



Equipment:

You will need - DVD player, TV, pens, leader's guide and course members' sheets for everyone in the group.



Timings:

This session is timed to run for 75 minutes.



Session Aims:

- Continuing to create a positive learning atmosphere in the group
- Sharing the story of our faith journey
- Discovering that people are interested in hearing parts of our faith journey



Welcome and introducing the theme: (4 minutes)

Welcome people to the session and welcome those who are joining the group for the first time. If you have new members in the group, get everyone to briefly introduce themselves. Briefly recap what was covered in session 1.



Prayer: (1 minute)

Hand out the course members' sheets and invite everyone to join together in praying the Blackburn Diocese Vision 2026 prayer or an alternative suitable prayer.

Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



Exercise: Dingbats (8 minutes)

A Dingbat is a well-known phrase or saying which is expressed in picture form. Give an explanation of the first dingbat.

Ask the group to work in pairs to see how many of the Dingbats on the sheet they can solve.

After a few minutes, put people out of their misery and give them the answers.

1. Banana split
2. Upside down
3. Unfinished symphony

4. Bulldozer
5. Life begins at 40
6. The after effects
7. Afternoon Tea
8. Tripod (or possibly high pod – iPod)
9. See eye to eye
10. Foreign Language
11. Running away from home
12. One thing after another

Offer a brief comment to explain that when Roy Walker used to present the TV programme “Catchphrase”, he encouraged contestants to “say what they see”. Dingbats are similar, it’s about saying what we see. Being a Christian witness is comparable, it’s about saying what we see, speaking about the difference Jesus makes in our lives.



DVD 2:1 (6 minutes)

Watch the first of the DVD programmes. Remember a subtitles menu is available on the DVD. ***Pause the DVD when the screen goes black.***

DVD content

- The importance of being a witness – say what you see
- David’s story
- Kat’s story
- The three elements of a testimony



Exercise: My Story (20 minutes) (4 minutes jotting down notes and 4 minutes each sharing their stories, 8 minutes’ discussion – allow longer for discussion if necessary)

Invite the group members to jot down some notes that capture the main moments in their own faith journey. They can use the ‘before, during and after’ format if they can identify clear moments when they chose to follow Jesus. Or, if they have always had a living faith they can jot down notes about the early stages of their faith journey, moments when their faith has deepened and grown and what their faith means to them now. After jotting down a few notes, ask people to share their faith journey in pairs. Each person has four minutes each and you will need to tell the group members when their four minutes are up.

After the exercise ask people about their reaction to doing the exercise, allow about 8 minutes for this discussion.



DVD 2:2 (3 minutes 30 seconds)

Watch the second of the DVD programmes for session 2 and *pause the DVD when the screen goes blank.*

DVD content

- People are interested in your story
- Talking Jesus research, 1 in 5 want to know more
- The myth that witness through actions is enough and we don't need to use words



Bible: Acts 26:4-23 (20 minutes)

Explain that the passage that is about to be read is Paul giving an account of his Christian faith before the court of King Agrippa. Ask a member of the group to read out the passage, you may like to ask someone in advance to avoid putting someone on the spot!

After the passage has been read, ask the group for any immediate comments or thoughts about the passage. Then consider the following questions

Before: v4-11

- What do we learn about Paul's background and beliefs?
- What sort of a person do you think Paul was before he became a follower of Jesus?

During v12-18

- What do we discover about the way Paul became a follower of Jesus?
- Why do you think God revealed himself in this way?

After v19-23

- What differences has following Jesus made in Paul's life?
- How has Jesus changed your life?



DVD 2:3 (2 minutes 15 seconds)

Watch the last section of the DVD and then turn off the DVD.

DVD content

- The fishing analogy
- Using 'faith bait'
- People do want to know more

Invite people to comment on the DVD programmes that you've watched. Were there any particular thoughts or ideas that struck them?



Exercise: Fishers of people (5 minutes)

Think about the people who you have chosen to pray for regularly. Are there bits of your faith journey that might connect with some of the people you are praying for?

Share in groups of three about some of the ways that you might be able to share bits of 'faith bait' with the people you are praying for or with other people you know.



Prayer: (3 minutes)

Spend some moments in silence praying for the people on the groups' prayer lists. You might like to play some quiet music in the background.

Then have some read the following verses

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

Pray together the 'Being Witnesses' prayer printed on the course members' materials.

*Lord, help us to be witnesses through our actions and our words.
May we be faithful in prayer, gracious in service and more confident in speaking.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen*



Take away activity: (1 minute)

Note: This is on page 4 of the course members' materials.

Invite the group to see if they could drop some 'faith bait' into conversations during the coming week and suggest that they may like to share some of their experiences with group members at the start of session 3.