

LEADER'S GUIDE
with
Student Reproducible Worksheets
for the program

Go For It!

A four-part video series from:

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program, *Go For It!*

CONTENTS

Help and encouragement in Personal Evangelism

INTRODUCTION –Using this video program and workbook	3
PROGRAM 1: Let’s do it!	
Leader’s Guide	5
Individual worksheet	8
Key points & Bible references.....	11
PROGRAM 2: Come on in!	
Leader’s guide	13
Individual worksheet	15
Key points & Bible references.....	19
PROGRAM 3: But I believe	
Leader’s guide	21
Individual worksheet	23
Key points & Bible references.....	27
PROGRAM 4: But I object!	
Leader’s guide	29
Individual worksheet	31
Key points & Bible references.....	34
CONCLUSION –What Now?	37

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

There is much talk about evangelism these days—but too often that’s as far as it goes. Evangelism is seen as something for the church to organize and for the evangelist to do.

What a difference it would make if we could all get back to Biblical principles and have the joy of seeing God at work in the lives of other people through our prayers, words, and actions. It can happen. Every Christian has a part to play in making disciples of all nations. We can all GO FOR IT!

This video-based program will help answer the basic questions—the “who’s” “why’s” and “how’s”—about sharing the Christian faith. It provides Bible-based practical advice for all those who want to be more effective in their personal witness to family, friends, neighbors, colleagues or casual acquaintances.

The four teaching sessions of slightly over half an hour each were filmed live featuring Ian Knox, an evangelist with the British-based 40:3 Trust. These accompanying discussion and study materials were also devised by Ian Knox and the Trust especially for groups and personal study.

STRUCTURE OF THE WORKBOOK

For each of the four video sessions there is a leader’s guide and a separate worksheet for group participants, together with a list of key points and Bible references from the session. You can photocopy each sheet as many times as you wish for use with this package.

USING THE VIDEO AND WORKBOOK IN GROUPS

For each session, the overall aim is set out for the benefit of group leaders. Breaks are provided at convenient points in each of the video sessions so that discussion of important points can take place while still fresh in the mind. Session Three is split into four parts while each of the other sessions has three parts. The breaks are detailed in the leader’s guide for each session and questions on the worksheets are grouped accordingly.

It is recommended that those leading group discussion familiarize themselves with each session before covering it with the group. Not everything included on the video sessions is included in detail in this workbook. You don't need to be confined by the points covered: use them as a framework but expand or adapt them to fit your own circumstances. Make sure that those in your group bring Bibles and pens or pencils. Although the worksheets provide space for notes, it is a good idea to have a few sheets of spare paper handy.

PERSONAL ACTION PLAN

The whole program is intended to help Christians share their faith on an ongoing basis; therefore, at the end of each session there is space on the worksheet for participants to set down those areas in their own lives where action is needed to make them more effective as witnesses, e.g. prayer, Bible knowledge, or overcoming some particular fear. Please make sure that adequate time is allowed for this task of building up a personal action plan as the group works through the sessions. You may find it helpful to spend some time at the beginning of sessions two, three and four reviewing either collectively or in twos or threes how much progress has been made by individuals from the previous meeting.

LENGTH OF THE PROGRAM

You should be able to cover the whole program over four evenings of two-hours per evening. You may wish to allocate a fifth evening to go over any points again and to consider where you go from here. You will find the leader's notes follow on through each of the sessions. For group leaders, it may be helpful to refer back to the leader's notes for session one, as they contain some points of general application to the whole program.

As an alternative to working through the whole program, you may just want to dip into the video and workbook and use smaller parts of it to fit into a particular program which you have devised yourself. In this case, the key points and leaders' sheets will enable you to find the section you want.

However you choose to use these materials, we have a Gospel the world desperately needs. So let's GO FOR IT enthusiastically.

PROGRAM 1: LET'S DO IT!
Why We Should All Be Involved

LEADER'S GUIDE

OVERALL AIM

At the end of program one, participants will:

- i) have a clear Biblical understanding of the responsibilities for evangelism placed on every Christian.
- ii) begin to think through some of the practical issues about how to be effective in communicating the Christian faith.
- iii) have a greater awareness of aspects of their own lives which limit their effectiveness as witnesses.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

On the video cassette program, one is preceded by an introduction from Clive Calver and background information about Ian Knox.

Video running time including introduction	35 minutes
Breaks for discussion at	9 minutes
.....	29 minutes

The key points of the session are grouped in three parts with breaks in between each on the video. The parts cover:

- *Evangelism is for all Christians.*
- *Four reasons why we should share our faith.*
- *Six pointers in knowing how to go about telling others.*

If your group already meets regularly, you might want to consider the following option. The week before you start the series, schedule time to introduce the first session. Then ask the group members to consider the first question on the worksheet over the period of the week, to get ready for program one.

