



LEADING EVANGELISM

LEARNING HUB

Connect • Model • Order • Mobilise

SESSION 6
JUNE 2024



WELCOME

Welcome to the Leading Evangelism Learning Hub. This is the sixth of our eight sessions together, and the second one this term focusing on Order.

Last time we thought about how to shape a faith sharing culture and discerning an appropriate plan. We also introduced Practice 3: tell faith stories. In this session we will build on these areas as we continue to explore how to order our church life around the ministry of evangelism.

Overview of the Session

Dwelling in the Word	3
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SUGGESTIONS FOR GOOD ZOOM ENGAGEMENT

- **Please participate, don't just observe** Ask questions (use virtual hand or just dive in with a question), contribute your best insights, have fun in the chat.
- **Set aside distractions** Close down other programmes, resist the temptations of your phone/tablet, put out of reach other reading material.
- **Keep your video on throughout** It will help you be fully present, and will help others engage with you. A blank screen is rather dispiriting.
- **Don't mute your sound** It helps with the flow of interaction, and an occasional background noise actually makes it feel less artificial. However, if there is a lot of noise in your room, or you are meeting as a group in one place, please do mute.
- **Combat Zoom fatigue** Two things will help combat weariness. Hide your self view (right click on your own image and select hide self view) and take regular stretch breaks (every 20 minutes or so stand up, stretch, take a few deep breaths).
- **Be patient** At some point something will go wrong. Please be patient as we try to sort it out!

GUIDELINES

- Learning together.
- Minimise guilt, maximise grace.
- Participate.
- Confidentiality.
- Reality check.
- Next step.

TIMINGS

7.30	Welcome and part 1
8.30	Stretch break
8.35	Part 2
9.30	Finish

Timings are for guidance only, apart from the end time. We will finish by 9.30pm.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Take a look at Google classroom. You will find there all sorts of resources related to our theme this term, and it is also a place where we can share ideas, discuss things, and ask questions.

LEAD ON

Sign up today for a free monthly email with articles, resource recommendations and reviews for all interested in improving their leadership. Either scan the QR code below or sign up at www.cpas.org.uk/leadon.



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DWELLING IN THE WORD

JOHN 4:4-14

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.

JOHN 4:4-14 (THE MESSAGE)

⁴⁻⁶ To get there, he had to pass through Samaria. He came into Sychar, a Samaritan village that bordered the field Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was still there. Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon.

⁷⁻⁸ A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, "Would you give me a drink of water?" (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, "How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (Jews in those days wouldn't be caught dead talking to Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered, "If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking me for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water."

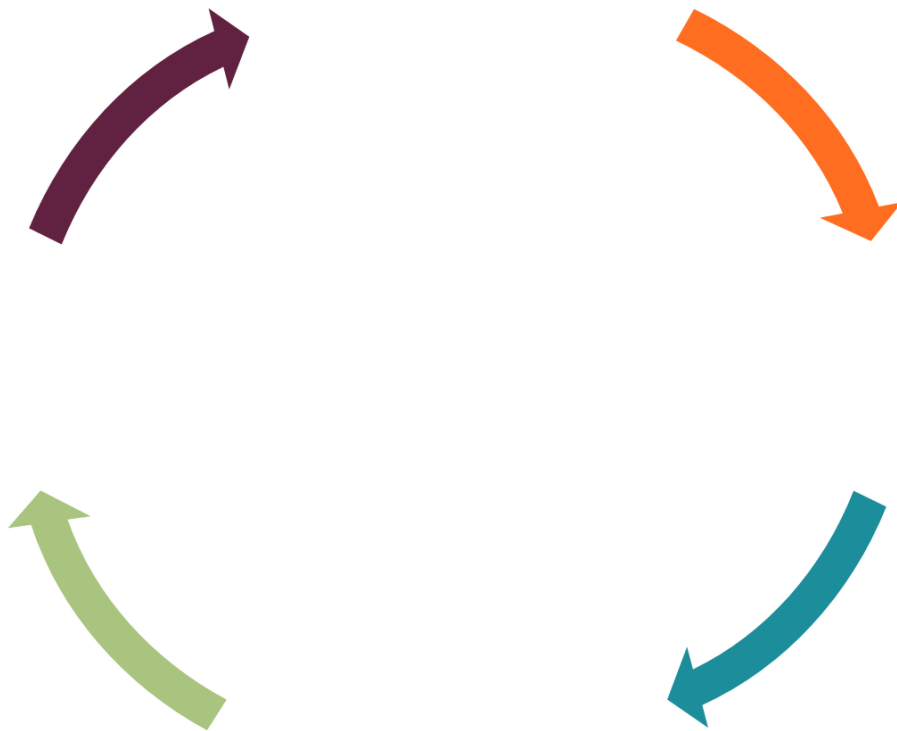
¹¹⁻¹² The woman said, "Sir, you don't even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this 'living water'? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?"

