



# FIVE WAYS TO NURTURE A FAITH SHARING CULTURE

LEADING IN EVANGELISM

JANUARY  
2024



# NURTURING A FAITH SHARING CULTURE

## WELCOME

Welcome to this online training that will consider how we can nurture a faith sharing culture in our churches. We're going to spend some time looking at leadership, culture, evangelism practises, and more. We hope today will be fun, informative, and helpful.

### Overview

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## Why Nuture a Faith Sharing Culture?

### 1. AT THE HEART OF OUR FAITH IS GOOD NEWS TO SHARE

'The best decision anyone can ever make, at any point in life, in any circumstances, whoever they are, whatever they are, is to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, there is not a better decision for a human being in this life, any human being'.

Justin Welby

### TIMINGS

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| 09.15-09.55 | Session 1 |
| 09.55-10.00 | Break     |
| 10.00-10.40 | Session 2 |
| 10.40-10.45 | Break     |
| 10.45-11.25 | Session 3 |

### LEAD ON

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SCAN ME



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2. MANY CHURCHES ARE NOT FINDING IT EASY TO WORK OUT HOW TO SHARE THIS GOOD NEWS IN THE SORT OF WORLD WE FIND OURSELVES IN

‘The gospel constantly needs forwarding to a new address because the recipients keep changing their place of residence.’  
Helmut Thielicke



EXERCISE

|                                                                                                                            |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <div>TOP THREE PERSONAL BRAKES</div> <div>What are your top three personal brakes when it comes to evangelism?</div>       | 1. |
|                                                                                                                            | 2. |
|                                                                                                                            | 3. |
| <div>TOP THREE CHURCH BRAKES</div> <div>What are the top three brakes for your churches when it comes to evangelism?</div> | 1. |
|                                                                                                                            | 2. |
|                                                                                                                            | 3. |

LEADERSHIP  
— IS —  
ORDERING and MOBILISING  
A COMMUNITY  
— AROUND —  
THE PERSON OF JESUS  
and THE PRIORITIES OF HIS KINGDOM

‘The church without evangelism has lost its heart. Evangelism without church has lost its body. There is a medical recognition that you need to maintain the two.’

George Lings

# HOW DOES EVANGELISM WORK TODAY?

## 1. As it Always has Done



### EXERCISE

In breakout rooms, share your story of how you have come to faith in Christ. Reflect together on the story you have told. Can you identify someone (or some people) who was significant in helping you on your journey to faith?

### Acts 9:10-19 The Patron Saint of Ordinary Evangelism

Open to God.

Honest before God.

Obedient to God.

### FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- How am I doing on being open to the gentle nudges of God?
- How am I doing on being honest about my own concerns?
- How am I doing being obedient to do this based on his word rather than my own preferences and feelings?

## Safe Assumptions about Evangelism

- God is the evangelist and he knows what he is doing.
- God wants our contacts to come to faith in Christ.
- God wants to use you, you have a part to play.
- God wants to use your churches.

## 2. A Little Differently

PROCLAIM AFRESH  
THE GOSPEL IN  
EVERY  
GENERATION.  
ORDINATION SERVICE



## Safe Assumptions about People

- People have a desire for belonging (love, intimacy, community), fulfilment (purpose, meaning, adventure), sense (identity, suffering, death).
- People today are extraordinarily ignorant of Christian things; if they know anything about the Christian faith it is likely to be a faint echo of the real thing.
- People are generally more conscious of shame, doubt and struggle than guilt and sin.
- People are not as irreligious as we might think; they deify many things, many pray, have had a 'spiritual experience'.
- Most people think positively of Christians they know, even if they might think less positively about the Church as a whole.
- Many people are open to talking about spiritual things *if* approached in the right way.

