



LEADING EVANGELISM

LEARNING HUB

Connect • Model • Order • Mobilise

SESSION 7
SEPTEMBER 2024



WELCOME

Welcome to the Leading Evangelism Learning Hub. This is the seventh of our eight sessions together. We hope today will be fun, informative, and helpful. If there is anything we can do to help the day go better for you please ask.

Overview of the Day

Dwelling in the Word	3
Mobilising all Christians	7
Next steps	23

GUIDELINES

- **Learning together** We are from different backgrounds and contexts, with different gifts and experiences. The Hub provides a great opportunity to learn from God and others.
- **Minimise guilt, maximise grace** Evangelism is a topic it is very easy to feel guilty about. Let's minimise inappropriate guilt and maximise grace as the divine motivator for sharing our faith.
- **Participate** You'll get the most out of the Hub if you participate throughout. Don't skip sessions, don't absent yourself by being on your phone through sessions. Engage and it will bless others and help you to get the most out of it.
- **Confidentiality** We want this to be a safe place for honest conversation, so we operate with a what is said in the room cannot be attributed outside of the room policy.
- **Reality check** It is easy for events like this to be disconnected from daily reality, so please play the 'reality card' whenever you think we need to engage with reality better.
- **Next step** Each session you will be invited as a church and individually to identify your next step. There is much that could be done, but focus the possibilities by choosing a limited range of things that you are actually going to do as a result of the session.

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.
- **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 with us as we try to sort it out.

TIMINGS

09.45	Welcome and Session 1
11.00	Coffee
11.25	Session 2
12.45	Lunch
13.35	Session 3
14.35	Tea
15.00	Session 4
16.00	Depart

Timings are for guidance only, apart from the end time. We will finish by 4pm.

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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PART 1

DWELL IN THE WORD



DWELLING IN THE WORD

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

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.

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

²Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

(NIV UK)

²⁻⁴ Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide open in gratitude. Don't forget to pray for us, that God will open doors for telling the mystery of Christ, even while I'm locked up in this jail. Pray that every time I open my mouth I'll be able to make Christ plain as day to them. ⁵⁻⁶ Use your heads as you live and work among outsiders. Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out.

(The Message)

- 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. 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. Please ask someone to post your insights to the Jamboard using the link in the Chat function or the QR code on the screen.

Space for Your Reflections on the Passage

Core Themes

Use the link in the Chat or the QR code to post your core themes from your group onto the Jamboard. Please post with your Church name first and then your comment.



A PRAYER

Father,
Help me to live this day to the full,
being true to you in everyway.
Jesus,
Help me to give myself away to others,
being kind to everyone I meet.
Spirit,
Help me to love the lost,
proclaiming Christ in all I do or say.
Amen.

(Lectio 365)



PART 2

MOBILISING ALL CHRISTIANS

Every Christian a Courageous Witness



EXERCISE

What mobilises people to do something they are not currently doing?

WHY COURAGEOUS AND NOT CONFIDENT OR COMPETENT?

(See the pre-session video)

1. Consider what the early Church prayed for in Acts 4:29, then see Acts 4:31, 9:28, 13:46, 18:26, 19:8, 28:31.

2. Recognise it is hard to feel confident when:

- Facing persecution or ridicule.
- In the complexities of the contemporary world.
- When you've just become a Christian.

3. Confidence is a rather professional, middle class concept.

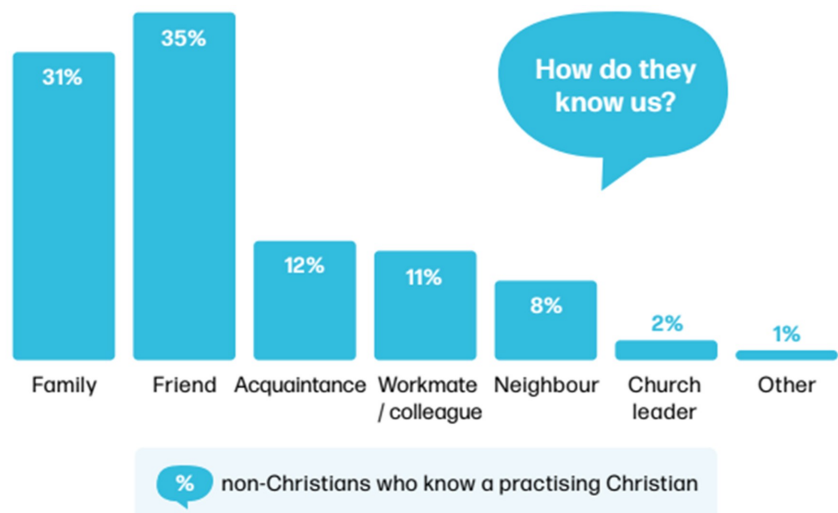
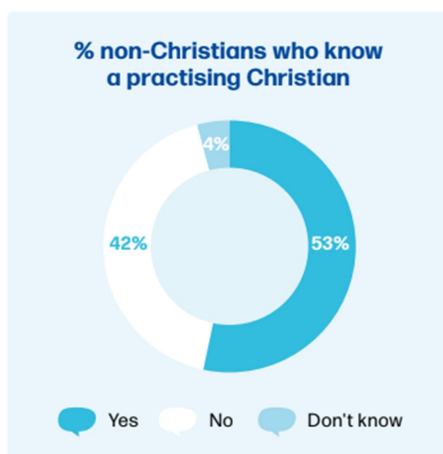
'I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave person is not the one who does not feel afraid, but the one who conquers that fear.'