¹³⁻¹⁴ Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life."

Space for your word, phrase, or verse...

- 1 Listen to each person say 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. Listen well to what the person is saying, and what God might be saying through each person to your group.
- 2 What is God saying to you as a group today from the themes arising in the whole group. Ask one member of the group to post your themes to the Jamboard using the QR code on the screen or link in the Chat.

How do People Become Disciples of Jesus?



So What is the Role of the Church?

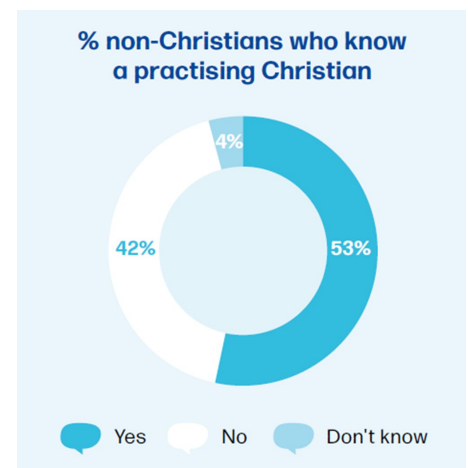
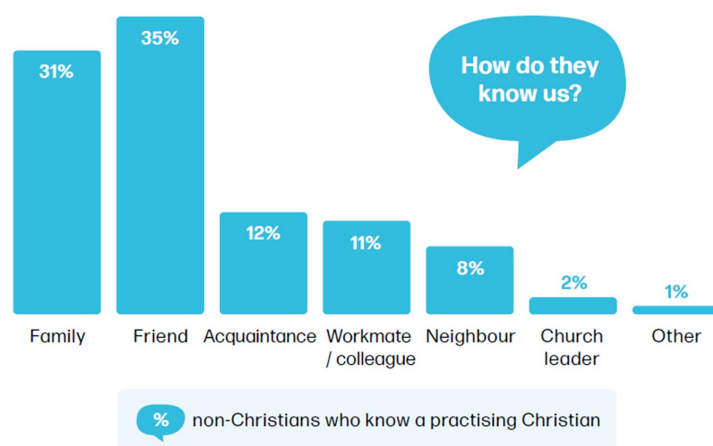
DEVELOP CONTACTS

Raising awareness of the faith and engaging in initial contact...

- In our gathered life as church.
- In our scattered life as church, on our frontlines.



How well do they know us?



Majority of our contacts:

- On our frontlines.
- Uninterested in coming to church.
- Seeking to make sense of life.
- Open to a conversation about spiritual things *if* approached in the right way.

'The church must change its emphasis from meeting people's spiritual needs to stimulating their desires.'

