



The **ROOFTOP**

Joining Jesus in *His* Mission

LEADER'S MANUAL

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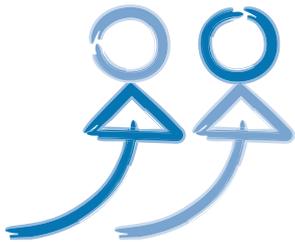
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THE ROOFTOP LEADER'S MANUAL

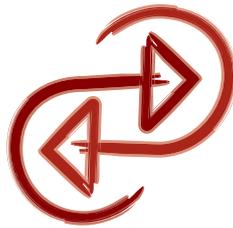
THREE-STEP EVANGELISM STRATEGY:

STEP ONE



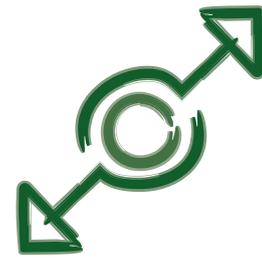
ENCOUNTER

STEP TWO



ENGAGE

STEP THREE



EXPAND

This manual has been written to enable you to lead **The Rooftop** three-step evangelism strategy.

Please read through and become familiar with the contents before you begin to prepare for The Rooftop.

You should also download/obtain and become familiar with **The Rooftop** Personal Journal. This will be used by the group members and contains the worksheets that accompany the **Engage** and **Expand** sessions as well as space for reflection on the rooftop **Encounter**.

A 'MOMENT'

We are living at a strategic moment in history—a time when many people are no longer familiar with the church or the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In response to the need to impact our world with the gospel we have launched 'The Rooftop', a ministry that is helping local churches to reach lost people beyond the walls of our church buildings.

The purpose of **The Rooftop** is to encourage Christians to 'Join Jesus in His Mission' to seek and to save what was lost.

A MOVEMENT

All of us are facing a new reality: increasing numbers of people are no longer attending church in the ways that their parents and grandparents did in previous generations. Many are speaking of a crisis and consider that this crisis is that people are no longer attending church. But that is not the crisis!



The real crisis is that the vast majority of people who are attending church are not sharing Jesus with people who aren't attending church. This provides us with a great **opportunity**—to begin a movement that will release a new wave of Christians who will share their lives and communicate their faith with people who are unchurched and never-churched.

We pray that there will be **a new culture of faith sharing** that will spread across the world as Christians gain both the passion and the confidence to engage in sharing their lives and their faith with lost people.

It is our prayer that **The Rooftop** will be used of God to set this movement in motion.

WHAT IS THE ROOFTOP?

'BACKGROUND'

The Rooftop was conceived in a Virginia hotel room. Dennis Pethers, the author of the **More to Life** evangelism resources, was praying and listening to a colleague read aloud the story of Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10–11. As the story was being read, Dennis was deeply impressed with what took place during Peter's experience of praying on the rooftop. This experience was a pivotal moment in the history of the church. Like Peter, we stand at another pivotal moment in church history. And the question remains: "what are we going to do at this moment in our history?"

Please use the information below to share with those who take part in 'The Rooftop Encounter'.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

The Rooftop has its scriptural foundation in Acts 10 and 11. It is the story of Peter and Cornelius. This story has three key aspects:

- 1 Peter's Rooftop **'Encounter'**. As Peter was praying on the rooftop he had an encounter with God that revolutionized his understanding of evangelism.
- 2 Peter went to the house of Cornelius to **'Engage'** with people beyond the walls. Having encountered God and realized that he 'should not call unclean anything that God has called clean', Peter went to the house of a gentile and preached the gospel. He broke out of the constraints of what he had inherited and preached the gospel 'outside' of the walls of Judaism—he 'engaged' with the lost.
- 3 As a result, the Kingdom could **'Expand'**. The gospel was set free from the constraints of Judaism and was now able to spread across the whole world—the good news of Jesus is for those BEYOND THE WALLS.

