

MEET JESUS

Meeting Others so they Meet Jesus

A training course in growing our opportunities to share the gospel through meeting new people (i.e. “cold-contact”) and increasing our speaking about God in everyday situations.

1 hour

Meeting Others so they Meet Jesus

Cold Contact Evangelism

Reflect by yourself or with someone near you:

- 1) Choose 2-3 words which describe how you feel (or think) about evangelism. Why did you choose these words?
- 2) Have you ever done some form of cold contact evangelism (e.g. walk up, talking with people at stall/table or BBQ) with your campus group? Why or why not?
- 3) How do you feel about initiating meeting someone new in your classes? And engaging them in a conversation about Jesus?

Stand up & move to sit with someone you don't know:

- Introduce yourself to them (name, uni, studying)
- Share 1 of your answers to the reflection questions

1. God's Vision for our Voices

Discuss (2 groups, in pairs) How would you respond to a Christian who said to you:

- "There's no verse in the Bible that says Christians must speak the gospel to others!"
- "All Christians must speak the gospel to others!"

a. What God wants to see in the world

Read Psalm 96 taking note of the commands (underline or note down).

- How are the commands similar?
- Who is involved with these commands? (Where, When, Why, What's involved?)
- What is the end result?

b. Sin and God's sovereignty

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-15

- How does Paul go about his ministry? (v1-2, v5, v13-14)
- What has God done? (v6)
- What is Satan doing? (v3-4)
- Why do you think Paul explains Satan's role?

c. God's eternal vision

Read Revelation 7:9-12 noting:

- Who is in this vision?
- Where are they?
- What are they doing?

2. Talking to People about God

Psalm 96 and Revelation 7 show us that God's plan for all humanity involves all humanity speaking His praises and glorifying His son Jesus because of His salvation.

Speaking about God and praising His work in Jesus is hard because of sin and the work of Satan in blinding people's minds. But God's plan and power involves speaking the truth about Him plainly. As we meet people so that they meet Jesus, we will probably need to change how we speak so that we speak more about God and what He's done in Jesus.

Changing the way we speak to bring God into our conversations is a first step to explaining the gospel. It is not the same as speaking the gospel to someone. It is a first step. And more than just a 'first step', it is learning to use our voices to speak things that are true and brings glory and praise to God. A lot of 'God talk' will lead into the gospel or give us 'tangents' into the gospel.

Conversations where we get to declare that Jesus is Lord will be the conversations that we pray and look for with people.

There are two approaches in the tables below. Both are designed to help you increase your speaking about God in everyday situations.

Table #1 - My relationship with God

The first table gets you thinking about your own relationship with God and how you could speak about God in different contexts.

Areas of daily conversation or verbal interaction	Thanks to God (for what he's done/doing)	Reliance on God (in this area)	Hope in God for the future
You're own personal faults and failures			
eg "I'm hopeless with technology..."	If you're struggling, yet again, to operate a piece of technology. "I do thank God for computers..."	...but I would like him to help me understand what's wrong with mine!	"...i hope I don't have to wait till Jesus returns to get it working for me"
	Talking with a friend who's complaining about someone else getting a promotion they don't deserve. Me: Yeah, sounds a bit unfair to you. Mind you, I know God's given me a lot of things I don't deserve. Even, despite having rejected Him, he's given me a restored relationship with Him in Jesus. I certainly don't deserve that. But I understand your frustration.		
Sickness or injury			
eg "One of the kids is home sick today..."	The bible says Jesus identifies with our weaknesses. That's a great comfort right now	Talking with a neighbour after another neighbour was in hospital after a major accident. Me: I'm praying for God to have mercy on Josh and save his life	"sickness is awful, isn't it? But it makes me long for Jesus to return."
The daily grind			
eg "i need coffee..."	"Thank the Lord for coffee!! Just what I need right now!"	A tired looking tradie doing a job for us says he'd not had a day off since Christmas Me: [sympathetically] Oh man, you	An older neighbour I know well comments humorously as I return

		should try and get a break. The Lord didn't make your body to work 7 days without a break...	from a run: Careful, exercise can kill you! Me: [cheekily] Great! I get to be with Jesus. That's a win. [versions of this have been repeated over time]
Minor crises			
eg "Our internet is down..."			
Daily blessings and pleasant surprises			
eg "I got a great parking space this morning..."		"perhaps the Lord knew I really couldn't walk far this morning"	
Big news!			
eg "We're moving house..."			
"I'm getting married"			
World news			
eg "Did you hear about..."			