Nelson Mandela

EVERY CHRISTIAN A WITNESS

'Every Christian has a part to play, and God is looking for every Christian to play their part.'

James Lawrence



A Code of Ethics for Christian Witness

1. As Christians called by the living God, we seek first of all to honour him and his ethical standards in all of our private and public lives, including our efforts to persuade others to believe the good news about Jesus Christ.
2. As Christians looking to share our faith, we seek to follow the mandate, motives, message, and model of our God who is love, and longs for all people to know the life transforming power of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus to free all who are lost in sin and rebellion against him.
3. We believe all people are created in God's image and therefore endowed with the capacity to be in relationship with their Creator and Redeemer. We disavow any effort to influence people which depersonalise or deprive them of their inherent value as persons.
4. Respecting the value of persons, we believe all people worthy of hearing the gospel of this loving Lord Jesus Christ. We equally affirm the inalienable right of every person to survey other options and convert to or choose a different belief system.
5. We believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and affirm the role and goal of Christians sharing their faith. However, we do not believe that this justifies any means to fulfill that end. Hence, we disavow the use of any coercive techniques or manipulative appeals which bypass a person's critical faculties, play on psychological weaknesses, undermine relationship with family or religious institutions, or mask the true nature of Christian conversion.
6. While respecting the individual integrity, intellectual honesty, and academic freedom of other believers and skeptics, we seek to proclaim Christ openly. We reveal our own identity and purpose, our theological positions and sources of information, and will not be intentionally misleading. Respect for human integrity means no false advertising, no personal aggrandisement from successfully persuading others to follow Jesus, and no overly emotional appeals which minimise reason and evidence.
7. As Christians, we seek to embrace people of other religious persuasions in true dialogue. That is, we acknowledge our common humanity as equally sinful, equally needy, and equally dependent on the grace of God we proclaim. We seek to listen sensitively in order to understand, and thus divest our witness of any stereotypes or fixed formulae which are barriers to true dialogue.
8. As Christians, we accept the obligation to admonish one who represents the Christian faith in any manner incompatible with these ethical guidelines.

Revised by James Lawrence from 'A Code of Ethics for the Christian Evangelist' compiled and edited by Dietrich Gruen. Available as a download on the VLE. In addition, take a look at Doing Evangelism Ethically, Gavin Wakefield (Grove Evangelism Series 108).

FOR REFLECTION

- What would you add or subtract from this 'Code of Ethics'?
- How would you implement such a code in your context?

Four Suggestions for Mobilising Congregations

1. The Importance of Modelling

‘Be the change you want to see in others.’

James Lawrence



EXERCISE

How are you doing with each of these practices? Rate each of the practices below 1-3, where:

1 = Not doing this at all.

2 = Occasionally doing this.

3 = Regularly doing this.

Practices	Rate 1,2, or 3	Rate 1,2, or 3
1. Pray for five		
Praying for your five in your personal prayers.		
Praying for your five when you gather as your Hub group.		
2. Practise faith conversations		
Practising faith conversations when you gather as a Hub group		
Practising faith conversations when you gather with other Christians		
3. Tell faith stories		
Sharing your story of coming to faith in your Hub group to build familiarity and receive feedback		
Sharing your story of coming to faith with not yet Christians		

Which are you doing well on?

Which are you doing less well on? Why might that be?

2. Think Twice Before Running a Course

Courses tend to be attended by:

- Those who like courses.
- Those who least need them.
- Those who have the time.

Courses tend to front load input and offer minimal ongoing support.

Some evangelism training courses suffer from 'gift projection'.

3. Embed Practices



Practice 1 Pray for five.



Practice 2 Practise faith conversations.



Practice 3 Tell faith stories.



Practice 4 Resource faith sharing.

