



# **THE WORD 121 STARTER COURSE**

**Sharing the Bible using the Word 121**

**Course Booklet**

# Module 0 How to Use this Course

## Who is this course for?

This course is for those who want to learn to use the Word 121 Bible reading tool online at a time that is convenient for them. You can ask questions from our tutors at any time at [course-support@citybibleforum.org](mailto:course-support@citybibleforum.org). We highly recommend that you sign up for one of our free Monthly real time training sessions with our friendly trainers:

[training.theword121.com.au](http://training.theword121.com.au).

These sessions will allow you to ask questions and join a community of Bible sharers. You can also view a [recorded session](#) to see what those are like before you attend.

## How does this course work?

This online course includes 3 Modules. Each module contains short video Workshops, Bible verses, Reflection questions, Real stories, quizzes and a prayer. Each module should only take you around 20 mins from start to finish, although you will get more out of the materials if you take more time to reflect and pray. We recommend that you start thinking about and praying for someone who you would like to share the Bible with.

## Course Summary

This course is designed to get you started being a Bible Sharer, using a tool called the Word 121. The Word 121 walks you and a friend through the Gospel of John and helps you share the Bible with ease, confidence and friendship.

This course will answer three key questions:

*Why should I share the Bible? How do I use the Word 121 tool? And How do I ask people to read the Bible with me?*

## Structure

### **Module 0 - How to Use this Course**

This introductory module orients you in how to use the course and understand the moving parts

### **Module 1: Sharing - Why be a Bible Sharer?**

This module will convict you about the need to share the Bible with your friends and give you confidence in the openness of society to the person of Jesus.

### **Module 2: Doing - Using the Word 121**

This module gives you a tour of the Word 121 and helps you visualise using it with a friend

### **Module 3: Asking - Finding someone to read with**

This module focuses on the experience of asking someone to read with you, it shows you how to draft an “ask” and prepares you for how your friends might respond.



Let's Get started

Click to the next section and get started on **Module 1 - Sharing: Why be a Bible Sharer?**

# Module 1 Sharing: Why be a Bible Sharer?

## Module Summary

Have you ever talked to your friends about your relationship with God? Have you ever opened the Bible with a friend? Did you know that 1 in 5 people will read the Bible with someone if asked? If those odds give you confidence, then this module will convict you that reading the Bible with a friend is a great way to share your faith which hopefully leads your friend to seek God. Read the Bible passage and watch the video to get a feel for why sharing the Bible with someone can be both important and natural.

## Bible Passage

### **John 4:7-26**

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans).

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know;

we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

## Video Workshop 1 : Sharing (3:44 mins)

Watch the Video about Sharing the Bible to get encouraged about how open people really are to the Bible.

## Recap workshop 1: Sharing Quiz

Do the online quiz or review the questions here.

### Question 1

Why are Australian attitudes to the Bible confusing?

- A. People have more religion but like the Bible less
- B. People are reporting their beliefs as "no religion" yet their willingness to talk about God is increasing
- C. People don't like God anymore but like talking about themselves
- D. People are confused about religion but they like the Bible

### Correct Answer: B

The quote from Steve McAlpine's says that:

"People have never been more hostile to the Bible, but at the same time they have never been more open".

This is consistent with McCrindle's recent findings about Spirituality in their survey.

*This is seen in the rising proportion of Australians identifying with no-religion, growing from 19% in 2006 to 30% in 2016... During the pandemic almost half of Australians have thought more about the meaning of life (47%) or their own mortality (47%). A third of Australians have thought more about God (33%), while three in ten (28%) have prayed more.*

McCrinkle, "Australia' spiritual climate: Church, state and the Australian community", 2021.

<https://mccrinkle.com.au/wp-content/uploads/reports/Australias-Changing-Spiritual-Landscape-Report-2021.pdf>

## Question 2

2) How does Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman in John 4 capture the "vibe" in our culture?

- A) The Samaritan woman also ticked "no religion" on the census and yet is open to talking to Jesus about truth
- B) The survey data shows that people are open to Christianity despite ticking "no religion" because they share the thirst for meaning that the Samaritan woman expresses.
- C) All people need to drink water, just like the Samaritan woman.

### Correct Answer: B

The survey data shows that people are open to Christianity despite ticking "no religion" because they share the thirst for meaning that the Samaritan woman expresses.



### Reflection

Were any of the statistics a surprise to you? How many people do you know who don't go to church? "How open do you think your unchurched friends are to talking about God or opening the Bible?"

Think of one person who you would really like to talk about God with. Think about their values and who they are, how open to reading the Bible do you think they are?



