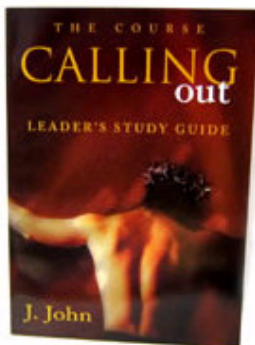


Calling Out – the course abridged

Based on *Calling Out – the course: Seven sessions to gain confidence in sharing your faith*

by J. John, published by Authentic Lifestyle

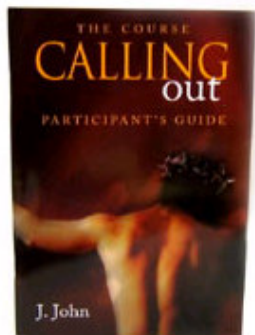


Leader's Study Guide

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Participant's Guide

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Study 1 – Foundations for Mission – the Big Picture

1. Embarkation: jigsaw puzzles

Activity: Attempt a child's jigsaw, once on the pictured side and once on the reverse, blank side. Why is it so much easier when there is a picture?

Leader's Study Guide page 15.

2. Examination: vox pop

If a survey were to be carried out in our area on "What is Christianity all about?" what do we think the answers would be?

Leader's Study Guide page 16

3. Exploration

We will look at the whole Christian story in 7 episodes.

Read Ephesians 1:3-2:13 in one sitting, perhaps shared between the following five blocks: vv1:3-10, vv1:11-14, vv1:15-12, vv2:1-10 and vv2:11-13.

Leader's Study Guide pages 16-17 and Participant's Guide pages 5-6

Episode 1: God's good earth

Ephesians 1:4-5 and 1:9-11

What do we learn here about God's feelings towards the human race?

Leader's Study Guide page 19 and Participant's Guide page 6

Episode 2: The great rebellion and its consequences

Ephesians 2:1-3

Who has been affected by sin? To what extent?

Leader's Study Guide pages 19-20 and Participant's Guide pages 6-7

Episode 3: The rescue begins

Ephesians 1:4-5 and 2:4-5

From these verses what do we learn about God's intentions towards the human race?

Leader's Study Guide page 20 and Participant's Guide page 7

Episode 4: Jesus – the great intervention

Ephesians 1:7 and 2:13

According to these verses, what were the results of Jesus' death for those who believe in him?

Leader's Study Guide page 21 and Participant's Guide page 8

Episode 5: The resurrection: history's turning point

Ephesians 1:9 and 2:4-7

What is the significance of the resurrection for those who believe in Christ?

Leader's Study Guide pages 21-22 and Participant's Guide page 8

Episode 6: The unfinished story

Ephesians 1:13-14

According to this passage, what is the purpose of the Holy Spirit?

Leader's Study Guide page 22 and Participant's Guide page 8

Episode 7: The final victory

Ephesians 1:9-10

Leader's Study Guide page 23 and Participant's Guide page 9

4. Evaluation: Big Picture summary

Try and summarise the Big Picture in one or two sentences.

Leader's Study Guide page 23 and Participant's Guide page 9

5. Expression: how the Big Picture helps

How does knowing the Big Picture help us in sharing our faith?

Leader's Study Guide page 23 and Participant's Guide page 9

From next week onwards we will be praying for seven people each whom we know and have contact with, and with whom we might be able to share the good news. Over the next week, think and pray about choosing the right seven people.

Study 2 – The Building Blocks of Mission: Part 1

1. Embarkation: jargon contest

Activity: Speak for just thirty seconds on some topic you are familiar with, either because it is your work or hobby. The winner is the person who is most able to use jargon to *hide* what they are saying.

Leader's Study Guide page 26

2. Examination: caricatures of belief

See the sheet of caricatures. What would these different people understand by 'drawing near to God'? The point is that unless we define what we are talking about, our words – especially those about God – may mean very different things to people.

Leader's Study Guide pages 26-27

3. Exploration

The good news of Jesus can be summarised in six building blocks. In this study, we'll look at the first three.

