



God's Good News: Stepping into Evangelism

Church Army, available from www.churcharmy.org £3 per copy

Each of these sessions last for approximately 90 minutes: they could be divided into three sessions of one hour if this is more suitable for your Parish. The sessions could be used with adults and/or young people. The person running the sessions needs to have read the booklet and have adapted Chapter 1 and Chapter 3 input so that they can deliver it comfortably in their own words. Those who cannot get to the parish sessions could easily use this book alone and therefore be ready to join in the discussions about the way forward later.

Session One

You will need:

1. Copies of the booklet for each individual.
2. Bibles.
3. Pens.
4. Flip chart and pens.
5. Circles of influence, Parish, on A3 paper 1 per small group.

How to:

1. Priest to introduce session using adapted chapter 1, 'Why is evangelism God's idea?' Stopping to discuss headings, readings and quotes (in purple) will help the group to engage more fully with the process. *10 minutes*
2. Chapter 2: Introduce 'How to share your story'. *2 to 5 minutes*
3. Ask participants to fill in 'Before you met Jesus' questions 1-3 in their booklet, without discussion. *10 minutes*
4. Feedback, write up common themes on the flipchart. *10 minutes*
5. Divide into groups of two or three and ask them to discuss question 2, page 12, together. (NB If you think this would be too much for your group at the moment, ask 1 or 2 people to prepare the answer in advance and then to share with the larger group.) *10 minutes*
6. Priest to introduce adapted chapter 3, 'Who can you share your story with?' *5 minutes*
7. Ask each participant to fill in the Circles of Influence on page 18. *5 minutes*
8. Discuss results with a partner. *5 minutes*
9. Divide into small groups and hand out the 'Circles of Influence, Parish sheet with pens. Ask the groups to fill in these sheets from a Parish perspective. i.e where is the church connected locally, where does it have influence? This may be through groups it runs or individuals who are active in the community. *10-15 minutes*
10. Feedback as a whole group, documenting answers on the flip chart. *10-15 minutes*
11. Identify a number of people who will commit over the next week to asking people in the community the following questions and noting down the answers:
 - a. What do you love about this community?
 - b. What would make this community a better place to live?



- c. What does the word 'community' mean to you?
 - d. Do you have any fond memories of this area?
 - e. What could the church do to help improve this community?
 - f. What community activities would you like to see happen?
12. Pray together.

N.B. Participants should be encouraged to complete the rest of chapter 3 and to read chapter 4 at home in preparation for Session 2.

Session 2: Developing a plan

You will need:

1. Copies of the booklet for each individual.
2. Bibles.
3. Pens.
4. Flip chart and pens.
5. Circles of influence, Parish, on A3 paper 1 per small group.
6. Reaching your community, Parish. Copied onto A3 paper or larger, one copy per small group.

How to:

1. Read John 14:12. Expand on this if you want to, then recap on the information in chapter 1 to allow everyone to settle in. *5-10 minutes*
2. Invite people to share any encouragements they found in chapters 3 and 4. *5-10 minutes*
3. Use your own adaptation of the intro to chapter 5. *3-5 minutes*
4. Ask your community survey people to read back the answers they got to the questions. Document them on the flip chart. This will aid you in the next couple of activities. *10-15 minutes*
5. Divide into small groups and ask each group to complete the 'Reaching the community, Parish' exercise. Using the questions on page 30 to help reflection. *10 minutes*
6. Ask each group to feed back on their chart in turn. *5-10 minutes*
7. The rest of the session is focused on section entitled, 'What are you doing now?' pages 30,31,32. which will enable the Parish to have the beginnings of a clear 'Mission plan.' You may want to copy the headings onto a flip chart, or Powerpoint presentation and work as one large group or divide into smaller groups each with their own sheet of paper. The KEY to this exercise is in answering the questions on page 32 honestly and then planning accordingly, referring back to John 14:12 as necessary. *20-30 minutes*