### Video Story 1: Sharing (2:57 mins)

Watch the video story featuring Jess, a Bible Sharer and Steph N, someone who first discovered the book of John through The Word 121.



### Reflection

How did hearing these stories make you feel?

Has hearing them changed your feelings about sharing the Bible with your friend?



 Prayer

Pray for God to grow you in confidence to share the Bible with your friend. Pray for that one friend you thought of earlier. Pray that God will open doors for you to talk about spiritual things. Pray that you will get to know your friend better. Pray that God will enrich your friendship so that they can not only know you care, but know of God's care for them through you.

## Module 2 Doing - Using The Word 121

### Module Summary

Now that you have started to pray for a friend you want to share the Bible with, it's time to become familiar with The Word 121 tool. The Word 121 is designed to make opening the Bible with a friend as easy and enjoyable as possible. This allows you to focus on your friend, but what is it and how does it work?

### Video Workshop 2: Doing (7:41 mins)

Watch this video for a tour of the Word 121 and start to visualise what it's like to meet a friend to explore it together.

### Reflection

What did you think of the Word 121? How did you go visualising meeting with a friend? Did Maddy reading it out loud to you help? How do you think your friend will feel about reading John's Gospel with you?

### Video Story 2: Doing (2:12 mins)

In this video story, Steph N shares her initial impressions of being captivated by John's gospel. Jess H, a Bible Sharer, talks about how many people enjoy reading the Word 121 and how many come back again.

### Reflection

Did the video story say anything you didn't expect? Why?

Did the video raise your confidence to ask someone to read John's Gospel with you using the Word 121 tool?



 Video Workshop 3 Doing (1:35 mins)

This practical workshop helps you further visualise what it will be like to use the Word 121 and give you tips on the best way to use it.



### Recap Workshop 3: Quiz

- 1) How many sessions of The Word 121 should you do at your first meeting?
- 2) What does the Isaiah 55:11 reference have to do with using The Word 121?
- 3) How many chunks does The Word 121 break the Gospel of John into?

#### **Correct Answers:**

- 1) 1
- 2) God's word will accomplish His desire, which reminds us to pray and trust Him when we share the Bible with a friend
- 3) 38



### Prayer

Pray for the friend you want to ask to read the Bible with you. Give thanks for John's Gospel and the amazing insights it holds. Thank God that His word is powerful and that He will work in the hearts of those who read it. Take some time to meditate on God's glory, mercy and grace to you and the world.

## Module 3 Asking - Finding someone to read with

### Module Summary

This module shows you how to “ask” someone to read the Bible with you. We know how to ask someone to share a coffee with us, or share a movie or a meal, but how do we share the Word of God with a friend? It can seem really daunting, but we also know that it’s not just important to us, but could be life-changing for our friends.

### Bible Passage

#### **John 4: 27-38**

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him. Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.”

### Reflection

What is Jesus’ “food”?

What does Jesus mean when he talks about reaping someone else’s harvest?

Whose harvest are we reaping when we share the Bible and someone comes to faith?

 Video Workshop 4 (5:48 mins)

Learn how to ask someone to read with you. The video references working in pairs, but we're going to get you to submit your own "ask" as an assignment after the quiz. Don't worry, we'll give you some more examples first.

 Recap Workshop 4: Asking Quiz

1. What are the two key tips for asking someone to read the Bible with you?
2. Why don't we just sneak the Word 121 into a coffee catch-up? Why do we have to make a point of asking prior to meeting?

**Correct Answers:**

- 1. The Clear Invite and The Small Ask**
- 2. Because we don't want our friends to feel "conned". This could affect their relationship with you and any trust you may have built.**

## The Little Book of Ask

A whole "asks" powerpoint to help you craft your own ask.

 Craft your "ask"

We hope the "Little book of ask" inspired you to write one specifically for your friend. Download the template, craft your own ask, then "submit your assignment" in the upload function.

 Video Story 3 (1:56 mins)

Jess shares her experience asking others to read the Bible with her and how her friends responded to her.

 Reflection

What did you learn about asking from this story?

Reflect on the whole course, what did you learn:

- 1) About God?
- 2) About People?
- 3) About the Bible?

 Prayer

Pray for your friend again. Whether you have asked them and they said “yes” and you’re preparing to meet with them, or whether they said “no” and you’re praying for them to know the blessing of God’s forgiveness in the future. Pray that you will have courage to continue asking other friends, pray that you will grow in your ability to ask and for opportunities to share The Word 121 with your friends.



# The Word

*one to one*