BONUS PRACTICES



Engage with God.



Refocus the intercessions.



Budget for evangelism.

Bonus Practice – Budget for Evangelism



SUMMARY

Include an allocation for evangelism in the annual budget.

'All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.'

ACTS 4:32



EXPLANATION

Most churches have a formal budgeting process. Normally, once a year, a budget is constructed and then agreed by the relevant body. The shift here is to ensure there is a budget line for evangelism. This is distinct from a budget line that might be called 'mission' or 'mission support.'

This latter mission budget might be the money we give to mission agencies, or to people we know who are active in mission in another part of the country or world. It might be focused around projects in the community that serve people, for example, a homeless shelter, or engagement with a wider concern, such as A Rocha and climate change (www.arocha.org.uk). We rightly set aside funds to help support such projects, and many churches give a tithe or set percentage of their income to mission.

A budget line for evangelism is different. It is specifically for the nurture of evangelism through our church or congregation. There are two reasons why this helps shift the culture to be more evangelistic.

Firstly, we tend to allocate funds to what we value. Whilst theoretically PCCs might agree that faith sharing is an important part of church life, you will discover if they really think that when you suggest allocating money towards it. It will also require decisions about what level of funds to allocate, which will prompt a helpful discussion about both why this is appropriate and what you are trying to achieve.

Secondly, there are many helpful resources available to facilitate evangelism, but most of them cost something. For example, there are a range of helpful materials to help people Pray for Five, but giving them to congregation members will involve some expense.



TOP TIPS

- Explain the 'why' as well as the 'what'. When deciding your budget, it is a great opportunity to reinforce why there is a line for evangelism, as well as to discuss what it will be used for. It is often the case that the 'why' for things gets lost (people forget), or is never known (new people have joined the PCC and it hasn't been explained).
- The amount is often not as important as having the line in the budget because you are making resourcing evangelism a priority. Whatever the amount, allocate something.
- Be sure to spend it, thoughtfully and wisely.
- Report back on how the money was used. Often with other items in the budget the result of the spending is visible and fairly obvious. For example, the budget for flowers is spent and visible every Sunday. The money for decorating the church hall is clearly observed when it looks great as a result. Spending on evangelism can be less obvious, so be sure to tell stories which are related to the outcome of the expense.



RESOURCES

- The money in the pockets of your congregation members!
- [Click here for a downloadable pdf to monitor your budget for your PCC.](#)

Bonus Practice – Refocus Your Intercessions



SUMMARY

As part of the prayers of intercession each week, include prayers for those whom we long to come to know the life-transforming love of Jesus.

‘Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message.’

COLOSSIANS 4:2-3



EXPLANATION

Many of us have a point in our gatherings when we intercede for (amongst other things) the world, our country, the community around us, those we know and the Church. It is a good discipline in our corporate worship, as it reminds us we exist to serve and bless others, and one way we do that is by praying for them. Often in these prayers of intercession we pray for those we know who are unwell. We may even have a moment of quiet for each person to pray for specific people they know.

In the same way, add an additional element to the intercessions by inviting people to pray for those they know who aren't yet Christians. This communicates that, as a church or congregation, we not only have a pastoral concern for those who are struggling, but also an evangelistic concern for those without Christ. We can also ensure that any other evangelism-related activity is prayed for (for example each week during an enquirer's course like Pilgrim or Hope Explored, or leading up to a carol service). Do this every time you gather and the culture begins to shift.



TIPS

Here are some tips for introducing this practice:

- If you are the leader, model how to do this well.
- If you have others on rotas who lead the intercessions, gather them (online or onsite) for a training session on leading intercessions well, and include this as part of it.
- Be sensitive to the fact that visitors may be present, some of whom may not yet be disciples of Jesus. Help people find ways of introducing this into the intercessions that respect visitors. Praying for ‘non-Christians to come to repentance and faith’ may not be very sensitive. Instead, how about, ‘Let's take a moment to pray for those we have contact with during our week whom Christ loves and longs to come to him.’

- If you have established Pray for Five, connect with this as a way of encouraging people to focus their prayers: ‘Let's take a moment to pray for our five.’
- Keep an eye on the evangelists who might be on the intercessors' rota. Sometimes, in their enthusiasm, they may lead public prayers in a way that alienates any visiting non-Christians or makes Christians feel a little inferior or annoyed.
- There is an interesting relationship between pattern and variety. A pattern helps people relax into what becomes familiar, and to fully inhabit what is happening or simply be carried by it. Variety engages people in a fresh way and stimulates new thoughts and actions. Both are helpful. The pattern is that we do this every time we gather in our prayers of intercessions, and often use a similar format. Here are a few ideas to add variety to the ways we pray for evangelism.
 - If you have the facility to show pictures, pray for the streets of your community and show pictures of the relevant street. Or make a short video on your phone of key places in your parishes to pray for – then show it in the service.
 - If you are familiar with the language of frontlines (the places where people spend most of their daytimes), show pictures of church members' frontlines and pray for people in those places to come to know Christ.
 - Stand and face north, east, south and west as you pray for people within your community to come to know Christ.