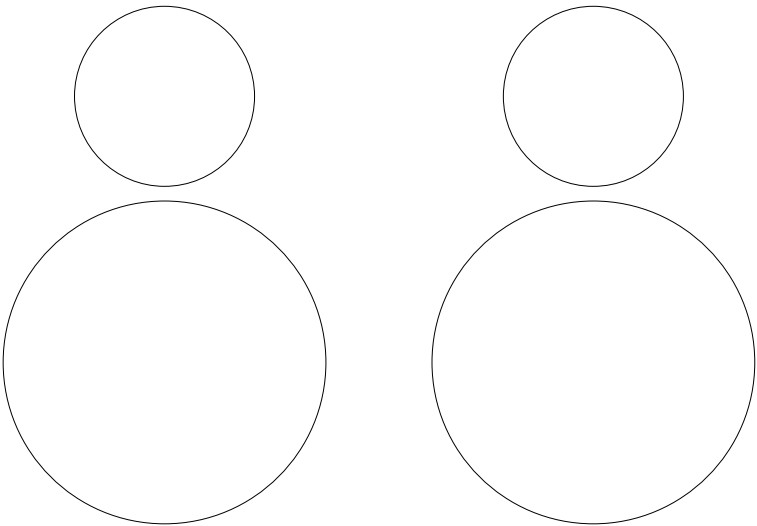


# CULTURE THAT MOBILISES A CHURCH

## 1. What is Culture?

- Dictionary – sum of attitudes, customs and beliefs that distinguish one group from another.
- ‘Organisational culture is the personality of the church.’ (Chand)
- ‘Culture consists of group norms of behaviour and the underlying shared values that help keep those norms in place.’ (Kotter)
- ‘Culture is... the basic assumptions and beliefs that are shared by members of the church and operate unconsciously, defining the church’s view of itself.’ (Schein, adapted)

Culture is how we live out our beliefs and values in our context: ‘the way we do things around here.’



## 2. Culture requires..

‘Changing a culture requires clear thinking, concerted effort, enormous courage and creative consistency.’

Sam Chand

- Clear thinking.
- Concerted effort.
- Enormous courage.
- Creative consistency.



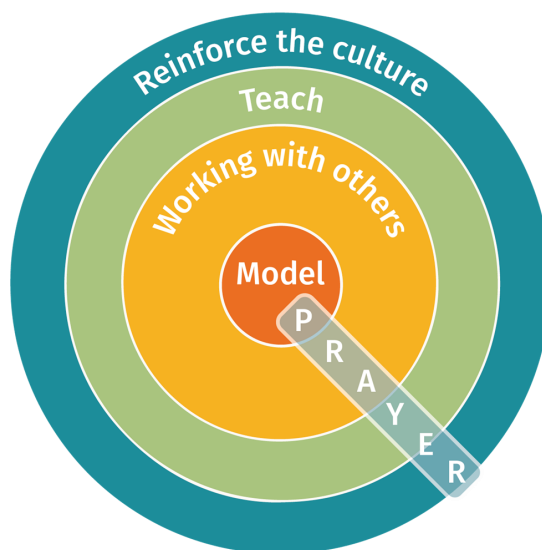
## EXERCISE

Imagine you moved area and joined a church with a healthy, vibrant faith sharing culture, what would you observe? Use the space below or a piece of paper to capture your thoughts.

### 3. How to Nurture a Faith-Sharing Culture?

A faith sharing culture is nurtured when leaders **model** in their own lives the change they want to see in others, they **work with others** to bring about the desired culture, they **teach** about the beliefs, values and practices that are at the heart of a faith sharing culture, they **reinforce that culture** through stories, celebration and embedded practices, and they **pray** throughout, because ultimately only God can bring about the change we long to see.

‘In a sense, culture-creation encapsulates what leaders need to do: it is by far the most important responsibility of leaders.’  
Church leader





## EXERCISE

As you listen to the ways Sue is nurturing a faith sharing culture in her churches, note anything that relates to the various aspects of the framework below.

| FRAMEWORK             | WHAT SUE DID |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Model                 |              |
| Work with others      |              |
| Teach                 |              |
| Reinforce the culture |              |
| Prayer                |              |





# DWELLING IN THE WORD

## LUKE 10:1-12

Dwelling in the Word is a process that many people are using to listen to Scripture, to each other and to God. It's not about sharing information or seeking scholarly answers or even the right answers to the issues raised in the text, but it is about listening well to one another and discerning what God is up to amongst us.

We invite the Holy Spirit in prayer to open our ears, hearts and minds. We listen to the passage read out loud and notice where our attention is drawn – a verse, phrase or single word. We then remain in silence for a minute or two, staying with the place in the passage that stood out for us.

### LUKE 10:1-12

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

<sup>5</sup> 'When you enter a house, first say, "Peace to this house." <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves their wages. Do not move around from house to house.

<sup>8</sup> 'When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal those there who are ill and tell them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." <sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> "Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near." <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

- 1 We each turn to a person in our group. If there is someone you don't know so well engage with them.
- 2 We listen to that person as he or she says what they heard in the passage in a particular verse, phrase or even single word. They may mention something they'd never heard before, something odd or something comforting, or something about which they'd like to find out more about.
- 3 Listen well, because your job will be to report to the rest of your group what your partner has said, not what you yourself said. Some people even take notes to help them focus and remember. If you don't yet know each other well, introduce your partner by name to the group and then share what you heard them say. Each one takes their turn when they are ready to speak.
- 4 If there is time a conversation develops around what God is saying to us today from the themes arising in the whole group. It can be helpful for the group co-ordinator to keep a brief note of themes and insights that arise.

# Space for Your Reflections on Luke 10:1-12



## Core Themes

Keep a note of the emerging themes from your conversation.