Block 1: God

Exodus 3:1-17

People tend to have two opposing ideas about God. Some people see god(s) as being cosmic and impersonal. Others tend to think of god(s) as limited and personal. What picture do we get here of the God of the Bible?

Leader's Study Guide pages 28-29 and Participant's Guide page 11

Block 2: Sin and judgement

Ecclesiastes 7:29

What does this tell us about God's intention for the human race?

What went wrong?

Who is to blame?

Leader's Study Guide pages 29-30 and Participant's Guide page 12

Block 3: Christ and his substitution

Romans 3:23-26

Why did Jesus need to come? Couldn't God just forgive people?

Leader's Study Guide pages 31-32 and Participant's Guide page 13

4. Evaluation: stumbling blocks

Imagine the following people. Which if these three building blocks might give them a problem?

1. Someone who believes that Jesus was just a good man.
2. Someone who believes that God is all-loving and can forgive 'just like that'.
3. Someone who believes that human beings are basically good.
4. Someone who believes that God is merely a force.

Think about the phrase 'God loves you'. Is it ...

- ... an accurate statement of the good news of Jesus?
- ... an adequate statement of the good news of Jesus?

Leader's Study Guide page 32 and Participant's Guide page 13

5. Expression: The Seven

Remember the seven people each that we are going to pray about? Get together with one or more members of the group and pray together for those that we have named on our lists. We will be thinking about them each week.

Leader's Study Guide page 34 and Participant's Guide page 15

Study 3 – The Building Blocks of Mission: Part 2

1. Embarkation: missed opportunities

Has anybody ever missed a great opportunity? Perhaps a new job, free holiday or a business opportunity. Why did you miss it? Were you too cautious, too busy, or just not determined enough? How do you feel about it now?

Leader's Study Guide page 35

2. Examination: counting the cost

Volunteers: When you decided to become a Christian did you really realise all that was going to be involved as a consequence of that commitment? Have you ever complained to God about what happened?

Leader's Study Guide page 36

3. Exploration

In this study, we'll look at the last three building blocks of the good news of Jesus.

Block 4: The gift of the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-17, 26

What is the relationship between the Counsellor and Christ?

Who do the disciples need another Counsellor?

What things will the Counsellor do for Christ's people?

Is this still his role today?

Leader's Study Guide pages 39-40 and Participant's Guide page 17

Block 5: The implications of making a response

Luke 14:25-33

Why does Jesus give such stern teaching?

According to this passage, what must not get in the way of following Jesus?

What other things might we add to this?

Leader's Study Guide page 43 and Participant's Guide page 18

Block 6: The need for a response

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Summarise the two options that Moses offers the Israelites here.

Leader's Study Guide pages 43-44 and Participant's Guide page 18

4. Evaluation: delay

Why do people delay in making a decision to follow Jesus? Are some delays legitimate? What are the dangers of pushing people into a commitment that they are not ready for?

Leader's Study Guide page 46 and Participant's Guide page 19

5. Expression: The Seven

Consider the seven people we each have on our prayer lists. Is there anything new to report? Join with other members of the group to pray together for those we have named.

Leader's Study Guide page 46 and Participant's Guide page 20

Study 4 – Why we should call out ... and why we don't

1. Embarkation: limits of ability

Look at some of the following tasks and discuss whether they fall within your capability.

1. Bleeding air out of the central heating system.
2. Unblocking a drain.
3. Replacing a plug.
4. Reinstalling all the software on your PC.
5. Changing a tyre on the car.
6. Programming the video recorder.

Why, in each case, do we ask for help? Is it because of our ability? Is it because we can't be bothered to read a manual? Is it that we are scared we will get it wrong? Do we lack the time or the energy? Or do we simply feel that someone else can do it better?

Leader's Study Guide pages 47-48

2. Examination: fantasy and reality

This is a four part exercise (for volunteers):

1. You have a minute to think about someone you know fairly well but who is not yet a Christian and to imagine a situation in which he or she is brought to faith in Christ.
2. Describe briefly – without naming the person – the imaginary process by which this person came to faith.
3. Now explain briefly how you became a Christian and who influenced you in that decision.
4. Compare fantasy and reality. Were there any differences?