DISCUSSION POINTERS

* At the outset, make sure that everyone in the group understands the term “evangelism” (derived from “evangel” = “gospel” which means “good news”). Make sure you don’t get bogged down with this point: deal with it clearly and quickly! Two very helpful definitions are set out at the beginning of the key facts sheet for this session.

* Also, at an early stage, encourage the group to express views on the time and place for evangelism. Particularly common is the idea that evangelism is something done by evangelists in large meetings. The video will deal with this point but it is worth having the issue on the table if anyone holds this idea.

* For some, the idea of all Christians needing to share their faith may be harder to accept in practice than in theory. Aim to allow people’s fears to surface, especially the fear of inadequacy in witnessing.

* Whether we are outgoing, or quiet and reserved, God wants to use each of us. Although James the Less did not attract the attention of the writers of the day to what he was doing, he may well have been very effective in communicating his faith. Those in the limelight run the danger of themselves becoming the central attraction.

* We have all been created as unique beings and we should not expect any norms when it comes to spiritual gifts or experiences. We are simply called to grow closer to God day by day. The rest is up to Him. Wilderness experiences can be as valuable as those times when God seems very close. While the view from the mountain top is breathtaking, most of us spend most of our lives in the valleys or somewhere in between the two!

* Watch for opportunities to encourage greater personal devotion to prayer and Bible knowledge. Do some people in your group need special help and, if so, can you or your church provide it?

* Find out how much time, if any, each group member devotes to befriending those around them in the community, whether at home, at work or in social gatherings. Does the group think that more time should be spent in befriending people? If so, do church or individual priorities need to be changed?

* Highlight the value of being able to listen to and comprehend people's expressed needs using the exercise in Part Three on the worksheet. Only when we are able to do this can we be in a position to start to lead our friends towards Christ starting where they are.

PERSONAL ACTION PLANS

Allow at least 15 minutes at the end of the session for members of the group to note down at least two points on which they individually need to take action to make their own witnessing more effective. These should be specific rather than vague, and action-oriented as opposed to simply stating the problem. For example, instead of "I am scared stiff of talking about Christianity", for the purposes of a personal action plan this should be turned around: "I am going to pray every day for the courage and the right opportunity to sensitively tell at least one person every week about what my faith means to me." Once points have been identified by individuals, get the group to split into pairs or triplets in order to share what each has written and to commit each other to God in prayer. These points will form the basis of a personal action plan for each group member.

The personal action plans will be developed over the remaining three sessions. Individuals' progress is best followed, as far as possible, in the same groupings that have been used for this session.

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM ONE: PART ONE
Why We Should All Be Involved

* What is your understanding of the term “Evangelism”?

* What things scare you about sharing your faith?

* What things most enthuse you about sharing your faith?

* How do you think you could be better prepared?

DISCUSSION NOTES

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM ONE: PART TWO

* With which disciple do you most identify? Are you a Simon Peter, a Thomas or a James the Less? Give your reasons.

* How fresh is your experience of God in your life? Should we expect to have "special" spiritual experiences ever, often, sometimes?

* How would you rate your Bible knowledge on a scale 1-10, with 1 being very poor and 10 being excellent? How could you improve your score?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

DISCUSSION NOTES

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM ONE: PART THREE

* How much time do you spend each week being a friend to people? What opportunities do you miss, and why?

* Listening is a real skill. To check how good you are at it, get together with another person whom you don't know too well. Let them tell you about themselves for two minutes, then recount to them what you can remember. Check with them how much you got right and what things you missed. Be aware of eye contact, body language (both yours and theirs) and maintain attention. Practice regularly if you need to improve your listening skills!

DISCUSSION NOTES

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

What more could you, your group or your church, do to encourage links with non-Christians?

PERSONAL ACTION PLAN

Note anything which, as a result of this session's study, you need to do to make your personal witness more effective. Share this with somebody else in the group and commit it to God in prayer. Make sure that after the session you do what needs to be done!

NOTES

KEY POINTS AND BIBLE REFERENCES

Evangelism is about bridging the gap between people, carrying the Gospel of Jesus Christ further into people's hearts and lives than before. It's about sharing good news with them—the good news of what God in Jesus has done for us and the real difference that makes and can make not only for us but for everyone, and for our world.

David Hope, Bishop of London

To evangelize is to make known by word and deed the love of the crucified and risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that people will repent, believe and receive Christ as their Savior and obediently serve him as their Lord in the fellowship of the Church.

Endorsed by the Anglican Primates
following the Lambeth Conference

**We are called to be fishers of men,
not just to be keepers of the aquarium.**

Who?

Every Christian is called to speak of his or her faith, Romans 10:9,10; Matthew 10:32,33; 1 Corinthians 9:16.