RESOURCES

- Gloucester diocese have a guide for leading intercessions with links to useful resources, www.gloucester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Leading-Intercessions-Guide.pdf.
- The Church Of England also has a page on its website with a link to Leading Common Worship Intercessions, Doug Chaplin (CHP) for those who would like a more comprehensive introduction, www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/leading-prayer-through-intercessions.
- John Truscott has a helpful download called ‘Breathing Life into the Intercessions’ available on his website, www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources/Training-Notes-index/Breathing-life-into-the-intercessions.

4. Encourage Evangelism

A. IDENTIFY BRAKES



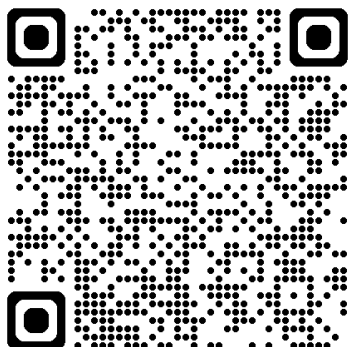
EXERCISE

From the survey of your congregations, which of the obstacles with sharing faith came out top?

Take 20 minutes to explore what you could do to help people with one of these obstacles. Here are a few questions to stimulate your thinking:

- How might you pray as a church about this obstacle?
- How could you model as a group your ways of facing that obstacle?
- How could your services (whether on Sunday or midweek) include elements that would help people with this obstacle?
- What could you create (written, video, interview) that would help with this obstacle?

Aim to identify a practical, doable and helpful way to address the obstacle.



B. CLARIFY EXPECTATIONS

Unrealistic expectations demotivate people. Unclear expectations confuse people.



How will you express your expectations of your congregation members when it comes to playing their part in the ministry of evangelism?

Our agreed expectations of our congregation members...

C. PROVIDE 'JUST IN TIME' TRAINING

This can be done in a number of ways. Everything from linking people to existing training online (for example, see [Passion for Life](#)), through to simple suggestions in sermons. Here are some examples.

Sunday gatherings Take some of the scenarios from the Practise Faith Conversations material in session 5-6 (scenarios copied on page 17), and provide practical ideas and insights about how to respond in these situations:

- Ideas in your sermons: 'if we were talking with someone about our faith this week, then this passage could be used in the following ways...' 'Have you ever found yourself struggling to... Then perhaps we could approach it in this way....'
- Two minute slots offering some ideas on how to respond in these scenarios just before you end the service with 'Go in peace to love, serve, and share the Lord.'
- Ask people to turn to one another to chat for a couple of minutes about how might we respond when....
- Offering a topic of conversation for coffee time, or over Sunday lunch, to explore things further.

Groups Embed practice 3: practice faith conversations (see the next page for scenario ideas) into the ongoing life of any group that meets regularly, including the PCC, as a way of gently trickling into the culture of the congregation that we constantly help one another with the sharing of our faith.



EXERCISE

Plan a one-off training session (30-45minutes long).

The aim is to come up with an overview plan of a one off training session that you could potentially run in your church(es). It could be online or onsite. Choose from one of the suggestions below:

- Tackle one of the obstacles people have with sharing their faith identified through the survey.
- Explore how to make the most of one of the regular opportunities that arise in the course of daily life to show or share the faith (see page 17 for examples).
- Explore what to say in relation to a contemporary global, national or local issue that everyone is talking about.
- Explore how best to share the faith with... an atheist, a JW, a disinterested agnostic, a Muslim, a sceptic, a lapsed church goer, and so on.
- Explore what to do at Halloween.

Thinking about your context, identify a topic to address (see the possibilities above) and then plan a one-off training sessions that would be helpful. Here are some things to think about:

- What topic will you choose?
- What will you try and cover?
- What format will you use? Online or onsite?
- What day/time will you run them?
- How long will they be?
- Who will run them?
- How will you approach them?
- How will you publicise them?

If you were to identify two other topics for similar training sessions, what would they be?

Practice 2 – Practise Faith Conversations



‘Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders. Make the most of every opportunity...’

Colossians 4:5-6

Either take one of the scenarios below and in your church group talk about how you would respond in that situation; or bring a scenario from your own experience and share it with the group to explore how to make the most of that opportunity.



