



Reimagine Church Module 1: Week 4

The power of your story

Welcome to Session 4 of Module 1 of Reimagine Church. This is the final session for the wider leadership team and we'll be focusing on telling your story.

In this session you will:

- Learn how story can help you to move between natural and spiritual conversations.
- Practice a simple tool for telling your story

This session takes **90 minutes**. The teaching notes are included if you would like to refer to them.



Review of Session 3 and some FAQ's (**04:42**)



As a team take **5 mins** as a team to reflect on what you learnt last week. Did you do your 'What's Next'? How did it go?

The Power of Story



The power of story (**04:39**)



How to tell your 6 word story (07:25)

Telling our story

Our story is a powerful way of being a witness. The apostle Paul repeatedly told his story when he was taken prisoner e.g. Acts 26. Jesus said we would defeat Satan by the power of our story (our testimony) Rev 12:11.

Telling our story is an art and a skill. Most people are nosy and interested in our story. If we tell it authentically, they will not be offended, and may well want to know more. Telling our story is a simple way of discovering if people are interested in spiritual things, if they are people of peace. If they are, they will 'lean in' to the conversation. If not, they will be pulling away from the conversation. We will spot it quickly.

If they are 'leaning in' we can offer to talk more about Jesus stuff, or meet again to do so. They may be ready to be invited to something. It's good to have a possible 'next step' in mind when you get the opportunity to tell your story. You may want to keep a Gospel of John, 'Try Praying', or 'Why Jesus?' booklet with you to offer someone.

<https://www.trypraying.co.uk>

<https://shop.alpha.org/departments/booklets/why-jesus>

Try and put together a 2-3 minute version of your story by doing the following.

Summarise the story of your journey to God, and the impact he has had on you in just 6 words. It could be 6 different words like 'hopeless, lonely, prayed, loved, new start. Or as in my case it could be 3 pairs of words 'buried alive, answered prayer, on fire'. Or it could be one sentence like the blind man Jesus healed 'I was blind, now I see'. However, you want to use the 6 words use them to create a skeleton of a story.

Then flesh it out, using those 6 words like stepping stones in telling it, or as prompts to help you remember where you are going with it. Your story needs where possible to show how following Jesus has made a difference to your life. So you are likely to include what life was like before, how you came to faith (and what you actually said or did to receive Christ), and how life has changed.

Some people have been Christians all their life as far as they know. If this the case don't worry, just tell the story of what Jesus has done for you and how he makes a difference in your life. It can be just as powerful.

You don't have to have had a dramatic conversion experience, from a life of crime and drug addiction to faith in Christ. As I like to say 'most of us are like the rest of us'. People will relate to the ordinary, the everyday difference that Christ has made – security in the now, hope for the future, feeling loved, having a sense of purpose in life, simple answers to pray, help in difficult times etc. There is no need to make it sound more dramatic!

First decide what your 6 words will be. Play around with them till you are satisfied that they are the ones that will help you tell the story well. Now write it out the full story on no more than one side of A4, using the 6 words as triggers for each section of the story.

Practice telling your stories with each other. Time each other and give each other constructive feedback. Try and keep to 2-3 mins in the telling.

Top Tip: If you are genuinely interested in other people and ask them questions about their lives, they are likely to ask you about yours at some stage. You then get the opportunity on many occasions to say something like, 'tell you what, can I tell you my story?' Most people will say 'yes'.



Team Assignment

20 mins

Develop and practice your stories to yourself using the 6-word sheet. Find some space to do this in.

20 mins

Share your stories with each other in pairs and give constructive feedback.

20 mins

Pray in pairs for specific non-Christians (maybe ones on the DMJ map from last time), and for opportunities to tell your story in the next week

NB – Sometimes we miss these opportunities, how can you be better at spotting them?



Additional Reading

Chapter 6 of Reimagine Church by Nic Harding