Why?

1. Jesus calls us to be witnesses, Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 1:8; John 13:13.

2. We each need to act as a watchman to warn others of the approaching enemy, Ezekiel 33:1-9.

3. Many people do want to know the love of Jesus in their lives, John 4:35.

4. We always speak about the things which are important to us, Acts 4:20 (N.B. This is the only reason the Disciples ever gave!).

How?

1. We need the power of the holy Spirit and God's wisdom. It is Jesus who "makes" us, Mark 1:17.
2. Know your subject—the importance of a good knowledge of the Gospel and its context in the Bible as a whole, 2 Timothy 2:15.
3. Know your friend—we need to gain people's confidence and friendship, to see them as people to be made whole—not only souls to be saved.
4. Know your Savior—knowing Jesus goes beyond a knowledge of the Bible.
5. Know your time—be ready to speak of the Gospel plainly at the right time. Don't push and don't delay.
6. Know your limitations—be aware of when to keep quiet, especially with close family. Be aware of other sources of help: prayer, books, other Christians, meetings.

PROGRAM TWO: COME ON IN!
How To Go About Sharing Our Faith

LEADER'S GUIDE

OVERALL AIM

At the end of program two, participants will:

- i) know how to put people at ease in preparation for sharing their faith.
- ii) be equipped with a method for leading a person to Christ.
- iii) have an awareness of the importance of support for new Christians.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

Video running time	31 minutes
Breaks for discussion at	9 minutes
.....	18 minutes

As in the previous session, the key points are grouped in three sections with breaks in between on the video to allow discussion. The sections cover:

- * *Practical points in preparing to lead a person to Christ.*
- * *Following a simple three-point method of explaining the Christian faith.*
- * *Six points on caring for new Christians.*

This whole session deals with leading a person to Christ in the context of ongoing personal evangelism. It is well to remind your group of two points from the first session: the need to build a relationship with the person and the need to choose the right time to speak.

DISCUSSION POINTERS

* At the beginning of the session get individuals to share how they have got on with the points in their personal action plans. You may choose to do this in pairs or triplets, depending on the size of your group.

- * Not everyone will have a home, or even a room, they can use for personal conversations. It will help to talk through where they can meet with someone else. Would other members of the group, or of the church, have a suitable place? Help group members not to worry—Jesus met people in the most unlikely of places!
- * Some people just freeze at the idea of having the responsibility of leading someone to faith. Help them to understand that a person's coming to a point of faith is the work of the Holy Spirit. As Christians, we therefore need very much to commit such discussions in prayer and be open ourselves to the Holy Spirit's leading.
- * Some "role-play" may be an excellent way of helping group members in Part Two. Divide the group into two's, with one explaining how to become a Christian to the other. Mix up the group again, with each "inquirer" moving on and becoming the "explainer". Allow at least 10 minutes per person.
- * Have a general discussion about "clichés" to see if anyone can explain "becoming a Christian" without using any or, alternatively, if they can explain simply every Biblical term they need to use.
- * Throughout Parts One and Two be an encourager. Help each group member to see that they really can lead someone to Christ.
- * Don't let Part Three sound too onerous. Get the group members to say what they enjoyed most about being a new Christian, and find out how they could pass on this enthusiasm to another new Christian.
- * You can be sure there were (and probably still are!) some things which were not too good in starting out as a Christian. How does your group feel these can either be avoided, or made more acceptable?
- * Some in your group may find it difficult to be a close friend to anyone. Can those who are more outgoing pass on a few tips?
- * If useful ideas or comments arise from the group about things that your church as a whole could consider doing differently, make sure that you pass these on to your minister or other appropriate person.

PERSONAL ACTION PLAN

* Make sure each group member takes home their “Personal Action Plan” with a resolve to do it! If anyone expresses fears about going away and asking the two questions before the next session, suggest that they could introduce the subject by being completely open and mentioning that the task has been set as “homework” for a course they are taking.

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM TWO: PART ONE
How To Go About Sharing Our Faith

* Were you helped to become a Christian through one-to-one conversations, or through the life and witness of another Christian? if so, be ready to share this. What did that person do which most helped?

* Have you ever led a person to faith in Christ? If so be prepared to share your own experience with the group. It may be helpful to jot down one or two key thoughts now.

* What would be your favorite verse, or Bible passage, to use in speaking about becoming a Christian?

DISCUSSION NOTES

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM TWO: PART TWO

* Do you already have a way of remembering the crucial facts of the Gospel and a method for leading people to Christ? If so be prepared to share this with the group.

* As it is so important to “keep it simple,” are there words, phrases and concepts you particularly need to explain, when leading someone to Christ? Which concept would you find most difficult (e.g. sin, grace, atonement, justification).

* What are you most afraid of in leading someone to Christ?