Scenario 1 A family member shares they are going through a hard time: how to offer to pray with or for them.



Scenario 2 A colleague asks what you got up to over the weekend: how to own up that you go to church.



Scenario 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.



Scenario 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.



Scenario 5 At a social event a person you've just met asks 'what do you do?'



Scenario 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...'



Scenario 7 At a school governor's meeting, over coffee someone says to you: 'Why is the church so homophobic?'



Scenario 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.'



Scenario 9 A friend admits they are really struggling with anxiety. How do you respond?



Scenario 10 A co-worker mentions the horrors of the war in Ukraine 'How can people do that to other people.'



Scenario 11 A contact on social media comments about a religious item on the news by dismissing the Christian faith: how do you respond?



Scenario 12 A family member is surprised to hear that you go to church.

D. RESOURCE FAITH SHARING BY CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities provide a focus and act as a catalyst. A variety of ideas are listed in the summary of Practice 4, pages 19-20 .



EXERCISE

Identify an opportunity for each term that would help people with their faith-sharing. Think through the practicalities of making it happen.

Term	What we could offer people to provide an opportunity to show or share their faith.	Action plan to make it happen (who, what, by when).
Autumn 2022		
Spring 2023		
Summer 2023		

Practice 4 – Resource Faith Sharing



SUMMARY

Once a term, resource your congregation members with something to share that helps people they know to find out more about the Christian faith.



EXPLANATION

What we can expect from our congregation members when it comes to sharing their faith? CPAS have identified four things: Pray, Serve, Own up and Invite. Practice 4 is one way of resourcing the 'own up' element of faith sharing.

In John 1:45 Philip says to Nathaniel, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about...' and shares with his brother what he has found in Jesus. In a similar way we want to enable our congregation members to 'own up' to what they have found and have something to offer as a way of backing that up. This could be an item or suggestion. So, rather than expecting them to give a long spiel about the Christian faith, they can simply say...

- To someone who is struggling with anxiety, 'I have found my faith has been a real help for me, and this leaflet helped me to find hope in uncertain times.'
- To someone who is stressed by all the preparations for Christmas, 'I have found my Christmases are different since I discovered what it is really all about and this booklet (or other item) was a real help to me.'
- To someone who has shown interest in spiritual things previously, 'I found that conversation we had about N really interesting and thought of it when I came across this and wondered if you would like a look?'
- To someone who thinks that science has dismissed the need for faith, 'I have found that my scientific background and faith aren't at odds with one another after all. This podcast explains why the two are complementary.'
- To someone who loves reading about the lives of other people and thinks Christianity is only for a certain type of person, 'I have found it fascinating how the Christian faith isn't for a certain type of people, but for all people, and this magazine has some great stories in it that illustrate that.'
- To someone who asks what you did over the weekend, 'I had a great weekend, thanks. On Saturday I went swimming with a bunch of friends and then out for a meal in the evening. On Sunday I went to church, which I have found is such an important part of my

week as I try to make sense of my faith and everyday life. Here's an invite to a special service we are holding. I'd love you to come.'

The idea is to identify an item for congregation members to share with others at the start of a term (see below for some examples). Encourage people to pray for an opportunity to give the item or share the link with someone during the course of the term.

Be clear that 'success' is a willingness to pray for this opportunity and the courage to take it, rather than how people respond to the offer, because of course some people may not be interested, be offended or decline.

In order to help your congregations know how to face potentially difficult responses, be sure to equip them with helpful ways to share the item or link, and how to handle any negative comeback.



This isn't about running a training course, but rather some simple one- to two-minute suggestions each time you talk about the idea. For example:

- If when you offer someone a booklet or link they politely decline, don't take it personally. Just smile and say, 'No problem, but if you ever want to know more about why my faith is so important to me, I'd be happy to chat.'
- When offering someone a magazine, be positive not apologetic: 'I thought you might be interested in this as it has some really fascinating stories of how knowing God has made a difference in people's lives, including N, the actor/sports person/reality TV star you really like.' Don't say people's 'no's' for them. Expecting people to at least have a look is better than: 'I don't know if you would be interested in this, and I hope you don't mind me sharing it with you, and I quite understand you might want to say no...'
- When inviting your five to, for example, your carol service using an invitation card, why not welcome them to your home for mince pies and mulled wine beforehand (or to the pub if that is more appropriate)? Be straight about it, so people know what you are asking: 'We've got our carol service in two weeks' time and I love it as a way of kicking off the Christmas celebrations. Would you like to join me and come along? I'm having mulled wine and mince pies at my place for a few friends before we go, you'd be most welcome.'

