



Share together:

- Are you still praying regularly for 3-5 people?
- Have you tried dropping 'faith bait' into conversations?
- Have you used questions to open up faith conversations?
- Are you considering inviting anyone to an outreach event?



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: You're Welcome!

Share together as a group experiences of good welcome and hospitality, quality customer service, or examples of bad welcome, poor customer service etc.



Bible: John 1:35-39

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Discuss together the following questions

- Why do you think the two disciples decided to follow Jesus?
- Why did the two followers ask, "Where are you staying?". What do you think lay behind their question?
- Why do you think Jesus made the invitation to "come and see"?



DVD: 5:1



Exercise: Come and See

What does your church currently do to help people grow in their Christian Faith?

Label the stepping stones on the following page with the different activities and groups your church runs to help people grow in their faith. Are there any obvious gaps between the stepping stones? Is there more that the church could be doing to help people find and grow in their faith?

Share together any experiences you have had in being a part of enquirers' course like Start!, Alpha, Christianity Explored, Life Explored, Pilgrim or other similar courses. When did your churches last run an enquirers' course? Is this something that could be planned into the churches calendar?





DVD: 5:2



Bible: Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Explore together as a group the following questions

- Why has Simon the Pharisee failed to show hospitality to Jesus?
- Why did people react badly to the actions of the woman who anointed Jesus?
- Does knowing how much we need to be forgiven make a difference to how we relate to other people?
- How lavish are our churches when it comes to welcome and hospitality?



DVD: 5:3



Exercise: Mood Faces

Using the mood faces picture below, record what reactions new people might have to coming to an event or service organised by your churches.



What might make them happy?



What might make them sad?



What might confuse them?



What might make them angry?



What might bore them?



What might interest them?

Discuss together

- Most churches believe themselves to be friendly but that isn't always the experience of visitors. Have you had negative experiences visiting other churches?
- What can churches do to make sure they are genuinely welcoming and hospitable to guests and visitors?



Exercise: I don't speak French!

Following on from the story about learning to speak French, discuss together peoples' reactions to being part of the course.

- What has been helpful about the course?
- What have you found most challenging?
- Do you feel more encouraged to share your faith?
- How big a barrier is "the sound barrier" – how hard, or easy, is it to have faith based conversations?



Prayer:

Spend some moments in silence praying for the people on your prayer list. Pray together the Being Witnesses payer.

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



Being Witnesses:

- Pray for 3-5 people who are not yet followers of Jesus.
- Be willing to share your faith story and drop bits of 'Faith bait' into conversation.
- Continue to use questions as a way of opening up faith conversations.
- Connect with people outside the life of the church and invite people to outreach activities.
- Encourage your church to run enquirers' courses and other outreach activities.
- Work hard to make church a place of welcome and hospitality.