* What do you need to learn, to be ready to lead a person to Christ?

DISCUSSION NOTES

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM TWO: PART THREE

* As somebody who is sure you are a Christian, how can you best help someone else to be sure of their new faith in Christ? Which Bible verses would help you?

* What helps you to read the Bible? Is that method appropriate for a new Christian? If not, what would you recommend?

* What barriers need to be crossed by a new Christian to get "into" your fellowship and Church? How can these barriers be removed?

* How will you need to adjust your schedule and life-style to be the friend the new Christian will need?

DISCUSSION NOTES

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

* What does your church, and what do other churches in your area, provide by way of evangelism? Do these methods help you with your contacts?

* How well organized is your church in helping new Christians? Could anything be done differently or better? Do you need to alert your church leaders about this?

PERSONAL ACTION PLAN

Work out what practical arrangements are needed to make it easier for someone to meet Christ more naturally in your home, or wherever it is best to talk. (e.g. quiet, comfort, making someone feel at ease).

As a result of this session, decide what learning is needed, and what adjustments to your timetable may be required to give you more opportunity to get alongside people.

Before the next session make a point of asking somebody with whom you have regular contact and who, to the best of your knowledge, is not a Christian two questions:

“What do you know about the Christian faith?”

“How does that affect you?”

Decide now whom you will ask and make a note of their name here.

Now pray these points through with the group—and do them!

NOTES

KEY POINTS AND BIBLE REFERENCES

PRACTICALITIES

1. Be at ease and help the person with whom you are speaking to feel comfortable. Avoid interruptions if possible. Think about seating arrangements.
2. Keep it simple. Explain and define the terms you use. Know which Bible verses you will use as a basis. Use a Bible which you can carry around unobtrusively. Try using the method below unless you already have a sequence of verses to which you refer, such as John 10.
3. Start where people are at. Speak to their need and move into the Gospel from there, Acts 8:35.

METHOD

Before you start, it may help you to have an easy way of remembering the basics of the Gospel. For example:

GP	God's plan	GR	God's remedy
MP	Man's problem	MR	Man's remedy

Once you have this clearly in your own mind, a simple method for you and the other person to follow in leading them to Christ uses A B C:

A Admit—*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* Romans 3:23

B Believe—*"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,"* John 1:29. This maintains the centrality of the Cross.

C Commit—*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,"* Matthew 11:28. This follows on from the previous point through Christ's resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

If the person wants to make a commitment to Christ, then get him or her to do this in a simple prayer. They can use their own words if they wish, but be ready with a suitable prayer yourself which they can repeat, either aloud, or silently in their heart. Ian Knox uses these words: *"Lord Jesus Christ, I give you my whole life now. Please come and live in my heart. Wash away all my sin. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Thank you that you will never leave me."*

AFTER-CARE

There are six points to follow. It is important to see them all through if you are serious in wanting to provide the support that a new Christian needs.

1. Giving assurance: Use the Bible verses which have helped you. Remember that God will never fail us, Hebrews 13:5. Jesus will not turn away those who come to him, John 6:37. Jesus brings eternal life and we cannot be snatched out of his hand, John 10:28. Jesus promises He will come in, Revelation 3:20.
2. Providing a lifeline: Prayer and Bible reading are important. Advise on the use of Bible reading notes. Offer to help and share in Bible study, and pray with the person.
3. Providing fellowship: You are part of the Christian's new "family." They will need to know that they can rely on you for support and fellowship.
4. Helping with Church: If the person is new to Church life, they will need special practical help to find their way through the books that are used as well as simply feeling welcomed. Once they are used to the way things go, they will enjoy worship in services, but initially they may dread the idea!
5. Guiding in witnessing: New Christians are often the best witnesses to what God has done in their lives. Be prepared to offer advice if their enthusiasm is frightening people away! Whatever you say, encourage—don't inhibit.
6. Being a friend: This is the key to being effective in reaching out to people before, during, and after coming to faith, not for the sake of "evangelism" but because we care for them as people with needs.

PROGRAM THREE: BUT I BELIEVE...
How To Deal With People's Wrong Ideas

LEADER'S GUIDE

OVERALL AIM

At the end of program three, participants will:

have thought through their response to those who do not believe the fundamentals of the Christian faith and also to some who believe they are Christians already.

STRUCTURE OF THE SESSION

Video running time	39 minutes
Breaks for discussion at	8 minutes
.....	27 minutes
.....	35 minutes

There are fewer points dealt within this session, but they include some very big questions, so there are three breaks for discussion on the video. The four sections give some ideas on how to deal with the lack of belief which people express. However, included in the introduction to the whole session there are a few thoughts on talking with people who out of ignorance would already say that they were Christians, and those who do not speak about any faith they may well have.