If you have some drama types or video creators, they



could have fun putting together some quick sketches or videos that illustrate both good and bad practice. Encourage people to try out some scenarios with church friends to get over their fears.

TIPS

- Try to identify resources that will work for most people in your congregation. For example, in a non-book culture, books may not be a good idea, but a video link might be.
- Remember to resource your children and young people as well as adults of all ages.
- It may be best to offer two or three options each term, but be careful, because the more options there are the easier it is to actually not choose any.
- There is a difference between encouraging people to do something and brow-beating people to do something. It is tricky: what for one person is a gentle encouragement, for another feels like unhelpful pressure. It is good to have identified some people to offer feedback on how it comes across when leaders up front 'encourage' people to make the most of the opportunity to share such resources.
- Give loads of practical examples of how people might offer a resource, so they can see themselves doing it.
- Each time you launch 'the offer', find a creative way of praying about it as a whole church.
- Build in help and accountability to whatever paths you normally use to help people in their discipleship (small groups, emails, prayers on Sunday, one-to-one conversations).
- Try to have some fun with this termly idea. If there are stories of it going wrong in an amusing way, share those stories. Adopt a light touch.
- Be sure to get lots of feedback, and tell stories that encourage people.
- Persist, because it may well take three or four terms for people to understand and join in with how this works.



RESOURCES

Here are some examples of the resources you can give to your people to share with others:

- An evangelistic booklet, for example Why Christmas, Hope in Uncertain Times, The Eggcellent Egg Hunt, or The Real Jesus.
- A link to a helpful website, for example, www.christianity.org.uk.
- A link to a YouTube video (for example [Phil Knox, Lament](#), or a spoken word about Christmas), or perhaps something on your own channel.
- A link to a podcast, for example the [Unbelievable Podcast by Premier Radio](#).
- A magazine, for example the [HOPE magazine](#), or the magazine linked to the Queen's platinum celebrations.
- A gospel, for example a copy of [Mark for adults](#) or young people⁵, or the [Uncover](#) materials produced for students.
- A pen with your church's name and website address.
- An empty pizza box with an invitation to a special service and a voucher for a local Pizza place.
- Create your own.



E. FUEL MOTIVATION



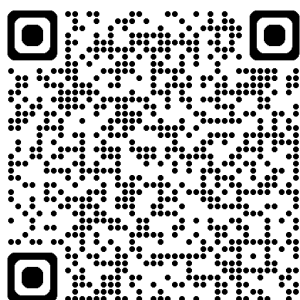
EXERCISE

Part 1

What can we do to help fuel the motivation of congregation members to share their faith?
Draw up a long list of possibilities first, and then identify your top five in order of priority.

Part 2

What might we do that unintentionally demotivates congregation members in sharing faith?



A PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
You told us to ask the Father to send out workers
to bring in the harvest.
This we must do.
Please ignite a renewed passion for the gospel in our lives
and a sense of urgency in our churches.
May we share the way of salvation clearly in our times,
So that many might see and believe
and put their trust in you.
Mobilise us as a missionary movement,
Wherever we live, to every tribe and tongue.
Amen.
(Lectio 365)



PART 3

NEXT STEPS



EXERCISE

1. Personal Reflection (5mins)

- What insights/thoughts have you had through today?

- What do you sense God may be prompting you to do? Write any ideas in the box below. You may also like to write a prayer around your reflections.

2. Group Reflection (25 mins)

REFLECT ON TODAY

1. Briefly share one or two of your key personal reflections with one another.
2. What ideas have you come up with that you want to take forward from today?

REVIEW YOUR ACTION PLAN

Remember the common errors when making an action plan:

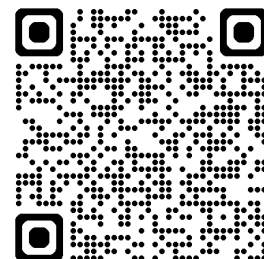
1. Trying to do too much too quickly.
2. Not being clear enough about what you are planning to do (what you are going to do, who is going to do them, when they are to be done by).

Where are you up to with your previous plans? What progress have you made?

REFINE YOUR NEXT STEPS

1. How will you integrate your ideas from today into your ongoing action plan? What are your next steps?

2. What would you like others to pray for you? Please post to the Padlet 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 8 in their diary, **Tuesday 26th November, 7.30-9.30.**

KEEPING EVANGELISM CENTRAL IN OUR LEADERSHIP

BY DAVE MALE, PUBLISHED AS PART OF LEAD ON

I meet many church leaders who principally came into ministry because of their experience of and passion for evangelism, but who after a few years have found that their life is almost exclusively focused on the running of the church and its associated activities.

