



Welcome to **MyFriends**.

This course material is designed to be used with your facilitated course.

This sixth module is about Connect and how we can help our friends who experience God to help connect that experience to God.

The key objectives are:

- When people experience God, they need a guide to help them navigate this new world.
- Take time, context and where they are spiritually into account and be real, honest and personal in explaining the gospel appropriately.
- Exploring the message of Jesus in a simple way.
- Taking the initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit to help connect my friend to Jesus and leaving the results up to God.

Connect the Experience to God

Read the following passage twice

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbling trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

³² When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

Acts 17:16-32

- **What stands out to you in this passage?**
- **What do you learn about God or people?**
- **What principle of mission did you discover that you can apply today?**

Challenge

A witness in a court of law makes a statement about what they see, hear, or experience. Being a witness is not just about your own story - it's being a witness to what God is doing in someone else's life, right in front of your eyes... and pointing that out so they can see it!

Is there anyone on your daisy chain that you have prayed for who has experienced God answering that prayer, but has not realised this connection? For example, you prayed for someone to find a new job and they found one soon afterwards. How could you help them see this connection?

Connecting

When people experience God, they can sometimes need a guide to help them navigate this new world. You can help your friend realise that God is at work in their life right now because they experienced Him. He is inviting them to connect with Him personally.

1. God is showing your friend:

2. That He's real,
3. That He's not far away from them,
4. That He loves them even in their brokenness,
5. That He wants to start a friendship with them.

“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”

Jacob (Genesis 28:16)

Where Are Our Friends at Spiritually?

“Conversations with people are the biggest prompt for Australians to think about spiritual or religious things.”

[Faith and Belief in Australia Report, McCrindle, 2017, p9.](#)

Faith Journey

As our friends have experiences of Jesus, it's important to think about where they are spiritually and what the next step is for them. For instance, someone hostile to faith is probably not open to reading the Bible but might be happy to talk with a Christian who is seeking to love, pray, and care for them. On the other hand, if someone is a spiritual seeker, then it might be best to share how Jesus has changed your life. The goal is to help people take their next spiritual step forward towards faith in Jesus and become a disciplemaker.



When seeking to connect people's experience of Jesus to Him, why is it important to consider where they are on their spiritual journey?

Sharing Jesus' Story (Gospel)

Success in witness is simply taking the **initiative** to share **Jesus** in the power of the **Holy Spirit** and leaving the results to **God**.

Your will have an opportunity during the next Lifestyle Practice session to prepare and practice your personal testimony. But for now, we're going to look at how we can explain the gospel using a simple outline called [The Four](#).

There are many creative ways to share the gospel. We want to keep it simple so that you can easily remember and share the Good News. We have chosen [The Four](#) as a great way to share Jesus with people in a short period of time.

[The Four](#)



- God loves you
- I have sinned
- Jesus died for me
- I need to decide to live for Jesus

God Loves you

God totally loves you! His love is boundless and unconditional.

The love of God has shown itself through Jesus Christ. This loving God can be experienced, He is real and He wants nothing more than for you to experience His love personally and to discover the purpose of your life in your relationship with Him.

The Bible: 1 John 4:16 and Psalm 16:11

1 John 4:16

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.
God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them

Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

1. Do you believe that God has created you in His own Image?
2. Do you believe that God has a perfect plan for your life and that He loves you with His unconditional love?

I have Sinned

Unfortunately, we do not experience God's love because we ignore Him. We search everywhere for meaning and fulfilment – but not with God. We don't trust Him and do not think that He wants the best for us.

Going our own way and the selfish actions that result from it are what the Bible calls sin. Sin damages and destroys our relationships with others. Sin keeps us from living the fulfilling life that God intends for us.

The Bible: Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 59:2

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated

you from your God;

your sins have hidden his face from you,

so that he will not hear.

1. Are you aware that you have been separated from God and have failed to be right before him?
2. Have you turned from your old ways and from your unbelief?

✚ Jesus Died for me

Our sin and our selfish actions do not stop God from loving us. He even became a human being in Jesus Christ and gave His life for us. He took our place on the cross, bearing all the consequences of sin Himself.

Jesus died – but He rose to life again. He offers us peace with God and a personal relationship with Him. Through faith in Jesus, we can experience God's love daily, discover our purpose, and have eternal life after death.

The Bible: John 3:16 and 1 Peter 3:18

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 Peter 3:18

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.¹

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who came to save us and to make us right with God? He died, rose again and is now seated at the right hand of God in Heaven.
2. Do you believe that you die with Him and therefore you also live with and in Him?
3. Trusting Jesus means asking Jesus to come into your life and giving Him the first place. Read Revelation 3:20 - "***Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.***". Do you want to open your heart for Him?

❓ I need to decide to live for Jesus

God has already done everything to show us how much He loves us. Through Jesus Christ, He offers us fulfilment and eternal life. We can talk to God directly - we call it "prayer" - to ask for forgiveness for living our lives without Him.

We can choose to live with God by trusting Jesus Christ from now on. How will you decide?

The Bible: John 1:12 and Revelation 3:20

John 1:12

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Revelation 3:20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.¹

1. Have you decided to follow Jesus wherever he goes and have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour for your life?

Grab a partner and practice sharing The Four with them in under 2 minutes.

Know it, wear it, share it.



Look Back



"The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call." - Acts 2:39

Consider Jesus' principles of love and mission (as summarised on the **MyFriends disc**) and your **daisy chain** as you reflect on these questions.



Reflection Questions

1. How have you experienced God at work in and through your life this week?
2. What did you learn about God, yourself, or others this week?
3. What points from the last MyFriends Training session challenged you or prompted questions?



Look Up

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15

Your Story

Use the chart below to prepare your 30 second personal testimony.

Before I met Jesus	How I met Jesus	Now I know Jesus
There was a time in my life when...	But then I met Jesus and ...	Now I follow Jesus...
What did my life revolve around the most?		
What did I get my security or happiness from? <i>(The non-Christian is relying on something external to give them happiness)</i>	When did my attitude about Jesus begin to turn around? Why?	How have your motivation in life changed since becoming a Christian?
How did those areas begin to let me down?	At what point did I begin a relationship with Jesus?	What is the one work that captures what life is like now? <i>For example: peace, hope, etc.</i>
What is one word that captures this feeling? <i>For example: empty, lost, etc.</i>	What is the one word that captures this feeling / change? <i>For example: grace, amazed, etc.</i>	



Look Forward

1. Practice giving your 30 second testimony with a friend and get feedback.
2. Who is the Holy Spirit prompting you to share your story with over the next week?
3. What practical next steps do you need to take? Share this step with the group and ask someone to pray for you as you take this step in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Action Steps

1. As you have lived out a lifestyle of love, prayer, and care, and taken opportunities to share your experience of Jesus with others, they may experience Him too. Are there any experiences that you need to help your friends connect to God?
2. Memorise the definition of successful witnessing:
"Taking the initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit to help connect my friend to Jesus and leaving the results up to God."
3. Practice sharing the gospel in 2 minutes and then look for opportunities with your friends when you see a green light!
4. Please complete this Form below to help you be accountable for implementing your MyFriends actions. You will be emailed a copy of your answers.