

5. Become your friends' unofficial chaplain

- Organised religion is "out"; counsellors/spiritual life-coaches are "in"
- A chaplain knows everyone's names and takes an interest in their lives
- A chaplain is wise, and a calm, non-anxious presence
- A chaplain offers to pray
- A chaplain points people to Jesus in His word

Questions & ideas to share?

Recommended resources:

- How to talk about Jesus (without being *that guy*) – Sam Chan
- Revolutionary Work – William Taylor

GETTING ON BOARD WITH THE LORD'S PLAN OF KINGDOM GROWTH (a.k.a. Evangelism) – week 2

Read Acts 2: 36–47 and answer: HOW DOES THE CHURCH GROW?

- 1) What does the new community of believers do and say?
- 2) As they do this, what is God doing? (v. 47)

Recap: the why, who and what of evangelism

Our ultimate goal: for your friend to encounter Jesus in His Word and receive Him as their Lord and Saviour!

- **Acts 2:41: So those who received his word were baptised**

... **but** there may be a many steps/barriers along the way! (today's focus!)

1. The big re-think: don't "do evangelism", be an evangelist

- Less about inviting people to events, more about daily life & speech
- Ask "BIG" questions and listen
 - Reciprocity: at some point – ask if you can share your view
- Hospitality as a powerful door-opener

2. Merged (not parallel) universes

- Seek to expose unbelieving friends to your Christian friends
- Plausibility structures: gospel is true is it believable?
- Power of community (loneliness, isolation, friendship, belonging)

Discuss in small groups:

Which of these is more accurate of you: I only really spend time with Christians/non-Christians? Do you feel the balance is right?

In what areas of life do you find it hardest to "introduce" your Christian faith or friends? (at work, with peers, sport, longstanding friends, family?)

What experiences have you had of introducing your unbelieving friends to Christians? Do you feel this is something you could try – and how could we all help each other in this?

3. Your testimony

- Your personal testimony is powerful
 - **John 9:25: all I know is that I was blind and now I see**
- Try to make your testimony free of stereotypes and jargon and uniquely yours (what is your **story**?)

4. Tell a better story

- Are we at risk of "under-selling" the Christian message?
 - **Acts 3:19: repent therefore and turn back that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.**
- Remember: we've found the answer to people's deepest needs!

In small groups: Discuss how you could connect the Christian message to someone who is feeling...

Unfulfilled, empty or outcast... (John 4)

Burdened by the need to be perfect (Luke 18:14)

Restless and exhausted (Matthew 11:28)

They've messed up and are too far from God (Luke 15:21-24)

Fearful of death and the afterlife (John 11)

What else?