

Session 1

Listen and Share

Key Point: Knowing Jesus changes us and our lives for the better.

Key Encouragement: Jesus knows you and loves you.

Session Goals:

Orientation to Ripple Effect 1.

Get to know each other by sharing about how Jesus has changed us.

Reflect on a conversation that Jesus had with a Samaritan woman.

Introduction

In this Ripple Effect Module (RE1 – Jesus & Me) you will learn how to prayerfully proclaim the Good News about Jesus to people by telling them about how Jesus met and changed you.

Learning to speak clearly about Jesus and our relationship with Him is important for our own understanding of the Gospel, and for that of our family and friends. When we talk about what it means to know Jesus, we give people information about, and reasons to trust, Jesus themselves.

Introduce yourself to the group and share something about why you are participating in Ripple Effect.

- What do you think and feel when you hear the word 'evangelism'?
- What do you find challenging about sharing your faith in Jesus with others?
- Did anything in the introduction videos strike a chord with you?

Setting group expectations.

- How can we make our group a safe and comfortable place to Share, Pray and Train together?
- Which of these group expectations might also be important when answering people's questions about Jesus and Christianity?

Share

Share with the group something about the story of God's work in your life. Here are some suggestions of what you might talk about:

- How you came to trust in Jesus.

- Pivotal moments or people in your walk with God.
- How being known and loved by Jesus has changed you.

Don't feel like you need to cover all these areas; they are just prompts. There will be plenty of time in future sessions to hear more about each other! Set a timer and give each person five minutes.

When people are speaking, remember to listen well. It's a privilege when people trust you enough to share their lives with you.

- How did you find that experience of listening and sharing?



Train

Now we'll learn from Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman. **Read John 4:4-26** and consider the flow of the conversation.

- 1. What topics did Jesus and the woman talk about as the conversation progressed?**
- 2. In each phase of the conversation:**
 - a. What did Jesus offer her?**
 - b. How did He challenge her?**
- 3. How does the 'mood' change over the course of the conversation?**

Read John 4:27-30, 39-42 and consider the impact of meeting Jesus on the woman.

4. Why do you think the woman spoke about Jesus?

5. What was the outcome of her 'instinctive' evangelism?

6. What are you challenged by in this story?

In John 4 we meet a Samaritan woman who is, unusually, drawing water by herself during the day. She has a history of difficult relationships and is interested in theology. Jesus sees her for who she is, and He welcomes her. But He also challenges her with the truth about God, Himself, and her life. Meeting Jesus is both confronting and incredibly positive for the woman. There is something wonderful about being known and loved by Jesus.

The effect of this encounter ripples out to others because she can't help but tell her neighbours about this Jesus whom she met. Then they come and meet Him too.

Pray

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.

Psalm 105:1-2 (NIV)

- Spend time thanking God for His work in your life.
- Ask Him to give you opportunities to share your story with others.
- Ask Him to help you to listen well to the people around you when they share their stories with you.

Some members of the group may feel more comfortable praying out loud than others. Please remember that a one-sentence prayer written down and read out is just as authentic as a five-minute prayer prayed spontaneously.



Review

1. Every Christian has a unique story about how they became Christian and why they stay Christian. Have a look at the way Paul shares his story in Acts 26:1-29.
 - a. What does Paul say about:
 - himself and how he met Jesus?

 - Jesus – who He is and what He did?

 - how Jesus changes people's lives, including Paul's?

 - responding to Jesus?

 - b. What is unique about Paul's conversion experience and what is more general to all Christians?

 - c. How 'successful' was Paul's evangelism in terms of:
 - Gospel content - was there anything missing?

- conversions?

d. How does Acts 26 encourage you or challenge you?

2. If you would like further reading to accompany these RE1 sessions you could try one of these books.
 - Chan, S. How To Talk About Jesus (Without Being THAT Guy).
 - Manley Pippert, R. Stay Salt: The World Has Changed. Our Message Must Not.
 - Strange, D. Making Faith Magnetic.