The full program is split as follows:

- * *Introduction to dealing with wrong ideas.*
- * *Answering those who don't believe in God.*
- * *Answering those who don't believe in Jesus.*
- * *Answering those who don't believe in the Bible.*

DISCUSSION POINTERS

- * You are leading a discussion on big issues. Christians are often very vague as to WHY they believe WHAT they believe. You should aim throughout this session to give your group a firm foundation for their faith.
- * You are also dealing here with basic beliefs. Keep the program simple.
- * If the discussion gets lively, that's great!

* At the start, have a brief report-back on group members' personal action plans from the previous program. Has anything changed as a result and how do people feel about their conversations when they asked the two questions?

* Make sure that the first two questions of part one are handled in an easy-going way: you are meant to be having fun in "how not to," not taking people on a guilt trip!

* *In this session, and in session four, there are a lot of points to cover and you will have to be very disciplined to get through them all, so:*

Either-run through them all quickly with a strict cut-off for discussion when time is up

or-pick out the ones you really want to go for and ignore the rest

or-postpone some for later discussion at subsequent group meetings (see below)

* At some point, emphasize that even though we are not trying to win an argument we will necessarily have to be prepared to justify what we believe. Hence the importance of putting forward only those beliefs which are based solidly on Scripture. This is a technique well worth each person adopting as second nature, if they haven't already!

* In part two, Ian refers to all religions being wrong but also to political systems. If the group strays into debate in this area, help to clarify this point by explaining that the reference is in the context of state substitution of a political ideology for a religious one. Equally the reference to any particular Christian denomination being "wrong" refers to Man's state in relation to God rather than any wrong belief!

* In part two, perhaps you could move around the group when covering the final point, to give each person a chance to be the atheist!

* In the section headed "For Further Thought," you may find this to be a good time to ask your group if they want to go on beyond the fourth (and last) session. They may want to explore certain points further. If they do, set a target of another two or three meetings, providing the vast majority feel this to be worthwhile.

* In the Personal Action Plan for this session, you may want to suggest a few helpful verses. If you're stuck on this, go back over all three sessions covered so far and you'll find lots of good ones.

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM THREE: PART ONE
How To Deal With People's Wrong Ideas

Before you start

How is your Personal Action Plan going? Talk in groups of two or three about how you have got on since last time, especially any conversation you have had about Christianity.

Part 1

* Just for fun, and if you dare(!), share with your group when you had your last big argument with someone—and how you could have avoided it!

* What's the best advice you can give on "how to avoid an argument"?

* Define "a Christian." What makes you sure your definition is right?

* Why is it important to speak out about your Christian faith?

DISCUSSION NOTES

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM THREE: PART TWO

* Why do you believe in God? For the purposes of this question, try to give one reason only.

* How do you view other faiths? How does that affect your view on the reality of God?

* Why is the way of Jesus right? What did he mean when he said what he did in John 14:6?

* Which proof of God on the video convinced you most?

* Break into two's: one person is to be an atheist, the other is to convince them of God!

DISCUSSION NOTES

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM THREE: PART THREE

* Why do you think Jesus was God?

* Think of one person who met, or followed, Jesus. What convinced them about Jesus, what conclusion did they come to, and what did they do about it?

* What makes Jesus different from any other religious leader ever?

* Why are the Cross and the Resurrection so vital?

DISCUSSION NOTES

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM THREE: PART FOUR

* Which parts of the Bible do you find hardest to understand, and which parts do you find hardest to believe?

* How does the Bible help you

a) to believe in God?

b) to live your life?

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

We rarely help each other with our fundamental beliefs. How could your group continue to explore these basic facts, so you all have a good foundation for your Christian faith?

PERSONAL ACTION PLAN

Throughout these first three sessions, there have been many good Bible verses to prove your beliefs. Before the next session, find three verses you don't yet know and learn them. See if you can say them, including chapter and verse, in front of the group at session four!

Think of one person with whom you are in regular contact who has expressed a lack of belief in God, Jesus or the Bible. Before the next session, ask them why they don't believe. Use what you have learned in this session to answer their points.

Commit this task in prayer before you venture forth.

KEY POINTS AND BIBLE REFERENCES

1. *“I’m afraid of what someone might say if they disagree with me.”*
This stops much evangelism at the personal level.
2. We should not be aiming to win an argument but, rather, praying to win a person for Christ. That does not, however, rule out using Scripture to make our point, quite the contrary.

THE THINGS PEOPLE SAY

3. *“I thought I was a Christian.”*

These are people who may also say “I do my best” or “I don’t do anyone any harm.” Point out the need to be born anew, John 3:3. Use the definition of a Christian in Romans 10:9,10. Show that reliance on works is useless, Romans 3:23 and Galatians 3:10. The essence of being a Christian is knowing Jesus Christ as a personal Savior.

