

God's Word in evangelism

“The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.”

John 1:41-42 (NIV)

This session guide outlines suggested elements you might use to help answer the key question below and achieve the aim of the training session. The time allocations can be adjusted according to the amount of time you have.

Key question: What is the role of God's Word in evangelism?

Aim: To see that our role as disciples is to bring people to Jesus and it's through Scripture that people can meet Jesus today.

Pre-video ice breaker/discussion starter (3 min)

What role has God's Word played in your journey to believing the gospel?

We would recommend people split into pairs or triplets to discuss this and further questions. If you are doing more than one session over a period of time, it may be helpful for people to stick to the same pairs/groups so that they can build trust and support one another consistently.

We'd also recommend you either print the list of questions or display them on a screen if meeting in person. Put them into the chat feature before you head into breakout rooms if you're meeting online.

Play video by Ray Brown (approx. 10 min)

Download here: apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd7-vid-download

Practical exercises and discussion questions (15 minutes)

Below is a list of questions to consider using. You will not have time for all of them, so select those that you think will be most helpful for people to internalise and apply what they've just heard. Maybe you can think of others.

1. Can you testify to the nourishing effect of hearing Jesus' voice as you have read and studied the Scriptures? Have you considered that we are limiting God by thinking unbelievers will not also be impacted by God's Word?

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2. Do you ever assume what someone's response to Jesus will be and then discount them because you think they won't be interested? How does Andrew's example in John 1:41-42 challenge and/or encourage us?
Isn't it amazing that Andrew's brother turned out to be the Apostle Peter, one of the most influential leaders for Christ. You never know how God might use the people you help lead to Him. The Bible is the best-selling book of all time, more people than we realise are at least a little interested in finding out what it says.
3. Brainstorm some practical ways you could help people listen to Jesus' voice for themselves through Scripture.
You could invite them to church or an evangelistic event, to an evangelistic course, or to read the Bible one to one with you at a time and place that suits them. Journeying with them is often best, rather than just sending them stuff and leaving them to it. That way they can enjoy the experience in a relationship with someone they trust as their guide, and can ask questions and take further steps together.
4. Write down the names of two or three people that you prayerfully want to invite to meet Jesus in God's Word. What might be some options that they might feel most comfortable with?
5. What would give you more confidence to read the Bible one to one? Would you be open to using resources to help with this? *We'd recommend you do the A Passion for Life Training Session FW2 – Sharing God's Word One to One. It is a very practical session showing how the resource The Word One to One works and helps people encounter Jesus' voice in John's gospel.*

Prayer time (12 min)

We would recommend leaving some time for people to pray in their pairs or groups. You may like to ask them to reflect and pray about what has encouraged or challenged them from this session. They may like to include these points:

- Praise God for His Word. Thank Him that we can grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus as we listen to His voice in Scripture.
- Confess and repent of underestimating how God can speak powerfully through his Word to help people put their faith in Jesus.
- Pray for the two to three people you'd like to introduce to Jesus in God's Word. Pray that the Lord would give them a curiosity to know more about Him and that He would help you to lovingly invite them to explore Jesus in Scripture for themselves.

Further Bible Reflection (10 min)

This is an additional Bible reflection to go deeper into the main theme. You may choose to use it as part of the training session. Alternatively, you could hand it out on a printout / email it around for reflection during the week, along with the "take home" questions.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."

John 10:14-16 (NIV)

Context: John wrote his gospel in order that people might believe (John 20:30-31). In chapter 10, he outlines the teaching of Jesus using the imagery of Jesus as the good shepherd and his followers as part of his sheepfold.

Commentary: In this little section 'the others' that Jesus speaks of are gentiles who will come to faith through hearing the Word and encountering the Word - Jesus himself.

Comment: Why is it so important for us to lead with 'the Word of God' in all of our evangelism and allow the Word of God to do what it does best?

Take home

You may like to print out / email around this section so that people can re-watch the video and reflect further.

Why not re-watch the video with a notebook open, praying that God will root these principles into your heart. Watch here: apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd7-view

There are many resources out there to help you bring people to the Scriptures. If you haven't already, we'd recommend you do the A Passion for Life Training Session FW2 – Sharing God's Word One to One. It is a very practical session showing how the resource The Word One to One works and helps people encounter Jesus' voice in John's gospel.

The Word One to One can also provide further training for your church - visit theword121.com for more information

The training video is available for anyone to watch at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd7-view

More stories from everyday believers can be viewed and downloaded at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd7