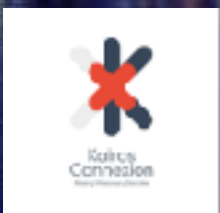




Brighter

3 good news habits
to help you shine

Course Notes



Welcome to Brighter.

Most people around us have yet to make any sense of the good news. They simply haven't got a clue about Jesus and whether he could be relevant for their lives or not, let alone what He has taught and done. Paul asked the church in Rome a question that rings true for our generation today, 'How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?' (Romans 10:14.a) If people around us haven't heard the gospel how can they respond? If we haven't planted the seed of the gospel how can we expect a harvest?

Evangelist J. John jokes that most Christians are like arctic rivers, they are frozen at the mouth! While most followers of Jesus wouldn't argue that it was a rubbish or bad thing to follow Him, somehow they don't believe it could be good for others and the news bit about the good news gets forgotten.

Brighter is designed to give confidence to you to regularly share your story, God's story and to invite people into the life of your church, so they can also become followers of Jesus and encounter 'Our Story.'

The Good news habits are:

1. **My story.** *I regularly share my story with those I meet.*
2. **God's story.** *I know and share God's story often.*
3. **Our story.** *I invite my friends and family to my local church events throughout the year.*

Brighter is written by Chris Duffett and Nic Harding.

Nic is the Director of Together for the Harvest and leader of Kairos Connexion a network of church leaders who seek to live integrated mission, discipleship and community life.



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We believe that every person on this planet deserves an opportunity to respond to the most outrageous gift this world has been graced with and this course is one way among many that will help the Bride of Christ shine and grow for the glory of God.

We believe that everyone deserves to have the opportunity to say yes or no to the invitation that Jesus gives: a life in all its fullness and an eternity with him. We believe that it is a tragedy that today most people haven't heard or seen the gospel demonstrated in such a way that makes sense to them.

We believe you are in for an adventure as you seek to develop these 3 good news habits. It's an adventure letting others in on what we have as followers of Jesus!



Week 1

Introduction

My hope

This is what I want to get out of the course....

My top 3 good things about being a Christian are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

To shine Brighter in our lives we need to:

1. **Believe** that we are called 'the light of the world.'
2. This light is **big**.
3. We shine for the **benefit** of others
4. Do you put your 'light' under a **bowl**? What is your bowl?

Three important steps on this journey of shining Brighter are as follows:

- a) Making connections (week 1)
- b) Having spiritual conversations (week 2 + 3)
- c) Giving invitations (week 4)

Making new connections:

If you haven't got many not-yet-Christian friends, you will need to find new ways of connecting with people. You may have to connect with as many as 100 people before you find 10 who are open to spiritual conversations, and one of whom actually commits their lives to follow Christ.

Talk together.

In small groups read **Colossians 4.2-6**. Re-write Paul's prayer into your own words.

Write your version below...



With whom do you want God to open a door for you to share your story and God's story?

5 people I am praying for:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Grow.

This week pray for 'your five' and make a note of any changes that happen ready to report back next week.

Also - Choose two of the following dares:

- 1) Next time you are in a queue for a coffee, buy one for the person next to you and see what happens!
- 2) Ask the Lord to show you one person out of all the strangers you see this week who you need to tell that He loves them, and then simply do so!
- 3) Send a card with a verse of encouragement to a friend saying that you are thinking of them.
- 4) Text a friend who isn't a Christian asking if they have anything that they want you to pray for them.



Week 2

Habit 1: My story.

I regularly share my story with those I meet.

Re-cap.

- What did God teach you from the previous session? How did the homework go?
- Have you a story to share about the 5 people you are praying for?
- Did you have any conversations with new people?

Listen.

Stories are powerful. There is no such thing as a boring story from a Christian!

1 Peter 3.15. Peter asks us to: 1. Revere Christ as Lord in our hearts. 2. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have. 3. Respond with gentleness and respect.

The second step on our journey is to have spiritual conversations. Our story (our faith journey) and our stories (our day to day examples of God at work in our lives) are the best way of turning normal conversations into spiritual ones. One of the simplest ways of provoking such an opportunity is by showing genuine, loving interest in the other person

What is your six-word story?

Talk together.

In groups of 3 take it in turn to 'unpack' your six-word stories by using it as a starting point and to talk for no longer than 3 minutes each. Allow time for a couple of minutes of feedback and gentle constructive criticism of areas in which it could be improved. Are there any words that were used that someone who isn't a Christian may need help in interpreting?

Grow.

- Write out your story. No more than 2 pages of A4, or if typed up 1000 words.



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- If you prefer you can record your story on your phone.
 - Next week everyone gets to share their written or recorded story!
 - Extra homework for those up for it: Find someone who would be willing to accompany you and together write your six-word story out on a piece of cardboard each. Find a busy street to sit or stand in showing your cardboard testimony and wait for people to ask you questions.

Week 3

Habit 2: God's story.

I know and share God's story often.

Re-cap.

- What has God taught you since we met last? How did the homework go? Did any of you do the cardboard six-word story?
- Has anything happened with any of the 5 you are praying for?

This is the second part of step 2 on having spiritual conversations, where we want to start to talk about Jesus himself and the good news

Here are some examples of how differently the gospel was explained by different characters in Acts. Study them in your own time

Reference	Speakers and hearers
Acts 5:29-32	Peter and the apostles to the Jews and Rulers
Acts 7:2-53	Stephen to the Rulers and council
Acts 8:26-39	Philip to an Ethiopian Eunuch
Acts 10:24-48	Peter to the Gentiles: Cornelius and his entire household.
Acts 13:16-43	Paul to the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles
Acts 17:16-34	Paul to the Greeks at the Areopagus
Acts 26:1-29	Paul to King Agrippa

Listen.

We all get to make new connections and are able to meet even more people to intentionally look to show and tell God's story. Telling our story is a great opening to talk about Jesus and his good news – His story.

When you are asked a question about your life, and you've had the opportunity to tell your story, you may get an opportunity to share what you know about Jesus. You could start by saying something like this, 'Can I just tell you what I discovered about knowing God?'



What is God's story/ the Good news? Come up with a tweet, under 140 characters:

What do these symbols mean?



Grow.

Choose one of the following dares:

- 1) If you usually drive into work and it's possible, take public transport instead for one day this week and pray that you can share the 4 Points with someone you meet.
- 2) Walk instead of drive to the shops or the school run (if it's under 2 miles or so) and pray as you go that you may have an opportunity to share God's story with someone.
- 3) Write a card to a member of your family or friend who does not know Jesus with a copy of a 4 Points leaflet or bracelet.
- 4) Post on social media your 'Good News' tweet and see what comments you receive!

Week 4

Habit 3: Our story.

I invite my friends and family to my local church events throughout the year.

Re-cap. What has God taught you since you met last? Did you get the opportunity to explain the 4 Points to someone? Have you met any new people?

Listen.

The church family is an attractive one. For those who lack community or a sense of belonging, church can be a very attractive place!



Brighter is all about helping us shine and one way we can do that is to develop a habit of inviting people to our local church and the events we put on, as well as inviting friends to 'journey with us' as we seek to share our story and teach them about becoming followers of Jesus.

Believe, behave, belong, or Belong, believe, behave?

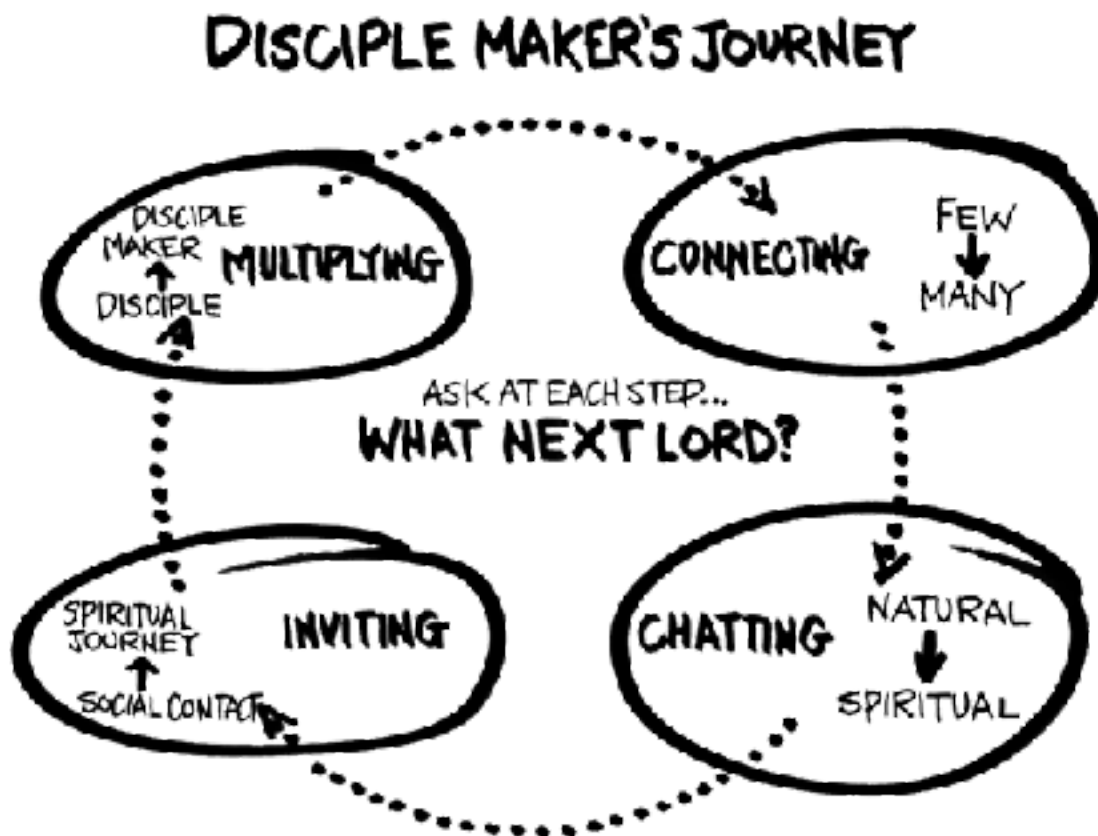
What are some of the barriers in you to inviting someone?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

From John 4.27-42. What was the result of the different invitations?

Which of the top ten tips for inviting did you find most helpful?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Talk together

Note some of the social and spiritual events and activities over the year that you could invite people to.

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-
-
-

What have been your light bulb moments in this training? What habits are you going to put in place to develop your life as a confident witness so that you can shine more brightly?

My plan – my top 3 things I’m going to build into my lifestyle are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Who is it that you can be accountable to so that you keep on telling your story, God’s story and our story? Use your plan as a basis of accountability with a peer. Perhaps meet up every month to review how you are doing with what you felt God was asking you to do. Use it as an opportunity to encourage each other and pray together for your not-yet-Christian friends.

My accountability partner will be.....

For more ideas and inspiration to shine brighter go to the EA’s great commission website <https://greatcommission.co.uk>

For more information about Together for the Harvest go to www.tfh.org.uk

For more information about Kairos Connexion (Kx) go to www.kairosconnexion.org

Recommended additional reading - ‘Creating a culture of faith sharing in the local church’ by Andy Frost, from <https://www.sharejesusinternational.com/culture-of-mission/>

