

REQUIRES
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DVD



SIX STEPS TO

TALKING ABOUT JESUS

PRACTICAL TRAINING
FOR SMALL GROUPS



 **SIX**
STEPS TO
TALKING
ABOUT JESUS

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matthiasmedia

Six Steps to Talking about Jesus

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INTRODUCTION

Think of the people you meet each day. Your family. Your work colleagues. The man at the newspaper stand. The lady in the seat opposite on the bus. The old friend you catch up with after work. Your tennis partner. Your hairdresser. The guy sitting by himself in the park at lunchtime. Of all the countless people who cross your path—some known to you well, some hardly at all—is there a single one of them who shouldn't be following Jesus? Is there a single one of them who doesn't need Jesus?

Of course the answer is “No” (to both questions). But many Christians feel overwhelmed and inadequate when it comes to reaching out to those around us. We're unsure where to start and what to say, and more than a little fearful that we will make fools of ourselves.

This short course starts from square one, and helps you make a start. Over six interactive sessions you'll explore topics like:

- the core motivation for reaching out to others;
- what the gospel of Jesus really is;
- how to depend on God in prayer as you speak to others;
- how to solve the problem of 'But I hardly know any non-Christian people';
- how to invite people to take positive steps towards knowing Jesus (through reading a book or coming to an event);
- how to tell your own story of what God has done for you in Jesus;
- how to explain the gospel of Jesus in a simple way.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is good news. And good news is always worth sharing. Our prayer is that through this course you will

be motivated, encouraged and equipped to make a start—even a small one—in doing just that.

We are very grateful to Ken Noakes and Sandy Grant for their contribution to the development of this course.

Simon Manchester

Simon Roberts

November 2006

SESSION 1

LOVE



Discuss

Can we know that God loves us? Why or why not?



Video: For God so loved the world

Notes on video



Bible study

Read 2 Corinthians 5:10-21.

1. What have Paul and Timothy concluded about Christ (vv. 14-15)?

2. What did Christ's death achieve (vv. 17-21)?

3. What does all this mean for our attitude towards other people (vv. 16, 20)?

4. From this passage as a whole, what do you think is the core motivation for reaching out to other people with the message of Christ?



Video: The love of Christ controls us

Notes on video



Bible study

Read Ephesians 4:11-16.

1. What gifts has Christ given to his church?
2. For what purpose has Christ given his church these gifts?
3. What do you think Paul means when he speaks of the body 'growing' and 'being built'?
4. From the human point of view, what brings about this growth (vv. 11, 15)?



Video: Speaking the truth in love

Notes on video



Discuss

1. What can you do to help build the body of Christ (in both numbers and maturity)?
2. How strongly does “the love of Christ” currently figure in your motivations for reaching out to others? How could you increase your appreciation of the love of Christ?
3. What are you hoping to learn from this course? Share something of your own experience of talking to people about Jesus.



To conclude

1. Divide into pairs and spend no more than two minutes telling the other person about how you became a Christian. (It doesn't have to be clever or dramatic or even clear. Just describe as best as you can how you came to know the love of Christ for yourself.)
2. Pray for each other in pairs, thanking God for the love he has shown us in Jesus, and asking him to fire you with a love for the people around you.

SESSION 1: LOVE

Goal of the session

Why talk to people about Jesus? This session aims to ground our motivation for talking about our Lord Jesus Christ in the gospel itself. In the gospel, God has demonstrated his love and mercy toward us. Knowing God's love and mercy, we are privileged to be able to share that message of love and mercy with others. There are many ways in which we can demonstrate love to other people and a key way is by speaking the truth to others. As we speak the truth in love, the body of Christ is built in both numbers and maturity. The love of Christ is the motivation for wanting to share the gospel with others, as well as the guiding principle for how we go about sharing it.

The brief exercise at the end of the session aims to get participants speaking about Jesus and what he has done for them—in a simple, safe, short way. (A variant on this exercise comes at the end of most of the sessions.) As they continue to do this, week by week, they will not only become more fluent in telling their story, but more used to speaking about Jesus in a natural easy way, and more motivated and confident to do so.

Outline of the session with timing

Activity	Suggested timing	Your timing
Discuss	2 min	
Video: For God so loved the world	2½ min	2½ min
Bible study: 2 Corinthians 5:10-21	15 min	
Video: The love of Christ controls us	5½ min	5½ min
Bible study: Ephesians 4:11-16	15 min	
Video: Speaking the truth in love	7 min	7 min
Discuss	8 min	
To conclude	5+ min	