Leader's Study Guide page 48

3. Exploration

In this study, we'll look first for the reasons for sharing our faith and why we don't.

Responsibility

1 Peter 3:15-16

If we are being asked about our Christian hope, who is taking the initiative? Why does this make sharing our faith easier?

How can we live lives that arouse a genuine interest in our faith?

What advice is given on the manner in which the truth is shared? How might our witness to Jesus not be done with gentleness and respect?

Leader's Study Guide page 49 and Participant's Guide page 22

Motivation

2 Corinthians 5:11 - 6:2

What motivates Paul's enthusiasm?

Leader's Study Guide pages 50-51 and Participant's Guide page 22

Command

Matthew 28:16-20

What are to be disciples' objectives? Where are they to do this? How are they to do this?

Leader's Study Guide page 52 and Participant's Guide page 22

Why we don't

Jeremiah 1:1-10, 17-19

What is Jeremiah's response to God's call? From what God says, what are the underlying issues? Can we empathise?

What are the specific encouragements that God offers Jeremiah? If God gave us these encouragements would they help us to be a better witness for him?

Leader's Study Guide pages 54-55 and Participant's Guide page 24

4. Evaluation: reasons

List the reasons for sharing our faith in Jesus that have emerged in this study. Which seem the most compelling to us?

Leader's Study Guide page 58 and Participant's Guide page 25

5. Expression: Instants; The Seven

See the sheet of situations. How could we give an instant response?

What is the worst possible outcome in these situations? Is the worst-case scenario actually likely to happen? Are our fears about sharing our faith based on reality or fantasy?

Go back to the names of the seven people we have on our prayer lists. Is there anything new to report? Pray together for those we have named.

Leader's Study Guide pages 58-59 and Participant's Guide pages 25-26

Study 5 – The where of mission ... sharing our faith here, there and everywhere

1. Embarkation: neighbours

The house next to you comes up for sale. What sort of people would we like to come and live in it? What sort of people would we least like to come and live in it?

Leader's Study Guide page 62

2. Examination: mission

Imagine that we have to do a three-month mission and evangelism project somewhere. Where, and among what community would we choose to work? Where, and among what community, would we absolutely dislike witnessing for Jesus?

Leader's Study Guide page 62

3. Exploration

Acts 1:6-11

What are the four areas where the disciples would be witnesses? In this study, we'll look these four zones of witness.

Leader's Study Guide page 63 and Participant's Guide pages 27-28

Jerusalem: our inner circle

Matthew 13:53-58

What is easy about sharing our faith within this zone? What is hard about it?

Leader's Study Guide page 65 and Participant's Guide page 28

Judea: the neighbourly neighbours

Acts 8:1-4

If we had been forced to flee from somewhere because of persecution, what attitudes towards witnessing would we be tempted to take to our new place of residence?

Leader's Study Guide page 66 and Participant's Guide page 29

Samaria: the not-so- neighbourly neighbours

Acts 8:4-8

What principles or ideas can we think of to try to build (or rebuild) bridges to people in this category?

Leader's Study Guide pages 68-69 and Participant's Guide page 30

Ends of the earth: no one is excluded

Romans 15:14-24

Illyricum was the Roman province that covered the Balkans. From a map, how far is it from Jerusalem? Where does Paul want to go now?

Leader's Study Guide page 73 and Participant's Guide page 32

4. Evaluation: contact

For each zone, consider:

- for us, who is in this zone?
- what attitudes do we have towards folk in this zone?
- what contacts with people in this zone have we had in the last week?

Leader's Study Guide pages 76-77 and Participant's Guide pages 32-33

5. Expression: Pray; The Seven

We often long for the power of the Holy Spirit to descend on our churches as it did on the early church. But do we also long to have the same extraordinary vision and zeal to go across all barriers and reach others for Jesus? Pray that:

- our personal witness will be inspired and empowered by the Spirit.
- we will be led by the Spirit to act and speak for him.
- we will get opportunities to speak for him.
- the Spirit will continue his work of spreading the good news throughout the earth through organisations, projects and individuals.