There are always church people wanting to meet with you, leaders to work with, meetings to chair, administration to complete and church services to prepare for. The demands never cease and gradually what gets eased out is your own time with people outside the church: friends, social contacts, team mates and neighbours. This not only impacts our own lives but I would argue the focus of our leadership and ultimately the health of the church. A good way to gauge what is happening might be discovered in two ways.

Firstly tell your church you are going to spend a day a week with people who are outside your church and see what their reaction is. But secondly how does this make you feel? Are you already panicking about what you cannot do? Are you unsure who you would spend the day with?

One of the big leadership phrases of the moment is that 'culture eats strategy for breakfast.' I wonder whether we need to start not simply with a new evangelistic strategy but by considering how we might need to change our church culture, at a local and national level, to really make a difference in this area of keeping evangelism central for our churches and ourselves.

Recently I have been pondering what is the bigger cultural issue that is presented by the low ebb of evangelism in many churches, and how church leaders

tend to end up spending most of their time inside church.

I have been reading again *Missional Church*, edited by Darrell L. Guder, (Eerdmanns, 1998). This book has been hugely influential in recent mission thinking but what the various authors highlight is how church has been restricted in its working definition to '**a place where certain things happen.**'

The inherent danger of this definition is that our self identity can easily be limited to our organisational forms, meetings and the professional leadership. At a popular level it is indicated by phrases such as 'going to church', 'attending a church' or 'belonging to a church', not phrases that abound in the New Testament.

Listening to church leaders recently (and even this Sunday's sermon) I have been struck by how often the definition of church is limited to what happens in the church building (and usually on a Sunday morning.) We seem to lack a theology of how we are church when we are not 'at church' and this is hurting us badly!

Research for the Imagine Project (LICC) amongst church leaders highlighted this when it reported 'leaders have a growing sense that we have looked for security in church structures, programmes, plans and vision statements neglecting the transforming power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ engaged in the lives of ordinary Christians, people who carry the presence of God into their daily context'.

The authors of *Missional Church* suggest a more appropriate and biblical definition of church is of **a body of people sent on a mission**, a gathered people brought together by a common calling and vocation to be a sent people. I wonder if our churches grasped and were energised by this calling how it might change both our approach to evangelism and the role of leadership. If we really understood and worked out for our own particular context what it meant to be a body of people sent on a mission, I suspect church might look very different, certainly evangelism would no longer be seen as for the 'keen few'.

It might mean for us five important steps in keeping evangelism central in our churches and leadership with such a culture shift.

1. ENVISION

Part of changing culture is to envision people, not just with another vision for the next year or two, but envisioning our congregation that together we are a body of people sent on a mission so that we always gather to



be scattered to be gathered to be scattered etc. and in both ways we are truly church. Harold Percy, a Canadian church leader wrote, 'Transformed leaders have a clear conviction that God can and will work through their congregation to change lives, and that their congregation of people can be used by God to help change the world. Such vision begins with the clear vision of the evangelising community and what that community might look like in its particular setting and circumstances.' At the root our response to this I believe must be prayer as we seek God to show us how to be his sent people.

2. ENCOURAGE

How as leaders do we encourage people to be a sent people if we are always demanding that they are at lots of church meetings and events? At one of the churches I worked with we had a key phrase, 'minimise meetings and maximise relationships.' What is the proper relationship between being gathered and scattered?

3. EQUIP

So often we fail to practically equip our church people to be witnesses to Christ. As leaders we need to understand there is a difference between 'telling' and 'training'. Often we think we are training because we have talked about the high value of evangelism or have preached about the need to share our faith from the front and we assume that this is enough. But we need practically to give people the tools to both live and articulate their faith in a missionary situation.