Peter's experience on the rooftop was a pivotal moment for the church. Had he not been on the rooftop (praying) where he received a fresh vision from God, he may never have evangelized the gentiles.

He needed a fresh vision of God's passion for the lost to take him beyond what he had always known and to face the new reality. Here was his new reality: He saw that God loves people who do not conform to all of the customs that he had always been familiar with!

For Peter, the rooftop experience was a pivotal crossroads. The church today is at a similar crossroads. Previous generations have been raised within church contexts and have understood and were familiar with our customs. Now, across generations there are



increasing numbers of people who never attend church and know little or nothing about Jesus.

Many of these people don't even know that they don't know Jesus.

These people are not familiar with our church practices and are not likely to join in with our customs. If they are to hear the gospel, it will be because we have gone beyond what we have always known and what we have become comfortable with. It will be because we have intentionally engaged lost people in ways that will help them to discover the truth about Jesus.

THE ROOFTOP THREE-STEP JOURNEY

The three aspects of Peter's rooftop experience are central to **The Rooftop three-step journey**:

- 1 **Encounter.** Christians will be taken to a Rooftop to look across a city/small town/rural area and consider a number of questions relating to God's heart for the lost.
- 2 **Engage.** Christians are equipped to engage in evangelism to lost people beyond the walls of the church.
- 3 **Expand.** Those who are reached and become followers of Christ will be equipped to reach others.

This manual contains notes that you can use to take a group of Christians through each of the three steps of the strategy.

A PROCESS NOT A PROGRAMME

As you prepare to lead your group please bear in mind that **The Rooftop** is a **process** not a **programme**.

It is easy to look at the material and think that **The Rooftop** is a nine-session teaching programme. This however is not the best way to approach this material. The change that is required in many Christians if they are to 'join Jesus in His mission' is revolutionary. This is not likely to be accomplished by simply working through the material one-week-at-a-time.

Rather than asking 'how do we do 'The Rooftop' it is more helpful to ask 'how can these materials help us to be effective as we 'Join Jesus in His Mission?' This will mean that:

- 1 Each of the 'sessions' may not be completed in one meeting.
- 2 Time will be allowed for the group to talk and pray deeply regarding the things that they are learning. It is not required that the group studies the material each time they meet. There is great value in having some times together where the group is able to share what they are experiencing and pray for/with each other.
- 3 It is not easy to 'time-table' this process and fit it neatly into the church calendar.



GROWING THE MOVEMENT

In the Local Church

As a 'Process' and not a 'Programme' it is important to consider the most effective way of guiding the church through **The Rooftop**. There are some key things it is good to consider as you plan this:

- 1 Each group should be no more than seven people as a larger group makes sharing at a deeper level very difficult.
- 2 It is good to start with one small group going through the process and then those people inviting others to join small groups that they will lead.

Across the world – The Rooftop Connection

As you journey through **The Rooftop** process you will learn many things about what it means to 'Join Jesus in His mission'. The things that you are learning could be of enormous help to other churches as they, like you, are seeking to reach people beyond the walls of the church.

To enable churches to learn from one another we have created 'The Rooftop Connection' a web-based social media tool that provides the opportunity for churches to share the stories of what they are learning as they are going through the process.

As a church that has joined **The Rooftop** you are a member of 'The Rooftop Connection'. Please use this network to update the stories of what you are experiencing and to connect with other churches from around the world.

WORKSHEETS AND TEACHING STYLE EXPLAINED

ALL OF THE WORKSHEETS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PERSONAL JOURNAL. ENSURE THAT ALL GROUP MEMBERS, INCLUDING YOU AS THE LEADER, EACH HAVE A JOURNAL FOR THE SESSIONS.

Please Read the notes below before you begin!

'LEARNING AS A DISCIPLE'

As you lead a group through 'The Rooftop' process it is vital to bear in mind that you are seeking to help members to become active disciples who 'Join Jesus in His mission'.

This will be a challenge to many within the church who have become accustomed to small-group experiences where the Bible is studied but where there may have been very little expected of them as a result of the time spent together.