‘There is no effective evangelism without authentic spirituality’  
The Pilgrim Course

# 15 Minutes a Day

**'Remain in me as I also remain in you.'** (John 15:4)

## SUMMARY

Developing a daily practice of intentional time to engage with God is foundational for the spiritual life, and often vital for motivating people to share their faith. Invite and resource people to spend 15 minutes with God each day.

## EXPLANATION

Without a lived experience of God it is hard to see faith sharing as a priority, let alone to do it. Research reveals that the level of discipleship is low within many churches, with, for example, over 60% of self-disclosed people connected with churches saying they never read their Bibles. Church leaders tend to confirm such research through their experience: many within congregations who have no daily or weekly habits of prayer; regular attendance at church increasingly seen as fortnightly at best, monthly more often; few practising some of the basic spiritual disciplines such as giving, fasting, or praying, let alone some of the more 'advanced' disciplines.

Whilst there are many ways people can nurture faith, throughout the centuries of Church history one of the core spiritual practices has been to spend intentional time with God each day, normally involving prayer and engagement with the Scriptures. In some traditions the emphasis is on this being a personal practice, in others a corporate one. It was fascinating during the pandemic lockdown to hear that online daily prayer (be it a daily office or some form of non-liturgical scriptural reflection and prayer) was one of the significant growth points for many churches.

More recently Justin Whitmel Earley has explored what a rule of life might look like in an age of distraction in his book *The Common Rule* ('common' because they are done with others). He suggests four daily habits and four weekly ones. Two of his daily habits are 'kneeling prayer' and 'scripture before phone'. He suggests: 'As far as habits go, the invisible reality is this: we are all living according to a specific regimen of habits, and those habits shape most of our life.'

So here is the idea: ask people to spend 15 minutes a day to pray and read the Scriptures. 15 minutes is both doable (there are very few people who can't make 15 minutes a day), and a stretch (for many 15 minutes each day is beyond their existing practice). It is important that we don't simply ask people to do this, but resource them with a wide variety of aids and ideas to help them into this daily practice (see the resources section).

Such a practice can play a significant part in changing the spiritual temperature of our congregations. 'Draw near to God and he will draw near to you' (James 4:8) is a wonderful

promise. As we draw near to God our outlook shifts, our attitudes and assumptions are shaped, our priorities are changed. Formation occurs as we increasingly develop the 'mind of Christ', and love for God and love for neighbour increasingly become priorities for how we live our lives. Without such intentional engagement with God we are building on a weak foundation.



'Enthusiasm for evangelism doesn't begin with evangelism at all. Enthusiasm for evangelism begins with an enthusiasm for Jesus. My willingness to speak of Jesus arises from my delight in Jesus.'

Tim Chester

## Tips

- Try to avoid a guilt trip. Gratitude for what God has done tends to be a better motivator for spending time with him than a sense of guilt that I ought to be doing more.
- You may decide in your context 15 minutes isn't the right length of time. No problems, whether it is five or 25 is up to you. What is helpful is to name a goal for people to aim at.
- Be careful not to impose your spiritual practices on others. Not only does what works for us not necessarily not work for others, but most of us have found that in different seasons of life different things have worked for us. There are a wide range of ways that people could do this, so try to illustrate possibilities by either sharing a variety of practices, or interviewing a variety of people who are already doing things that work for them.
- Many resources are available as Apps. This is a great for ease of access and portability, but it is good to be thoughtful about them, as one of the problems many people have is an unhealthy relationship with their mobile. Trying to engage with God using their phone may simply lead them to be distracted by other things. Sometimes paper based things are the best way forward.

## RESOURCES

There are loads of resources available to help people with a pattern of daily prayer. Choose those which will work in your tradition and context. Be sure to resource children and young people as well as adults. Here are a few suggestions.

- Invite people to join you for a daily time of prayer and Scripture reading online (morning or evening prayer, compline, or some other form). Online makes it more accessible to people than onsite.
- Use social media to prompt young people to read a verse and pray at the same time each day.

- If they are spending 15 minutes engaging with God on their own, provide some suggestions for how to structure that time, for example:
  - ⇒ Identify a regular time and place where Monday to Saturday you can spend 15 minutes with God. It could be a particular chair in your lounge, on the train as you commute to work, as you walk the dog, a quiet space in your lunch break at work, with a coffee having just dropped the kids off to school and so on. A regular time and space generally helps with forming a habit, a rhythm.
  - ⇒ Start your time with a short prayer asking God to help you meet with him.
  - ⇒ Read or listen to a passage from the Bible (see below).
  - ⇒ Reflect on it (write/journal if that helps) using a few questions: what does this passage help me understand about God? What encouragement does it offer me? What does it ask me to do? How might I apply that today?
  - ⇒ Pray in the light of your reflections, and then pray for your five, for the next 24 hours, for the concerns of the world and those you know.