4. *“I’ve not told anyone that I am a Christian.”*

You may well be talking to a Christian who lacks assurance (see program two key points on assurance). Point out the need both to believe and to confess Jesus as Lord, Romans 10:9,10.

THOSE WHO DON’T BELIEVE

5. *“I don’t believe in God.”*

This is a common enough response but is a foolish statement, Psalm 14:1. Creation, Jesus Christ and the Bible all testify to a Father God Creator. Remember the examples, firstly of a wedding ring and the hand that wears it and, second, a plastic flower compared with a real one. Surely if the ring and artificial flower had a creator, then the hand and the genuine flower must also have had a Creator!

Every race and tribe on earth has believed in and worshiped a greater being of some kind. This leads to the question, “Which is the true religion—who is right?”. In truth nobody is right. There is no way to God apart from the way provided by God and from God. Jesus was the way God provided, John 14:6. He comes as the only mediator, a ransom for all, 1 Timothy 2:5,6. God reaches out to us in our imperfection, Romans 5:8. Without God there is no purpose to life.

Ultimately, your own personal experience may be one of the best reasons you give for believing in God.

6. **“I don’t believe in Jesus Christ.”**

Try taking the options for his life: he was either mad, bad, good or indeed God. If Jesus was mad, he was a megalomaniac (i.e. he thought he was much greater than he was). So why, just before he said you could see the Father by looking at Jesus himself (John 14:9), did he do the job of a servant (John 13:5)? As a madman, he was a failure! If he was bad, why could no one find fault with him (John 8:46)? He couldn’t have been only good because he said he and God were one (John 10:30)! Therefore if he wasn’t mad to say this, and he wasn’t bad to say this, he must have been telling the truth. So he was who he claimed—God, John 14:9-11.

Look at Jesus’ death on the Cross. Who was this sacrifice if he was not who he himself claimed? His resurrection is one of the greatest proven facts of history. He was seen on eleven occasions by over five hundred people and the resurrection is referred to by nine New Testament writers as well as other contemporary writers.

Down the years millions have testified to a life-changing experience as they have met Jesus by the power of his indwelling Spirit.

7. **“I don’t believe in the Bible.”**

Over 2600 times in the Old Testament and 525 times in the New Testament it is written that the words of the Bible are God’s Word. Invite doubters to read it and let it speak to them, 1 Corinthians 1:18.

Jesus believed that verses written in what is now the Old Testament were the words of God, Matthew 19:5 c.f. Genesis 2:24.

PROGRAM FOUR
BUT I OBJECT!
How To Deal With People's Objections

LEADER'S GUIDE

OVERALL AIM

At the end of program four participants will:

have thought through their responses to people's objections to becoming Christians.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

Video running time	34 minutes
Breaks for discussion at	17 minutes
.....	28 minutes

This session deals with twelve different objections to a personal response to the Christian faith. The objections are grouped into three sections with breaks between each on the video:

- * *Those who don't want to.*
- * *Those who can't be bothered.*
- * *Those for whom it is the wrong time.*

The end of this program is also the end of the Video. You will find an enthusiastic send-off from Ian Knox, which may be worth showing again at the end of the group's time together.

DISCUSSION POINTERS

- * As with program three, program four is very practical. So keep this program at a "real" level, not a theoretical one. This will enable members to go into situations ready to share their faith in a definite way.
- * Once again, a lot of ground is covered. See the Leader's Guide for program three for the alternatives of dealing quickly/picking certain points/doing some points later.
- * At the beginning of the session, encourage your group with the learning exercise. Encourage those who learned even one verse. Then get individuals to share their experience in talking with a "non-believer." Please don't miss this opportunity, it is an important part of the program.

* Part one deals with “moans”—group members probably have some of their own! This is a chance to discuss these. Make sure you don’t move into a “what’s wrong with our church” meeting: always seek positive, helpful answers.

* When you come to the second point of Part One, you could divide into threes. Discover, in these smaller groups, how someone has come through specific suffering, and known peace and help from God. When the whole group re-gathers, ask if any of the smaller groups has a very special story for all to hear.

* By this time, your group should be able to trust each other, even if program one was a first-ever meeting. Part One of this session is a chance for this trusting group to be really honest regarding their own problems about Christianity. How is God helping them—or how do they need help? If it becomes clear that one or two need special counseling, move on to another topic—then see them at the end to fix a time to meet one-to-one.

** There is a tough question in the second point of Part Two. As with all your discussion, be sure the Bible is the final arbiter. Remember, the person who spoke most about hell was Jesus....*

* If you feel the second point of Part Three throws up specific needs, ask the group how you all could help your church overcome these problems, and approach your church minister or leaders accordingly. It’s better to go with some positive ideas, rather than complaints.