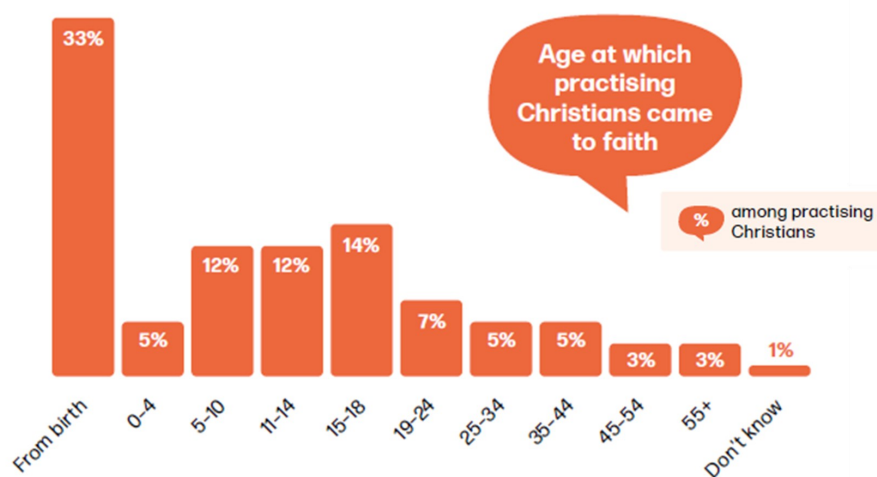
Pete Ward

NURTURE INTEREST

- **Stage 1** Nurture interest through prayer, love, service, building connection with life interests and issues.
- **Stage 2** Nurture their experience of faith through 1-to-1 bible reading, nurture courses (Alpha, Christianity Explored, Start, Pilgrim), and contact with the wider church community.

ENCOURAGE COMMITMENT

At what age do practising Christians come to faith?



NOURISH GROWTH

- **Stage 1** Early growth in faith as baptised and initiated into faith and the faith community.
- **Stage 2** Ongoing growth (normal times and when struggling), and specific growth (involved in serving/ministry).



INSTRUCTIONS

- List activities across all the churches with a name against which church is doing that activity.
- Or do one church at a time, each on a separate sheet of paper.

The category at the end of the grid (Trellis work, the name comes from a book called [The Trellis and the Vine](#)) is a catch all for the activities that support the disciple making process, just as a vine needs to be supported by a trellis in order for it to grow healthily.

- Where are your strengths and how could you build on those?
- Where are the gaps, and what could be done about those?

Be ready to share some of the things you have learnt through the exercise.

Transitions

Perhaps the hardest part of encouraging people on the journey to and of faith are the transition points between the various stages. Here are some ideas to help people cross these transitions.

FROM RAISING AWARENESS TO INITIAL CONTACT

- Have appropriate contact details on any raising awareness materials (for example, website, QR code, social media) and make the invitation for people to contact you attractive.
- Be clear about what you offer as a church that would be of interest to people. Connect with people's needs.
- Equip the congregation to 'own up' to their faith in everyday circumstances so that they both raise awareness and become the initial contact point for people.

FROM INITIAL CONTACT TO BUILDING CONNECTION

- Look for ways to serve, bless and connect those you have contact with. For example in the gathered life of the church, a men's curry night, a group for those who are bereaved, a retirement group, a youth group. Or on people's frontlines, going out of our way to serve, bless and connect with people by asking them for a coffee, assuring them of our prayers for their ill relative, bringing in a birthday cake to celebrate their birthday.
- Ensure the initial contact is warm, welcoming and relational, not cool, aloof and bureaucratic. For example, if someone approaches the church about a wedding, rather than say here is a form to fill in, congratulate them and invite them to tell you their story of how they came together.
- If someone attends a service, make sure the welcome doesn't just happen at the door when they walk in, but continues through the service and at the end (see Bob Jackson and George Fisher's materials [Everyone Welcome](#)).
- Create connecting events around life issues or interests. For example, a wine tasting evening, a barn dance, a parenting course, a dealing with anxiety online course or [Kintsugi wellbeing group](#).
- Invite people to join you in serving others. For example, helping with your foodbank, a litter pick/ street tidy, the PA at services, a foreign missions trip.

FROM BUILDING CONNECTION TO SHARING GOOD NEWS

- Equip people to ask questions that open up the possibility of faith conversations (see [our guide](#) on this).
- Equip people to tell their story of how they came to faith, and to be able to introduce it into everyday conversations.
- Resource people through embedding the resource faith-sharing practice into church life (see session 5 workbook).
- Utilise festivals as inviting opportunities.

- Ensure there is a 'discovery opportunity' constantly available where people can find out more about the Christian faith. For example Hope Explored, or Life Explored

FROM SHARING GOOD NEWS TO INITIATE INTO FAITH AND COMMUNITY

- Be sure to ask people to become disciples of Jesus regularly in normal Sunday services. For example, as part of your preaching, when inviting people to receive communion, when advertising baptism or confirmation opportunities.
- Ensure there is a 'maternity ward' where people can come to faith in Christ. For example, an Alpha or Christianity Explored course.
- Find appropriate ways to mark people becoming disciples of Jesus. For example, a gift from the church that is given to anyone who does this; an invitation to join the Minister/elders to celebrate in some small way; a welcome at a service, perhaps marked by prayer and liturgy.
- Invite them to join something that will be a place of growth for them.