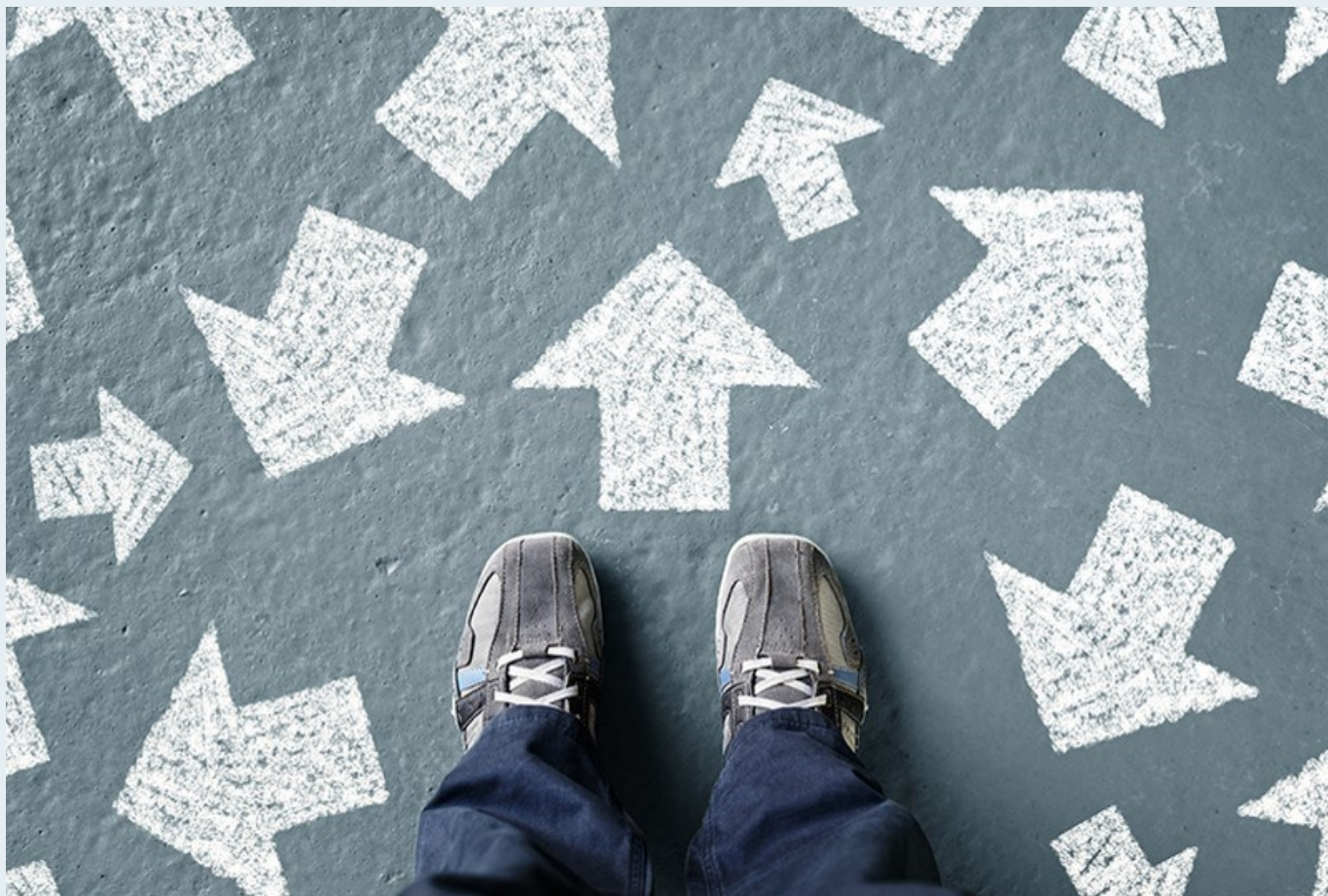
4. EXAMPLE

If this doesn't start with us as leaders we will find very few people will follow us. We need to be prioritising time for those outside the church and sharing our stories, both the good and the not so good to encourage others to get involved in God's mission.

5. EXPECTANCY

The book-ends of the practical activities are the envisioning and the expectancy. Again prayer is at the heart of this increased expectancy as the church becomes more aware of God's power to work and save. Prayer continually reminds all of us that evangelism is God's work; a work in which we cooperate. We are not in control of the process, but prayer is the crucial element in our role, both individually and corporately. If we want to be doing more about getting the word out, we will need to be praying more.

Dave Male has co-authored with Paul Weston a book on evangelism, *The Word's Out; Speaking the Gospel Today* (BRF). The book examines why our churches often struggle with evangelism and then asks what we can do about that, both by looking at how Jesus evangelised and looking at some practical solutions.



RESOURCES

THE ONE TO READ

- Mere Evangelism, Randy Newman (Good Book Company)

TOP READS

- How to Talk About Jesus, Sam Chan (Zondervan)
- Stay Salt, Rebecca Manley-Pippert (The Good Book Company)
- Story Bearer, Phil Knox (IVP)
- Questioning Evangelism, Randy Newman (Kregel)
- Pathway to Jesus, Doug Schaupp and Don Everts (IVP)
- The Reluctant Witness, Don Everts (IVP)

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.
- Check out our [Google classroom](#).
- Review of five [evangelism training courses](#).
- Lead On articles on [Keeping Evangelism Central](#) in church life (Dave Male) and [Ten Ways to Keep a Church Focused on Evangelism](#) (John Coyne).



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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.



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