



The ROOFTOP

Joining Jesus in *His* Mission

MORE TO LIFE - ENGAGING THROUGH STORY

PERSONAL JOURNAL

NAME:

www.therooftop.org

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WHAT IS 'MORE TO LIFE - ENGAGING THROUGH STORY?'

Engaging Through Story has been produced to help you, as a follower of Jesus, to become confident and passionate about sharing the message of Jesus with people who may be far from God but who are close to you.

You may think that sharing the message of Jesus is something that should be 'left to the professionals' but this is something we can all do and indeed must do because each of us has friends, neighbours and even family members that will never hear this message from a professional because they don't go to church!

Engaging Through Story is not a course that provides you with a formula of words or clever techniques that only work for 'super-confident Christians'. It is an approach that will help you to discover how God can use you, just as you are, to help others come to know Jesus.

FAITH CONVERSATIONS

Engaging Through Story is not an organised programme that is based around door-to-door visitation or special events. It is an approach to faith sharing that will help you to engage in faith conversations with people that you are among as part of your daily life.

As the title suggests, a key aspect of this faith sharing is 'story' this involves:

- Stories that have been created and can be shown from your tablet/phone;



- The story of what God is doing in your life;
- The story of what is happening in the life of the person that you are in conversation with;
- The story of Jesus!

There are two key things that you will discover as you journey through 'Engaging Through Story' and begin to share your faith:

1. Faith-sharing is a two-way conversation that will most likely take place over a long period and not all at one time. It is about building relationships with people and then as you share with one another the door is opened for you to share openly about who Jesus is in your life.
2. God, the Holy Spirit, is also in the conversation—this is not something that you have to do for God, you do it with Him—you are not alone!

LEARNING TOGETHER

As with all materials produced by 'The Rooftop Academy' we encourage you, as you gather in a small group to explore and discover ways that you will engage in faith conversations, to:

- Fully participate—your views and experiences are enormously important be sure to share them.
- Be open and honest.
- Be supportive and encouraging.
- Be accountable.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE!

As you view the teaching videos you will see that Dennis Pethers refers to a give-away DVD filled with faith stories, these are the 'First Story'.

With developments in technology the stories that were once on DVD have now been made available as downloadable video clips that you can show from your phone/tablet/pc.

Just visit www.morethanstories.org

In the teaching, when Dennis talks about giving away the DVD please consider how you would use stories that have been downloaded to your device(s).



SESSION ONE: CAUSING HEAVEN TO REJOICE



VIDEO CLIP ONE Introduction

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:

- What is your reaction to the story that Dennis told about his visit to the carpet shop?
- Who are some of the people you know who may have responded in a similar way.
- In what ways is church for 'churchy' people?
- How do you feel about church being for churchy people?
- How does this differ from God's heart as presented in the parables that Jesus told?



VIDEO CLIP TWO Sharing in God's Passion

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:

- In what ways do you find yourself sometimes being a barrier that prevents lost people from seeing how God passionately loves them?
- In what ways can you be similar to the self-interested shepherd or the older brother who resents the father's 'unfair' generosity.
- Talk to each other about the passion you have for the lost and how God might change you.



DO

Write down what you are going to do help you to develop a God-inspired passion for lost people. Be specific:



DOWNLOAD

Honestly share with the group what you have decided to do in order to develop this passion. Now spend some time praying together.



SESSION TWO: DISCOVERING THE FAR FROM GOD PEOPLE AROUND YOU



VIDEO CLIP ONE Understanding Lostness

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:

- How do you react to the story of the boy who asked 'Who is the man on the wall?'
- In what ways does/could your life as a follower of Jesus help people who 'believe in anything' to find out the truth about Jesus?
- Look at the Graspometer (appendix 1, page 18), and discuss how this helps you to understand people that you know.



VIDEO CLIP TWO A Way That Works

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:

- How do you react to the story of the penguins?
- What help do you need to enable/equip you to 'get off the rock?'



DO

Write down what you are going to do help you to begin to reach people who are far from God but close to you?

Be specific:



DOWNLOAD

Honestly share with the group what you have decided to do to begin to reach people. Now spend some time praying together.



SESSION THREE: ENGAGING AND GIVING AWAY MY FAITH



VIDEO CLIP ONE

Becoming Familiar with the First Story

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:

- Discuss which three stories you found interesting and why
- How easy/difficult do you find it to begin a conversation about Jesus with a friend or a stranger?
- How could you use these stories to begin a conversation?



VIDEO CLIP TWO

Go and Grow

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:

- What are some things that you could you begin to do 'differently' that would help you to engage in conversations about Jesus?