Go to the names of the seven people we each have on our prayer lists. Is there anything more recent to report? Pray together for those we have named.

Leader's Study Guide page 78 and Participant's Guide page 34

Study 6 – The seven pillars of mission: Part 1

1. Embarkation: buying blind

What is the most expensive object that anyone has ever bought without seeing it first? Did we feel it was a risky purchase beforehand? Why do we prefer to see something before we hand over our money?

Leader's Study Guide page 79

2. Examination: effective evangelism

Pretend our church decides it wants to see more people come to faith in Jesus. Along with encouraging prayer for conversions, the following ideas are suggested:

- Bring in a special speaker for a week.
- Appoint a full-time church evangelist.
- Create an evangelistic team of people who are obviously gifted.
- Make every church member a bit more effective at sharing their faith.

Which solution do we think is most effective? Why?

Leader's Study Guide page 81

3. Exploration

Pillar 1: Prayer

Ephesians 6:19-20

What are Paul's specific prayer requests?

Leader's Study Guide pages 82-83 and Participant's Guide pages 35-36

Pillar 2: Presence

John 1:6-18

What principle of mission does Jesus set out here?

Leader's Study Guide pages 85-86 and Participant's Guide page 36

Pillar 3: Proclamation

Romans 10:8-15

What is the responsibility that is placed on those of us who already know about Jesus?

Leader's Study Guide page 90 and Participant's Guide page 37

4. Evaluation

Prayer

What reasons can we give for why prayer is vital to sharing our faith?

Leader's Study Guide page 92 and Participant's Guide page 38

Presence

Why do people tend to listen more carefully to people they know than they do to strangers? Why is 'being there' important?

Leader's Study Guide page 92 and Participant's Guide page 38

Proclamation

Do we ever find ourselves slipping into the frame of mind where we think, 'If only my friends or family could hear so-and-so speak, they might become Christians'? What is that saying about how we see ourselves?

Leader's Study Guide page 92 and Participant's Guide page 38

5. Expression

Prayer

If we could make just one change to help our pattern of praying, what would that change be? How could we take a step towards that?

Leader's Study Guide page 93 and Participant's Guide page 39

Presence

What could we do with our leisure time in order to have more contact with non-Christians?

Leader's Study Guide page 93 and Participant's Guide page 39

Proclamation

What situations might we face this week in which we can put into practice some of the truths that we have learnt together?

Leader's Study Guide page 92 and Participant's Guide page 38

Return to the names of the seven people on our pray lists for the past five weeks. Is there anything to report? Continue to pray for them.

Leader's Study Guide page 94 and Participant's Guide page 40

Study 7 – The seven pillars of mission: Part 2

1. Embarkation: persuasion

What things help someone to be really persuasive?

Leader's Study Guide page 95

2. Examination: scenarios

Consider the sheet of scenarios. For each scenario, come up with:

- the worst possible thing to say – the most insensitive and incompetent answer we can manage;
- a comment that might help the person listening travel further down the road towards faith in Christ.

Leader's Study Guide pages 96-97

3. Exploration

Pillar 4: Persuasion

Acts 17:18-33

What things are present in this speech which show Paul is building bridges with his listeners?

Leader's Study Guide pages 100-101 and Participant's Guide page 42

Pillar 5: Power

Acts 1:8

What is the task or function of the Holy Spirit?

Leader's Study Guide page 102 and Participant's Guide page 43

Pillar 6: Praise

Romans 12:1

What would it mean for our lives to be living sacrifices?

Leader's Study Guide page 107 and Participant's Guide page 43

Pillar 7: Patterning

Matthew 28:18-20

What does Jesus say that new followers are to be taught?

Leader's Study Guide page 109 and Participant's Guide page 44

4. Evaluation: power and praise

Do we actually depend on the Holy Spirit to help us in our work as witnesses?