FROM INITIATE INTO FAITH AND COMMUNITY TO GENERAL GROWTH

- Develop a growth mindset. For example, talk about all Christians have an L plate on, learner. Model it in your own life.
- Create a growth library of resources (online and physical) that people can borrow. Be sure to include visual, audible and verbal. Let people know about courses that are run elsewhere, especially online.
- Create growth groups, ideally short (three or four sessions) around particular themes. For example, Bible, prayer, spiritual disciplines, justice, giving, sharing-faith.
- Provide places for people who are struggling to receive support and care.

FROM GENERAL GROWTH TO SPECIFIC TRAINING

- Develop a serve mindset. All Christians are called to serve, both in the gathered and scattered aspects of church life.
- As much as possible, start with people not roles. Find out about their gifts, passions, interests, experience, calling. Try to provide ministry opportunities related to these.
- Create 'trial' opportunities so people can dip their toe in the water and see what it is like. Invite individuals to have a go.

Practise the Practices

Practice 1: Pray for Five

Take a few minutes to talk about how it is going praying for your five people who as yet aren't disciples of Jesus, and then briefly pray for them. You may like to use the structure below.



- Talk a little about how praying for your five is going? Are you finding it easy or hard? Do you manage to pray regularly or occasionally? What helps you to pray for them? How are you finding the prayer suggestions we offered back on session 1?
- Have you had any opportunities to show or share the faith with any of your five since session 5? With anyone else? If yes, use the first suggestion below.

Practice 2: Practise Faith Conversations



- How have those opportunities gone? What went well? What didn't go so well and if you had a similar conversation in the future, what might you do differently. Remember, we are trying to be SALT in our conversations.
 - S**tart a conversation
 - A**sk questions
 - L**isten for where at
 - T**ell stories
 - I**nvide to take next step
- Or use one of the scenarios below.
 1. A family member shares they are going through a hard time: how to offer to pray with or for them.
 2. A colleague asks what you got up to over the weekend: how to own up that you go to church.
 3. A neighbour comments that they wish they had your faith: how to respond and perhaps invite someone to read a booklet, watch a video, or come to an event.
 4. An online contact notices you have made a change in your online posts (since becoming a Christian, although they don't know that is the reason why): how to speak of the difference Christianity has made in your life.
 5. At a social event a person you've just met asks 'what do you do?'
 6. A friend who is a parent and who brings their child to a parade service once a month: 'It's good for her to learn about right and wrong.'
 7. At a school governor's meeting, over coffee someone says to you: 'Why is the church so homophobic?'
 8. Travelling on a train reading a Christian book or Bible someone sits across from you and makes conversation: 'We buried my niece last week, she was only 14.'



WORKING ON YOUR PLAN

REVIEW YOUR ACTION PLAN

Where are you up to?

What progress have you made?

How clear are your plans?

REFLECT ON THIS SESSION

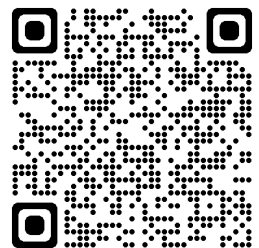
1. What from today do you want to integrate into your plans (how do people become disciples of Jesus, mapping activity)?
2. Ask yourselves where would you like to be in nurturing a faith-sharing culture by the end of 2023?

REFINE YOUR NEXT STEPS

1. Distil all your ideas down to two to four clear goals.

2. What are your next steps (be sure to be clear about the step, who is going to action it, and by when)?

3. What would you like others to pray for you? Please post to the Prayer board.



BY THE END OF YOUR TIME MAKE SURE...

- You have identified your next step(s).
- You have identified your next meeting date (ideally every 4-6 weeks).
- That everyone has **session 7** in their diary, **Saturday 28th September**

RESOURCES

THE ONE TO READ

- [Talking Jesus 2022](#), Rachel Jordan-Wolf (HOPE Together, EA)

TOP READS

- How to Nurture a Faith-Sharing Culture, James Lawrence (CPAS)
- The One About Vol.2, Mark Greene (LICC)
- Cracking Your Church's Culture Code, Sam Chand (Jossey-Bass)
- 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.
- LICC have some great materials on how to tell stories of God at work in our everyday lives at [The One About](#).



Lead On

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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.



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 or contact 0300 123 0780.