I was and what I did before I became a Christian

Helpful encouragement:

God will be glorified as you tell people about how God has changed you.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"Some of you used to be like that. But now the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of God's Spirit have washed you and made you holy and acceptable to God." 1 Corinthians 6:11 (CEV)

Reason:

I don't have time

Helpful encouragement:

We often say this and yet how quickly do we make time for Facebook, TV and hanging out with people we want to? Why not make use of the times you are busy with people and share the Gospel with them, even in the small, short moments.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"...Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God..." Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)

Reason:

People might make fun of me

Helpful encouragement:

We are called to persevere even when we suffer. In fact the Bible makes it very obvious that if we trust in Jesus we are to expect suffering.

Bible verses for encouragement:

"If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed because the Spirit of glory—the Spirit of God—is resting on you." 1 Peter 4:14 (GW)

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

APPENDIX 2

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Reason:

People might think I am weird and a religious crazy person

Helpful encouragement:

This shouldn't stop us from sharing with people, because what people think of us is not the most important thing.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2 (ESV)

Reason:

I don't want to start an argument/I don't like conflict

Helpful encouragement:

In our current society, a person's spirituality is often considered private and personal, and discussions are usually avoided at all costs—especially with those who don't share similar beliefs and worldviews. But Jesus tells us to go and tell the world. This news is TOO important to keep to ourselves! So we shouldn't conform to society's pressures.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"Do you suppose that I came to bring peace to the world? No, not peace, but division." Luke 12:51 (GW)

Reason:

I'm actually ashamed/unsure about what I believe

Helpful encouragement:

Speak with someone you trust and investigate what you believe so you can be convinced and sure!

Bible verse for encouragement:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." Romans 1:16 (NIV)

APPENDIX 2

PAGE 5 OF 5

Reason:

I don't know how to witness

Helpful encouragement:

It can be true that we have never witnessed before and so we might not know how to but we can learn. Simply telling other people how you got saved and what Christ has done for you is being a witness. If you have understood the Gospel well enough to have accepted it, then you can probably do a great job in explaining it to someone else.

Next week in LIFE group we are going to learn and practice how to share our testimony!

Bible verse for encouragement:

"It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy."
Romans 9:16 (NIV)

Reason:

I may get asked a question I can't answer

Helpful encouragement:

Sometimes this is the case, but we are not called to only share the gospel with someone once we have all the answers. We are called to "make the most of every opportunity" (Colossians 4:5) this means that if someone asks you a question you don't know the answer to then you can always say to them – "do you mind if I go and check and get back to you?". It'll even give you the chance to see them again and have another conversation. You can look it up yourself, ask your pastor, mentor or someone older than you that you trust for help.

Bible verse for encouragement:

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."
John 14:26, ESV

Appendix 2 was compiled with help from the following source:

www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/8-common-excuses-christians-give-to-not-evangelize/

4/5

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

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summary

This week we will look at the different ways people have presented the gospel to others. Whether we share the message through words, pictures or videos the core gospel truths cannot be compromised.

this week you will need

- One sheet of butcher's paper for brainstorming
- Pens and textas to share with the group
- 2 pieces of A4 paper (for Discuss section)
- Internet connection to watch a video (or the downloaded video from YouTube)

CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » If you could read one person's thoughts for a whole day, who would you choose?
- » What is one goal you'd like to accomplish in your lifetime?

recap

- » Last week we discussed different barriers that stop us from sharing the gospel, how did you go this week?

DISCUSS



- » Brainstorm on butcher's paper what words come to mind when you hear the word: 'Gospel'?



If you want to - you could divide into 2 groups for this next activity and give each group one verse to discuss/draw.

Titus 3:3-7:

- » What does this passage say about the Gospel?
- » Who are the characters that are mentioned in this passage?
- » Is there an order of events in the passage? Try and draw a flow diagram of events in the passage.

Ephesians 1:3-14:

- » What are the main points about the gospel that this passage mentions?
- » Who are the characters that are mentioned in this passage?
- » Try and draw a flow diagram of the order of events in the passage.

Have people share what they discovered with the group.

Watch the following video as a group:

G.O.S.P.E.L video (4 mins)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyYFxp7apl4>)

Combining the verses we read and the video we watched:

- » When you are talking about the gospel with people what would you say are the KEY points to mention?
- » What are the non-negotiables? What can you never leave out when you share the gospel?

for established Christians

Read these gospel summaries together:

Acts 10:36-43

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

- » How would you sum up these explanations of the gospel?
- » Is there anything in these passages that are helpful for you as you think through what the gospel is and how to share it with others?

INVOLVE



Choose ONE of the following activities for your group:

activity I

If group members have an iPhone or iPad ask them to download the "2 Ways to Live" App from the App Store and have a look through it.

This is a helpful tool for sharing the gospel with someone as it goes step by step though the main points of the gospel and leaves people with a choice at the end.