#### Resources to help people engage with the Bible

- Bible reading notes for all ages:
  - ⇒ [www.brfonline.org.uk/pages/bible-reading-notes-at-a-glance](http://www.brfonline.org.uk/pages/bible-reading-notes-at-a-glance).
  - ⇒ <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/bible-reading-guides>.
  - ⇒ [www.thegoodbook.co.uk/daily-bible-reading](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/daily-bible-reading).
- The You Version bible App offers a variety of reading plans and daily passages, [www.youversion.com/the-bible-app](http://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app).
- The Bible Explore App, [www.thegoodbook.co.uk/explore-app](http://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/explore-app).
- The Bible in One Year (read or listen); [www.bibleinoneyear.org](http://www.bibleinoneyear.org), links to App and daily emails.
- Free online daily Bible study guide, [www.wordlive.org/Home/145653.id#.XGaCcu7Q2x](http://www.wordlive.org/Home/145653.id#.XGaCcu7Q2x).
- For an overview of further resources go to [www.blackburn.anglican.org/storage/general-files/shares/Resources/Prayer%20worship%20and%20discipleship/Bible\\_study\\_resources.pdf](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/storage/general-files/shares/Resources/Prayer%20worship%20and%20discipleship/Bible_study_resources.pdf).
- Sam Corley has done an incredible job of introducing every book in the Bible in short YouTube videos in an accessible way. Great for people who want to know a bit more about a book before they read them [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiEYWfMmuteSqksMSm-0V52bRWg1QSRMH](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiEYWfMmuteSqksMSm-0V52bRWg1QSRMH).
- Alternatively the Bible Project has a series of animated videos to introduce books and themes of the Bible <https://bibleproject.com/explore/> and the Visual Unit offers diagrams that layout biblical books or themes on a single page <https://visualunit.me/category/english/>.



#### Resources to help with prayer

- Daily Prayer Apps from the Church of England, [www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/download-church-england-apps](http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/download-church-england-apps).
- Lectio 365 App focuses around praying the Scriptures each morning and evening [www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional](http://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional).
- Sacred Space, either online or as an App, is an Ignatian guide to daily prayer [www.sacredspace.ie/](http://www.sacredspace.ie/).
- PrayerMate App is a way of ordering your intercessory prayer, enabling you to link to many organisations and charities prayer requests, [www.prayermate.net/app](http://www.prayermate.net/app).
- Northumbria Community daily prayer, [www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices](http://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices).
- Inner Room App from 24-7 Prayer <https://innerroom.app/>.
- Centering Prayer App encourages a daily practice of still centred prayer through its App. [www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-mobile-app](http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-mobile-app).
- Pause App encourages you to take a one, three or five minute pause in the middle of your day with an image and verse to reflect on [www.pauseapp.com](http://www.pauseapp.com).



Space for notes...

# RESOURCES

## THE ONE TO READ

How to Nurture a Faith-Sharing Culture, James Lawrence (CPAS)

## TOP READS

- Cracking Your Church's Culture Code, Sam Chand (Jossey-Bass)
- Evangelism; How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus, J.Mack Stiles (Crossway)
- Culture Shift, Kirsty Bashforth (Bloomsbury)
- Creating a Culture of Faith Sharing in Your Local Church, Andy Frost (Share Jesus International)

## OTHER RESOURCES

- PCC Tonight, [Leading Your Churches in Evangelism](#): six sessions to use with your PCC to help shape churches around evangelism.
- Great Commission [website](#): packed full of resources, stories and articles, it is a great place to find helpful things.



### Lead On

A free monthly email with articles, resource recommendations, reviews for all interested in improving their leadership. Sign up at [www.cpas.org.uk/leadon](http://www.cpas.org.uk/leadon).



### Grove Leadership Series

CPAS has partnered with Grove Books to produce a series of leadership books. Each one is 10,000 words and offers thought provoking insight on a wide variety of themes, everything from how to leave well to leading with Gen Y. You can find them at the shop on the [CPAS website](#).



### Venture and Falcon Holidays

CPAS runs around 90 fun-filled holidays for 8-18 year olds each year. The holidays are run by volunteers, and if you are interested in helping on one or know a young person who would benefit from a great holiday with a focus on Jesus visit [www.ventures.org.uk](http://www.ventures.org.uk).



### Making Mission Possible

CPAS enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus. We are a registered charity working with individuals, churches and dioceses to resource local churches for mission in the UK and Republic of Ireland. To support our work or find out more, please visit [www.cpas.org.uk](http://www.cpas.org.uk) or contact 0300 123 0780.