DO

Write down what you are going to do help you to begin to have conversations about Jesus?

Be specific:



DOWNLOAD

Honestly share with the group what you have decided to do in relation to beginning conversations about Jesus. Now spend some time praying together.



SESSION FOUR: TALKING ABOUT MY OWN STORY



VIDEO CLIP ONE The Power of Your Story

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 engage in some one-on-one discussion:

- In pairs, share the story of what God is **doing** in your life.
- Now share with the wider group 'what you heard' as you listened to the story that was shared with you.



VIDEO CLIP TWO Be You and Let God Shine Through

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:

- How might the things that God is doing in your life help a person who does not have faith in Jesus to want to find out more?



DO

Write down what you are going to do help you to begin to tell your story to others.

Be specific:



DOWNLOAD

Honestly share with the group what you have decided to do in relation to telling your story to others. Now spend some time praying together.



SESSION FIVE: HOW TO HEAR THEIR STORY



VIDEO CLIP ONE Time to Listen

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:

- What things prevent you from taking the time to listen to people—how could you change this?
- Look again at the Graspometer (appendix 1, page 18) and discuss ways that the first three stories can become a dialogue that helps people gain a better understanding of Jesus.



VIDEO CLIP TWO Listening with your Head and Heart

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:

- In pairs, each person should spend some time sharing something about their life that is very important to them, the other person should listen. The purpose of this is to provide an opportunity for 'listening'.



DO

Write down what you are going to do help you to begin listen to and build relationships with people beyond the walls of the church.

Be specific:



DOWNLOAD

Honestly share with the group what you have decided to do in relation to listening and building relationships. Now spend some time praying together.



SESSION SIX: TELLING HIS STORY



VIDEO CLIP ONE Sharing the Gospel

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:

- How do you react to the story of the lady who was terrified at the thought of sharing the gospel?
- See appendix 2 'Presenting the Gospel' (page 19) and, in pairs, use it as a basis for creating your own gospel presentation—then present in pairs the wider group.



VIDEO CLIP TWO Introduction to Discover More to Life

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:

- How might you make use of Discover More To Life to help people to become followers of Jesus?



DO

Write down what you are going to do help you to help people come to know Jesus

Be specific:



DOWNLOAD

Honestly share with the group what you have decided to do in relation to helping people come to know Jesus. Now spend some time praying together.



APPENDIX 1 - THE GRASPOMETER

0	Full grasp of the Christian faith	Most evangelistic activity	Churched
-1			
-2			
-3			
-4			
-5	Belief in God but not committed	Belief in God but not committed	Less Churched
-6			
-7			
-8			
-9			
-10	No idea that God exists	Often totally unreached	Never churched

APPENDIX 2 - PRESENTING THE GOSPEL

A person has said to you 'Please can you tell me what the gospel is?', what would you say?

You will see that space has been provided overleaf for you to create a way that you would present the gospel.

Before you look at this, please read the following.

Your immediate response may be 'I haven't got a clue how to explain the gospel!' If you are honest, that is not the case, you do have some idea, however small, but you are afraid you might mess it up so you may think it is best not to try!

You might think that the best way for you to discover how to explain the gospel is for somebody to tell you what to say. However, the best way to learn is not just to repeat a formula of words that you have been given. You will explain the gospel far more clearly if you take time to focus on how you would explain this message using your knowledge and experience of God, the Bible and life!

The purpose of this exercise is to give you the opportunity to think seriously and in a safe and helpful environment, about how you would explain the gospel 'The best news in the world' to a person that has asked you. It is likely that you are far better at this than you think!

We recommend that you do this in groups of two or three people rather than alone. There are some good reasons for this:



1. It can be much more fun!
2. You can all help each other rather than feel lost if you are not sure what to write or how to find a bible verse that you 'know is somewhere but can't remember where'.
3. You can encourage and support one another.
4. You can practice what you have written on your sheet by sharing it with each other.
5. You can each point out things that will help so the gospel will be explained as clearly as possible.

SOME THINGS TO BEAR IN MIND:

As you do this please remember that the person you are seeking to explain the gospel to may not be familiar with lots of Christian words/jargon so try not to use them. If you do use jargon and don't say everything 'just right' remember that God can take our less-than-perfect attempts and still perform the miracle of salvation in a person's life.

Also remember that if a person is not clear about what you are saying you can encourage them to ask you to say it again!

In not more than 100 words write down how you would explain the gospel.

Use this space to list some Bible verses that you would use to help a person understand the gospel.

Use this space to list a story or two that you would use to help a person understand the gospel. The story may be from the Bible, from history, a movie or book, or from your own life experience.



NOTES

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