**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 4 of 4

# Telling others

### MEETING AIM

To think about who the gospel of Jesus is for.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 10

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

Up until now, the gospel had only been shared with other Jewish people. The historical sense of the Jews being God’s special people, set aside by him and for him, was still strong. It took a radical message from God to change Peter’s mind and kickstart the mission to the whole world. It is the working out of Jesus’ instruction to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Welcome the young people to the session. Share refreshments and chat about life. Share in their triumphs and commiserate in their disasters. Ask the group about the last time they talked about faith at school or in a club they’re part of. Was it easy?

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** a hand handkerchief or flannel doused in perfume

Keep the perfumed handkerchief hidden in your pocket. Announce an activity where everyone has to shake hands with as many people as they can in two minutes and see who does the most. As you join in this activity yourself (aim to shake hands with about a third of the people there), keep your hand freshly dipped into your pocket – the net result at the end of the exercise is that not only will the people whose hands you directly shook smell of perfume but also the people whose hands they themselves shook, and so on.

Ask everyone to smell their hands and see how many people can smell perfume. Discuss the exponential spread of the perfume in this way. (Make sure that you use a product that no one in your group is allergic to. Encourage everyone to wash their hands afterwards!)

### BIBLE EXPLORATION – 10 mins

**You will need:** a large white sheet (big enough for everyone to sit on); Bible

Spread out a large white sheet – cram everyone on it and read Acts 10 to the group. Encourage the young people to bear in mind that we are all the ‘unclean’ who are now called ‘clean’.

Challenge the young people to summarise the message Peter gave the Roman household. Ask everyone to have a go at summarising the gospel in one minute. You could time it to make it more of a game, or if they feel unsure of doing this, give them a couple of minutes to write something down and then read it out in turn. Reassure them that there is no one perfect answer and that in one minute they will only be able to touch on one tiny bit of it! Encourage them to try to find one angle that is personal to them, like Peter did.

Without criticising anyone’s effort, you could spend a couple of minutes discussing the merits of some of the ideas and broaden out the ways you could share the gospel and what it means. Do you always have to tell people everything? Is the gospel we might tell the same as what might be preached at church on a Sunday morning? Is it OK to change the way we tell the gospel? What does God want us to communicate to our friends? Is there anything off limits when it comes to leaving bits out? What would be the most creative and radical version of communicating the gospel?

Peter’s verbal gospel to Cornelius was reinforced significantly by his godliness and anointing, and also the supernatural way the two had come to meet each other.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Use the following questions to explore the passage and the ideas around it:

* How would you feel if God told you to go to a group of people you didn’t like and tell them about Jesus? How would that affect your attitude about sharing the gospel?
* How would you feel if that group of people you didn’t like became Christians?
* Who do you consider your church primarily tries to reach with the gospel?
* Who or what kinds of people are you most likely to reach with it personally?
* How does the nature of your life reinforce – or undermine – the gospel you believe in and might share?
* What non-verbal ways can you think of to communicate or reinforce the gospel they could share with their networks?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** long sheets of paper (lining paper is ideal); sticky tape; marker pens

Spread out a massive piece of paper on the floor – a couple of lengths of lining paper taped together would be suitable. Invite the young people to take a pen each and spend a few minutes writing every single group, culture, subculture, society, type of person, category and variation they can think of (eg everything from LGBTQ, Slovakians, Hindus, sporty people, rich people, poor people, homeless people, teachers, politicians, emos, skaters, nerds, bankers, students). Absolutely fill the paper as fast as you can in five minutes. It should be easy once they get going! Ask if anyone wants to explain what they have written (there may well be some groups you’re not familiar with, particularly ‘tribes’ of young people. Your group will probably enjoy educating you).

Chat together about how ‘accepted’ each group is. Are there any that the young people would want to be part of? Are there any that they would naturally avoid? Why?

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** large sheet of paper from ‘Creative response’; coloured chalk

Stand around the paper and reflect on all the people represented there.

Ask a couple of people to spread coloured chalk across the whole thing in the colours of the rainbow as a sign of God’s promise to love all people – to give them hope and a future and to never turn his wrath and fury towards any of us who turn to Christ.

Lead a prayer of love over these people groups. Invite the Holy Spirit to break into those, to use Christians in those contexts, to raise up boldness and opportunities. Invite the young people to add their own prayers generally or for specific groups of people.

Say: “As Peter said: ‘I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.’” End with a declaration: “All are welcome here, all are clean.” Encourage everyone to repeat it back. Do this three times.

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