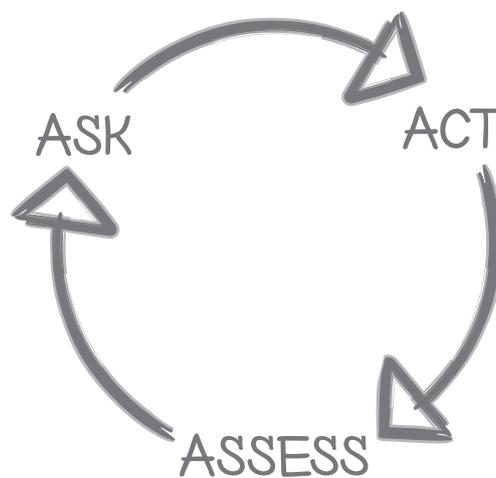
Many small group studies are similar to large group studies except that there are fewer people. This is unfortunate because the dynamic of a small group provides an environment that enables group members to learn in a more engaged way than in a large group setting.



As you look at the worksheets you will see that the teaching style used in the sessions is very interactive and that group members will be required to **put into practice** what they are learning. This is because these sessions are designed to help the group to learn what it means to follow Jesus, be His disciple, not merely to 'study'. This can be achieved really effectively in a small group setting.

There is rightly a lot of emphasis placed on the importance of teaching as a key aspect of discipleship. However, it is clear from the ministry of Jesus that teaching is not merely the passing on of information. Jesus was not only concerned that His disciples had been taught correct things, He ensured that they put them into practice. To put it another way, it is not so much a question of 'did I teach?' as 'have they learned'?

The approach to learning that is used in the worksheets is modeled in the ministry of Jesus. Jesus' teaching was far more than words alone. This is especially true in the way that He 'taught' His disciples. The following simple diagram may help you to see this:



The way that Jesus ensured that His disciples learned the things He taught was as follows:

ASK

Jesus taught truths that caused them to ask more questions. They were not content with what they already knew, they wanted to know more about what it meant to be His follower.

ACT

Jesus sent them to do things based upon the truths they were learning. (It is worth noting that He always sent them out in groups—never alone)! Jesus knew that His disciples would never fully understand the truth of His words until they acted upon what He taught them and put it into practice. 'Doing' was and is an essential part of a disciple learning what it means to follow Jesus.

ASSESS

Jesus frequently asked them to tell Him what they were experiencing as they put His teaching into practice. He then corrected them and taught them more things—this process was then repeated again and again.

You will see that the teaching style used in the worksheets is very interactive and requires specific action. This is because these worksheets are designed to help the group to learn what it means to follow Jesus.



THE WORKSHEETS

Each worksheet is a blend of teaching, discussion, action and sharing that has been designed to help group members to learn how to 'Join Jesus in His Mission'.

These elements are explained more fully below. (Please see page 10 for an example worksheet.)

VIDEO

The short video clips (no more than seven minutes in length) provide teaching that encourages discussion and participation within the group.

DISCUSS

The Discussion element of the small group time is very important. If members of the group are going to become disciples that join Jesus in His mission it is vital that they are able to talk with each other about their honest views/fears/experiences in regard to following Jesus.

As most people forget much of what they hear very quickly we have included a space on the worksheet for the group members to write down the things that have impacted them as they watched/listened to the teaching on the video.

By writing these things and then discussing them, the group will begin to learn from one another as they 'ask' deeper questions and share out of their experience.

To help the group go deeper in discussion we have included some additional points/questions for discussion. These may or may not all be required! You are free to raise other questions for discussion. Please allow participants to raise questions as well.

DO

As outlined above, in Jesus' approach, 'doing' is critical to learning. An old Chinese proverb says:

'I hear—I forget, I see—I remember, I do—I understand'.

The 'Do' section on the worksheet is therefore essential if the participants are to learn how to join in with the mission of Jesus. Please encourage every person to write down something that they will do as a result of what they have been learning during the time together.