Table #2 - Linking speech with the categories of Two Ways to Live

In the table below the columns (based on the boxes of TWTL) give us the ways into the gospel, or aspects of the gospel. The rows give us everyday situations and conversation topics. Many of these will be moments for 'God talk'. Some will be good opportunities for a clear explanation of the gospel. You need to get practice at doing both.

Areas of daily conversation or verbal interaction	God is good. He made and rules the world and humans.	Humans reject God and decide to rule for themselves.	For our rejection, we deserve God's punishment. God is just.	God is merciful. He sent Jesus to live & die in our place.	Raised to life, Jesus is the perfect ruler who offers life and will return to judge.
Your own personal faults and failures					
eg "I'm hopeless with organising my calendar"					
"I'm hopeless with organising my breakout rooms"					
Sickness or injury					
eg "I've been feeling a bit run down this week"					
The daily grind					

eg "I really need coffee right now..."					
Minor crises					
eg "Our internet is down..."					
Pleasant surprises					
eg "I got a great parking space this morning..."					
How nice is the weather!					
Big news!					
eg "We're moving house..."					
eg "I'm getting married"					
World news					
eg "Did you hear about the new restrictions?"					
Leisure					
eg "Can't wait for the weekend..."					
People					
eg "How about what that guy said in the tutorial today?"					
eg "What's wrong with Sam? He seems a bit off lately..."					

3. Cold Contact Practicalities

Cold Contact How To

Read & discuss the following "guide" in small groups: *what would you add or change?*

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO COLD CONTACT

(or, how to warm ourselves up to give it a go)



AIM

- ✓ engage in a friendly convo about Jesus & the gospel
- ✗ argue/monologue/force a chat or response

BEFORE

- ENCOURAGE** from the Bible
- PRAY** for boldness, clarity, gentleness
- PAIR UP** with someone done it before
- REHEARSE** aim, basic script

TIPS



- # smile, relax, don't rush
- # make good eye contact
- # stand or sit to one side, don't box in
- # give them the power to opt out
- # always respect their "no thanks"
- # beware of Christian jargon

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

THE CONVO



Intro

Be clear & upfront: who you are, where you're from & why you're there

1) Get to know them

Ask lots of questions & listen
about them generally
about what they believe & why

2) Share the gospel

If they ask what you believe, use a gospel outline you know
If they don't, ask their permission - then ask if they have questions

Finish

Be clear about the next step - invite to meet again/to events/to read the Bible
Share details if they're willing

AFTER

- SHARE** stories & reflections
- PRAY** for those you met
- FOLLOW UP** if information given

Share feedback & comments with the wider group.

Next Steps

Choose 1 of these options:

1. Identify who you *have already met* at uni
 - make a list of 5 people you see each week
 - describe where are they at in terms of spiritual interest
 - consider what God talk opportunities you could pray to have with them

2. Identify opportunities to *meet others*
 - walk up on your campus - what is your group already doing?
 - what classes are you in or other clubs you've already joined?
 - could you join a club, or are there spaces on your campus where you can meet others?
 - what could you cut out of your week so that you could meet others (or what could you have, thinking back on this past year)?

Commit to 1 next step:

<p>I will _____ and ask _____ to be my partner to practise God talk with, for moral support & to pray together.</p>

Pray with the person next to you.

Recommended reading

'Gospel Speech' by Lionel Windsor



Why you
should go
cold-turkey



Persevering in
evangelism



3 things I
learnt in a
semester of
walk up