

Session 2

People and Prayer

Key Point: God provides us with opportunities to speak about Jesus. Ask Him for these.

Key Encouragement: God saves people; you don't.

Session Goals:

Pray for each other's family and friends.

Reflect on the importance of prayer, words and life in evangelism.

Identify the relationship networks that God has placed you in.

Introduction

Everyone has unique opportunities to share Jesus and life with the people around them. In today's session we ask God to help us 'see' and pray for the people He has placed in our lives.

What key points were made in the video? Did anything stand out for you?

Share

The Samaritan woman we met last week went back to town and talked to those around her about this man Jesus whom she met.

Using the Relationship Network Worksheet at the end of this session, spend five minutes 'seeing' the people that God has placed in your life who don't yet know Jesus.

1. From this Worksheet, choose five people that you see or could see regularly to pray for.
2. Choose two of these people and tell the group a little about them, and your relationship with them. As you share, please remember to respect their privacy.

We each have a unique network of relationships that God has placed us in. Each of us has a unique story about how we became Christian and why we stay Christian. This means that in God's sovereign goodness we each have unique opportunities to share about Jesus to this particular person or to that particular person.



Train

Prayer is the starting point when it comes to sharing our faith. We ask God to be at work in people, and through us, to help them meet Jesus. In **Colossians 4:2-6** Paul teaches the Colossians about evangelistic relationships.

- 1. What does Paul ask the Colossians to pray about?**

- 2. How does Paul want the Colossians to live and speak?**

- 3. Why are prayer, conversation and Christian living all important for evangelism?**

- 4. What steps can you take to devote yourself to praying like this?**

Paul asks the Colossians to devote themselves to prayer. It is God who 'opens doors' and gives opportunities to speak about Jesus. It is God who enables Christians to speak clearly and boldly about Jesus. It is God who opens the door of a person's heart to receive Jesus as Lord.

In anticipation of God answering prayers, Paul encourages the Colossians to live and speak in ways that encourage conversations about who Jesus is, and the difference that knowing Jesus makes. We can be tempted to see prayer as 'just prayer', but because it is prayer to the sovereign God, it creates ripples that end up changing people's lives.

Pray

Write a prayer for yourself and the people you are praying for based on Colossians 4:2-6. Use 'I', 'me', and their names. Pray these prayers together.



Review

1. Finish working through the Relationship Network Worksheet.
2. There are many ways of explaining who Jesus is and what it means to be Christian. Some will be more appropriate for certain people or situations than others. Throughout this module we look at a variety of online Gospel summaries so that you can use them in your evangelism if you chose to.

Watch the Gospel summary 'Key to Christianity'.

<https://graphicfaith.org.au/training-resources/key-christianity/>

- a. What do you like about this Gospel summary?
 - b. Is there anything you don't understand or have questions about?
 - c. Were there any parts of the Gospel summary that particularly resonated with your experience of God? Why?
3. In the group chat this week share something you discovered when completing the Review activities.

Relationship Network Worksheet

Unless we pause and reflect, we may not realise the opportunities that God has given us to proclaim the Gospel to others.

Use the following diagram to:

- identify the different relationship networks in your life.
- list the names of people who aren't Christian that you know in your network.

As you look at your relationship network, ask yourself 'Is my list broad enough?'

Here are some ideas to broaden your list.

- someone who catches the train at the same time you do.
- an old school friend you saw at a wedding.
- someone who walks the dog at the same park.
- a 'blast from the past' whose name appeared in your Facebook feed.
- a person at the gym.

As you look at your relationship network:

- underline the names of people you see regularly, even if you don't know them very well yet.
- circle the names of people you expect to see next week.

Choose 5 of these people to pray for regularly.

Reflect:

1. How might their lives be better if they knew Jesus?
2. Where and when do you see them?
3. What do you talk about?
4. How can you start to be more intentional in the way you share Jesus and your life with them?

Try to be specific in your answers to these questions.