DOWNLOAD

When each person has written down what they will do it is important that they can share this with the others in the group, we call this 'Download'. In most cases Christians meet together for worship/teaching but are expected to share Jesus with others 'on their own'. These feelings of isolation cause many to be totally inactive in faith sharing. Being able to talk honestly about the joys and disappointments of faith sharing is a vital ingredient of helping one another to join Jesus in His mission. This can be achieved in a small group!

As such the 'Download' time is a critical aspect of these times together as this will ensure two vitally important things that will help to ensure that those in the group do engage with lost people beyond the walls of the church.



- a **Support** – most Christians find that it is very difficult to engage with lost people. To help them not to give up it is critical that they have others that they can be honest with and share how they are getting on as they seek to engage in faith conversations with friends and neighbours.
- b **Accountability** – many Christians have the best of intentions to engage with the lost but when it comes to it they just don't do it. This is often because there is nobody else who knows their intentions and can simply ask them 'How did you get on?' Being accountable to each other in this way will help many Christians to do what they had intended.

By being supportive and holding each other accountable it is far more likely that Christians will engage with people beyond the walls.

Supportive accountability will require that each member of the group can be transparently honest about how they are doing as they seek to engage.

SOME GENERAL COMMENTS

As you consider a venue for the small group to meet it is helpful to create an informal atmosphere that will encourage sharing and discussion. If possible, use a venue with comfortable seating where members can see each other, not all facing the front. This is not a 'class' it is a group of people who are learning how to join Jesus in His mission.

When people begin to share openly and honestly with one another then time becomes less of an issue and it become more difficult to 'stay with the worksheet'. This is fine! Please do not feel that you have to stop people sharing in order to complete the worksheets. It is more important that the group learns!

A SAMPLE RUNNING ORDER

The following running order is just an example of how your session may run. Please bear in mind what has been said above and also note that most of the time is allocated to discussion and sharing/praying.

Time	Detail
00.00	Welcome and introduction
00.05	Update from group members on what has been happening since the last time together
00.15	Video clip 1
00.20	Discussion
00.35	Video clip 2
00.40	Discussion
00.55	Time for participants to complete the 'do' section of the sheet.
01.00	Download – share with others what has been written and pray/ encourage/hold accountable.
01.30	Close



(EXAMPLE WORKSHEET) SESSION ONE: ATTITUDE



Use this space to write down the things that impacted you most from the video clip.



DISCUSS

Take some time to share and discuss the things that you have written in the box above.

Now discuss the following questions:

- As you asked God to give you a fresh vision of His heart for the lost on the rooftop, what happened?
- How do you feel about engaging with people who have different views and pursue a different lifestyle to you? Which words best explain how you feel?



Use this space to write down the things that impacted you most from the video clip.



DISCUSS

Take some time to share and discuss the things that you have written in the box above.

Now discuss the following question:

- Imagine you worked for a company that followed the employment policy of the vineyard owner, HONESTLY share how you would feel if this happened to you. How would you feel about the people that did less but got the same reward? How would you feel about the owner of the company who acted in this way?
- In what ways can these same feelings affect the ways that we, as Christians, may view lost people?



DO

Write down what you are going to do help you to begin to see lost people as Jesus sees them. Be specific:



DOWNLOAD

Share the thing that you intend to do and then pray into each other's situations.



NOTES ACCOMPANYING THE THREE-STEP PROCESS

The following pages comprise practical notes to help you lead each step of the process. You will see that these are very comprehensive and detailed for **Encounter** but restricted to a brief introduction in relation to **Engage** and **Expand**.

As you lead **Engage** and **Expand** please refer back to the notes above '**Worksheets and Teaching Style explained**'.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Please note that the Personal Journal recommends that you have a social gathering at the end of step two **Engage** and step three **Expand**. During these social gatherings the group will eat, share and pray together in an informal way. These times provide the opportunity for the group to share in a very informal way, what they are experiencing and how they sense the Lord is leading them, and the group, as they continue through the process.