Encourage your group to practice talking through the steps with each other.

activity 2

Break up into pairs and practice sharing the basics of the gospel with each other so that you can be prepared when the opportunity arises outside of your LIFE group meeting.



Role plays and practicing sharing the gospel with people who already know Jesus can feel weird or forced but it really does help us with confidence and knowing what we want to say when the opportunity arises.

APPLY



What is one thing that you are going to do differently this week based on what we've discussed?

OR

This week look to have a conversation with someone and share the basic, non-negotiables of the gospel.

LEADERS NOTES

- This week and next week we are getting down to the nitty-gritty. "What is the gospel and how can we share it well with our friends and family who need to know Jesus still?"
- Ensure that you give your group time to practice sharing and talking about the Gospel in the safe space of LIFE groups, this really helps grow confidence.
- About 3 days after your group has met follow them up with a call, text message or facebook message asking them the following:

Have you been able to share the gospel with someone this week? What way did you tell them? Did you use a specific tool or pattern?

5/5

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

• •



summary

Stories are powerful. They can entertain us, amuse us and teach us.

Everyone has a story to tell. Your story is important.

Telling people how Jesus has changed your life is one of the best stories and sharing it can help others to understand who He is!

this week you will need

- Enough pens and printed copies of *appendix 1* for every group member.
- To speak with your corps officer about the possibility of group members sharing 1-2 minute testimonies at church
- Some pre-prepared quotes/sentences for Chinese Whispers

CONNECT



To help your group connect on a relaxed level, spend some time discussing the following:

- » What is your favourite fairytale/myth/legend?
- » Play a game of Chinese Whispers.
- » Have the group sit in a circle and make up a story together - one sentence each. Go around the circle, with each person adding another sentence. The story can be as outrageous as you like.

DISCUSS



- » Can you think of a time when you were helped or inspired by hearing someone's story about how they became a Christian? What about their story do you remember most? How did hearing the story affect you?

Ask a volunteer to read **1 Peter 3:15** out loud.

- » In your own words, what do you think this verse is saying?
- » Why do you think Peter says we should be prepared with an answer?

Ask this question if you would like to re-cap last week:

- » What is one thing that holds you back from sharing your story with others? (e.g. afraid of how people will respond, not knowing the words to say, feeling like our story is boring).

Ask a volunteer to read **Acts 22:4-21**

- » How does Paul describe his life BEFORE it changed?
- » What does Paul say about HOW his life was changed?
- » How does Paul describe his life AFTER it changed?

INVOLVE



'Being prepared' like Peter says can help give us confidence to share about our faith and the gospel when the opportunities arise.

Today, we are going to take some time to write our own stories about how Jesus changed our lives.



Hand each group member a copy of *appendix 1* and a pen. Have them take some time to talk through the handout together, explaining the purpose of the three sections.

BEFORE

Your goal: To give examples of what your life was like before Jesus brought change (attitudes, needs, and problems).

HOW

Your goal: To allow the listener to walk away with a clear understanding of how your life changed and how he or she can trust Jesus and see their life transformed for the better.

AFTER

Your goal: To explain specific ways Christ has changed your life -- to show that having Christ in your life really does make a difference!



Some group members might ask: 'What if I have always been a Christian?' Encourage them to think of one area of their life that Jesus had brought change to. E.g. They might share about how Jesus helped them stop worrying.

Some group members might ask: 'What if my story is boring?' Assure them that the Holy Spirit can work through every story.

Encourage your group to practice sharing their story in front of a mirror, in front of each other or in front of family.

Give group members 10 minutes to write their story in point form. Let them know you are available to chat with anyone who would like help.



Remember: The purpose of sharing your story is to point people towards Jesus.

Sometimes we only have 1 or 2 minutes to share our story. Ask whether any group members are willing to share their 1-2 minute story with the group today.

APPLY



Let your group know that your church leaders would love to hear group members share their Jesus stories in a church service.

Ask for volunteers who will share for 1-2 minutes at church.

Let them know that you will support and pray for them as they prepare.

AND/OR

Challenge your group to share their story with someone this week. Check in with them during the week to see if they have, and remind them again that their story is significant.

LEADERS NOTES

- About 3 days after you've had your group follow them up with a call, text message or facebook message asking them the following:

Have you been able to share your story with someone this week? How did it go?

APPENDIX 1



Outline for a Testimony

Remember:

The purpose of sharing your story is to point people towards Jesus.

BEFORE

Your goal: To give examples of what your life was like before you met Jesus and he changed you. This could be reflected in changed attitudes, actions, thoughts or problems.

HOW

Your goal: To help the listener to walk away with a clear understanding of how your life changed because of Jesus and how he or she can trust Jesus and see their own life transformed by him.

AFTER

Your goal: To explain specific ways Christ has changed your life -- to show that having Christ in your life really does make a difference!



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