* Whether or not you are finishing with the program completely at the end of this session, please allow adequate time for each group member to review the four sets of Personal Action Plans and identify those items which should be continued either as they stand or in a modified form. Of course, the whole point of these sessions has been to help ongoing personal evangelism, so encourage group members to persevere with speaking to others about their faith.

* If you are going on to further sessions, spent 10 minutes working out with the group what they want to do now. What general points and what specific questions need covering?

* Make sure each group member will do something as a result of these sessions. The video was not primarily to entertain, but to promote active witnessing. Look at the last section of this workbook: “What now?”

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM FOUR: PART ONE
How To Deal With People's Objections

Before you start

- * After the last session, you were supposed to have learned three verses from the Bible. You did, didn't you?! In groups of two or three, listen to what each of you did learn. Then share how you have got on in talking with someone about their "unbelief."

- * What's the biggest moan you've heard against Christians? How did you react? How could this objection be answered?

- * Do you know anyone who has really suffered, e.g. through illness or bereavement, and by so doing has become very bitter? How can you help them to know God's love?

- * "Don't drink, don't smoke, no sex: Christianity is boring and out-of-date. I'm not switching to being that narrow." Where do you start with such a person?

- * Have you ever felt like giving up being a Christian? Why? How does that affect your approach to someone who can't even face starting the Christian life?

DISCUSSION NOTES

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM FOUR: PART TWO

* You have a friend who is a decent, law-abiding citizen who never does anyone any harm, and feels no need of God. What is your way in to sharing Christ with them?

* "A God of love wouldn't send anyone to hell." Is this true or false? Be sure to back your answer from the Bible!

* "Christianity is a crutch for inadequate people to lean on." So why do you bother?

DISCUSSION NOTES

INDIVIDUAL WORKSHEET
PROGRAM FOUR: PART THREE

* A friend agrees with all you say about their becoming a Christian. But not now. Maybe later. Is it O.K. for them to put it off?

* What is your church/group doing about people in your neighborhood who have never heard, or properly heard, of Jesus?

DISCUSSION NOTES

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

“All that is needed for evil to prosper is for good people to do nothing,” is a frequent saying. Unless you turn all your thoughts during these sessions into action, is there a danger of that saying being true?

PERSONAL ACTION PLAN

So—who are you going to reach for Jesus Christ? Get three or four people in mind, with God’s help. Join with two or three other Christians to pray for them. Seek opportunities to share your faith with them.

To enable you to be effective, thoroughly go through any parts of these notes about which you are not sure.

KEY POINTS AND BIBLE REFERENCES

1. As in the previous session remember that evangelism is about trying to help people become Christians, not proving your own skill as a great speaker or debater.

PEOPLE'S OBJECTIONS—"I DON'T WANT TO"

2. *"I don't want to be a Christian because of what I see of Christians/the Church."*

Don't leap to defend what is sometimes indefensible! Simply say how this saddens you, and acknowledge that we still go on getting things wrong—but point out that each of us will have to give an account of ourselves to God, Romans 14:12. We are each required to follow Jesus rather than spend our time complaining about others, John 21:22. Look away from the poor picture painted by some Christians and ask, "What have you got against God?", Jeremiah 2:5. He even gave his only Son for our sake, John 3:16.

3. *"I don't want to be a Christian when I see the suffering and death in the world."*

If you have encountered real suffering or grief which God has helped you through, then talk about it. Show how suffering in the world is mankind's fault, not God's plan, Genesis 1:26. Man chose not to create, love and live but rather to destroy, hate and die, Romans 6:23. Our suffering is answered and met by Jesus at the Cross, Isaiah 53:4,5. Again, remember John 3:16.

4. *"I don't want to be a Christian because the cost will be too great."*

An objection which is often not voiced but may underlay other expressed arguments. There is no getting away from it, becoming a Christian takes all we have got. But it is worth it, Romans 8:18; Mark 8:36. We can, in any event, be sure that God will provide for those who love him, Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19.

5. *"I don't want to be a Christian because I couldn't keep it up."*

Another point that we cannot argue with, But God knows how weak we are and will not reject us once we are His, John 6:37. We can rely on His power to guard us, 1 Peter 1:5. We are kept as perfect in His sight, Jude v. 24.

HOW TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE'S OBJECTIONS

PEOPLE'S OBJECTIONS—"I CAN'T BE BOTHERED"

6. *"I don't need to."*

Within this point is the idea of being good enough already. The fallacy of the argument is easily shown by pointing out the greatness of God's laws: to love God and to love our neighbor, Matthew 22:37-39. In failing to keep these we must be committing the greatest of sin and, of course, all have sinned, Romans 3:23. But this also means, positively, that Jesus has taken everyone's sins to the Cross: we are all included in the guilt, and the remedy, Isaiah 53:6. Remember the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, Luke 18:9-14.

