

Being Witnesses: Course Overview

Session Outlines

Session 1 – Problems and Prayer

Session Aims:

- **Creating a warm atmosphere in the group**
- **Exploring false ideas about evangelism and seeing faith sharing as something we can do!**
- **Recognise the vital importance of prayer in faith sharing**

Welcome

Exercise: That's impossible! The challenge of faith sharing.

Prayer:

DVD: 1:1

- Welcome and overview of the course
- People find faith sharing frightening
- Distorted views of faith sharing
- Definition of evangelism/faith sharing

Exercise: Which of the captions best expresses their own thoughts about evangelism and faith sharing?

DVD: 1:2

- Breaking faith sharing down into steps
- Building up knowledge and experience

Bible: Colossians 4:2-6

DVD: 1:3

- The importance of praying regularly for 3-5 people

Exercise: Think of three to five people that they can commit to praying for regularly.

Prayer: Pray for 3-5 people

Take away activity: Remind course members to pray regularly for the people on their prayer card.

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Session 2 – Our Faith Story

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 introduce the theme:

Prayer:

Exercise: Dingbats – say what you see!

DVD 2:1

- 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 - group members share their testimonies.

DVD 2:2

- 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: Paul's testimony Acts 26:4-23

DVD 2:3

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

Exercise: Fishers of people - which bits of your faith journey that might connect with some of the people you are praying for.

Prayer:

Take away activity: Putting 'faith bait' into conversations.

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Session 3 – Asking Questions

Session Aims:

- **Recognising the importance of asking questions in faith sharing**
- **Seeing the importance of listening in evangelism**
- **Understanding that the process of becoming a follower of Jesus is a series of steps and stages**

Welcome and introduce the theme:

Prayer:

Exercise: Questions, questions, questions - some of the hardest questions we have ever been asked.

DVD 3:1

- Faith sharing and listening
- Jesus asking questions
- Table Talk

Exercise: Table Talk – playing a brief game

DVD 3:2

- Useful questions - Who are you? Where are you? Why don't you?
- Paul's example of listening in Athens

Bible: Acts 17:16-34

DVD 3:3

- The staircase – steps to faith
- Believing and belonging
- Having all the steps in place

Exercise: Stairway to Heaven - list the different steps that your church has to help people explore the Christian faith.

Prayer:

Take away Activity: Dropping 'faith bait' into conversations and thinking of ways of helping people move forward on their faith journey.

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Session 4 – The Importance of Invitation

Session Aims:

- Exploring the great commission to *GO* and make disciples
- Recognising the number of people we connect with as churches and individuals
- Creating a culture of Invitation

Welcome and introduce theme:

Prayer:

Exercise: You are invited... sharing examples of invitations.

DVD 4:1

- Longing for empty seats to be filled
- Why don't they come
- Jesus call for us to 'Go'.
- The need to connect with the world

Bible: Matthew 28:16-20

Exercise: Our networks – listing all the different ways your church connects with people.

DVD 4:2

- Connecting through community activities
- A heart to share Jesus with others
- Ideas for outreach events

Exercise: Jolly hockey sticks – listing the people we are connected with and what steps could we take to share Jesus with them?

Exercise: A bit of a do! Planning outreach events that contain Christian content.

DVD 3:3

- The fear of invitation
- People want to know more
- I'm going, it's going to be good, would you like to come?

Exercise: I'm going, it's going to be good would you like to come?

Prayer:

Take away activity: Challenge the group to consider inviting someone to a church based outreach activity.

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Session 5 – Come and See

Session Aims:

- **Church as a place of welcome and hospitality where people are encouraged to ‘come and see’**
- **The importance of running enquirers’ courses**
- **Being prepared to have a go and breaking the ‘sound barrier’**

Welcome and introduce the theme:

Prayer:

Exercise: You’re welcome! – sharing experiences of welcome and hospitality.

Bible: John 1:37-39

DVD 5:1

- Jesus invitation to come and see
- The importance of enquirers’ courses
- People to invite
- Experiences of being part of an enquirers’ course
- Helping people grow in their faith

Exercise: Come and see – how the local church can help make disciples.

DVD 5:2

- The importance of welcome
- A friendly church?

Bible: Luke:36-50

Exercise: Mood faces – reactions to coming to church

DVD 5:3

- The problems of starting to share faith
- Having a go
- It gets easier the more we do it
- Recap of the course
- Encouragement to give it a go

Exercise: I don’t speak French! – the challenge of getting started

Prayer:

Take away activity – keeping going, the more you do it the easier it gets.