Does our personal and church worship adequately reflect the value we place on God?

Leader's Study Guide page 111 and Participant's Guide page 44

5. Expression: persuasion and prayer

Are you making good use of the evangelistic resources – books, tapes, videos and live events such as music, theatre and mission meetings – that are available?

Pray once again for the seven people that we have been praying for during this course.

Conclude by saying together Psalm 67.

Leader's Study Guide pages 112-113 and Participant's Guide pages 45-46

Study 2 – Examination: caricatures of belief

Leader's Study Guide pages 26-27

See the sheet of caricatures. What would these different people understand by 'drawing near to God'?

The point is that unless we define what we are talking about, our words – especially those about God – may mean very different things to people.

- Adam My idea of God is an irritable old man in heaven who needs to be handled carefully unless you want something nasty to happen to you. His favourite phrase is, "Stop it!" He seems to like lightning bolts and plagues
- Bess My idea of God is some sort of all-powerful being who, for reasons that no one can understand, enjoys experimenting on people to see how much pain and misery they can put up with. He seems to be fond of disease, accidents and injustice.
- Charles My idea of God is that he's pretty much absent most of the time from Planet Earth, or if he is around, he leaves the phone off the hook. Sometimes, if you are lucky, and it's one of his good days, he can be persuaded to act on your behalf. I think he's good on galaxies but he really isn't a people person.
- Diana My idea of God is someone who really hangs out with Nature – trees, flowers and fluffy little lambs. In towns you can feel close to God if you have the right sort of music and candles and can meditate. I think she likes pastel colours.
- Edward My idea of God is that he's like an uncle I had as a child whose entire purpose in life seemed to be to give me £5 notes regardless of what I had done. He makes me feel better and is really useful when the Prozac doesn't work. I think he likes affirming people.
- Fiona My idea of God, is well ... I dunno. Sort of vague, really. I mean, I think he is inside me. Maybe he's not a he. I'm not sure he likes anything really. He just is. Maybe. Whatever ...
- Gordon My idea of God? Get real! The only God there is comes from our minds. There is no actual God out there. If you believe in him, her or it, then he, she or it is real to you. Me? I choose not to believe so it doesn't exist. Not for me ...

Study 4 – Expression: situations for an instant response

Leader's Study Guide pages 58-59 and Participant's Guide pages 25-26

See the sheet of situations. How could we give an instant response?

What is the worst possible outcome in these situations? Is the worst-case scenario actually likely to happen? Are our fears about sharing our faith based on reality or fantasy?

- A It is your first day at a new job and over coffee the group of people you work with are talking about last night's TV. One of them says there was something on about 'some weird church'. Another turns to you and asks, 'Are you religious?'
- B You are visiting a non-Christian friend of yours who you have known for years. They look at you and say, 'Do you think I'm going to hell?'
- C You are on a time away exercise with work colleagues. Your boss turns to you and says, 'I want you to talk for five minutes to us all about the really important things in your life.'
- D Someone asks you to countersign a forged claim for expenses. You refuse and in a rather irritated way, they turn to you and say, 'Why won't you help me?'
- E You go round to see you neighbour. Full of grief they tell you about a close young relative who has just died after a long and debilitating illness. They look at you and say, 'Why did God let it happen?'

Study 7 – Examination: scenarios

Leader's Study Guide pages 96-97

Consider the sheet of scenarios. For each scenario, come up with:

- the worst possible thing to say – the most insensitive and incompetent answer you can manage;
- a comment that might help the person listening travel further down the road towards faith in Christ.

1 It is your first day in a new job. You sit down at the lunch table with some of your colleagues who are talking about a new film that deals with the end of the world.

2 A family has moved in next door. You pop in to say hello and notice lots of books on New Age spirituality.

3 A close personal friend comes round to see you. They are distraught at the news that their mother has a terminal illness.

4 The person in the seat next to you on a journey tells you they believe in reincarnation.

5 You meet an old friend in the shopping centre. They attended church but never really made a commitment and drifted away. It emerges that since they stopped attending church they have had a series of misfortunes.