7. *"I don't think about it."*

Most people don't, most of the time! We need to tell people about the eternal consequences of going their own way, Romans 6:23, and impress on them the urgency of their making a response, Revelation 22:20.

8. *If He is a loving God then I will be all right."*

God is love, 1 John 4:16. Therefore He sent Jesus to save us—but we have both to believe and obey, or face God's wrath, John 3:36.

9. *"I'm too bad."*

Even the worst of sinners is included in the salvation of Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 1:15. Jesus' whole purpose was to receive sinners, Luke 15:2. There are no exceptions, Christ came to save us ALL, Isaiah 53:6.

PEOPLE'S OBJECTIONS—"IT'S THE WRONG TIME"

10. *"It's too soon, I'll think about it later."*

We are told to think of God while we are young, Ecclesiastes 12:1. There is no escaping the disastrous consequences if we neglect the salvation we are offered, Hebrews 2:3. We should get ready for Christ's return, Luke 12:40.

HOW TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE'S OBJECTIONS

11. *"It's too late."*

There is no time like the present or, as Paul put it, now is the time, 2 Corinthians 6:2. It is never too late for salvation, until Jesus comes again. That's why he delays, 2 Peter 3:9 offers rescue.

12. *"No one told me."*

Well they have now! While this is a legitimate point, simply stating it begs the further question of what response is now to be made.

13. *"I don't know how to become a Christian."*

How splendid that you were on hand to show how! We simply need to receive Jesus, John 1:12. This obviously implies a belief which should then lead on to confession of Jesus as Lord, Romans 10:9,10 again.

CONCLUSION—WHAT NOW?

This final section is, as the title suggests, a “Where do we go now?”—not so much a “Conclusion” as a “Next Step.” Some of the suggestions have been made already, and are repeated here to underline their importance.

* Have a fifth session to evaluate progress, and to plan more sessions, as is felt necessary.

* You have covered a lot of material. You may want to re-run the video yourself to pick out those parts you need to do again.

*** Are your group members now able to “Go for it”? Do they need more help? Plan to give whatever help is needed.**

* In session three, mention was made of “basic beliefs.” Would it help to have a series on these?

* Were you made aware of individual needs in some people’s lives as the series progressed? Does this mean further help should be given on an individual basis by you/a church leader/a counselor? Be sure to follow this through.

* Check through the “For Everyone” section below: how can you positively encourage in these?

* Do you need to contact your church leadership for ongoing teaching/work/openings and opportunities?

* Is evangelism close to the heart of your church’s life? Do you need to meet with your church leaders to discuss this and encourage them?

* Could this video now be used by other groups within your church?

FOR EVERYONE

* What has been your greatest problem in this series? How are you planning to work this out, either by yourself or with a little help from your friends?

* Go back over all four “Personal Action Plans,” to see if you are putting those plans into action. Some may become redundant: give thanks for answered prayer, go on to develop the plan now that you are in the habit.

* There are many Bible verses quoted throughout the series. You will need a large number of them in your witnessing. Get a weekly system of learning them.

* Do you need to change the way you study the Bible?

* Do you need to change the way you pray—especially for others?

* Thinking of others, would a revision of your weekly time-table help you to spend more time with non-Christians?

* Be sure that your witnessing is not a “job you do,” but a way of life. It must come from a heart of love—for Jesus, and for others. Why not try the discipline of looking for opportunities to speak with at least one person each week about the Christian faith?

And finally.....

** In the 1950's Manchester United had a particularly brilliant soccer team. Tragically, many of the players were killed in an air crash. Why did the team do so well? A major factor was the remarkable leadership of their manager, Matt Busby. Before the team went out to play a game, Matt Busby would say to them: “Do it simply. Do it well. Do it now.” Isn't that a great way to share our faith—simply, well, now? DO IT NOW!*

** Here are words from Jesus, in Matthew 28:19,20: “Go and make disciples ... and surely I am with you always.”*

Other evangelistic videos are also available from Gateway Films/Vision Video:

The Cross and the Switchblade — The true story of David Wilkerson's ministry to the gangs of New York City and the conversion of Nicky Cruz, the notorious gang leader. 105 minutes.

Jesus Then and Now — A twelve-part series hosted by British evangelist and author David Watson who uses a variety of techniques including documentary, drama, interviews, and humor to present the basics of who Jesus is and what He means for us today. Includes a color book and *Leader's/Study* guide. Twelve 20-minute programs on two tapes.

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A Place Called Home — Follows the journey of six individuals, including such well-known figures as Noel Paul Stookey and Charles Colson, who pour out their hearts as they share how they discovered that Jesus is the way from empty existence to fullness of life and love. 59 minutes.

For further information on these and other programs contact

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