

Challenges

Actions

This session looks at how we can show our faith through our actions, and the opportunities for evangelism within a social action and justice agenda.

Challenge: Think of at least one act of kindness you can do for each of your six friends.

Note: It may be worth encouraging the young people to think of a list of simple acts that they could do and to share these with the group. Why not in addition, encourage your young people to try to engage with a bigger issue such as human trafficking, homelessness or fair trade and invite them to get their six friends involved.

Decision

In this session we look at how to offer our friends the opportunity to follow Jesus, and we offer some practical steps to help do this.

Challenge: Ask one of your friends if they would like to become a Christian. Invite your six friends to an event where there will be an opportunity for them to make a decision to follow Jesus.

Note: Through the Mission Academy Live Hubs we hope there will be an evangelistic event held in every area. The six friends of all the young people doing Mission Academy live in your region can then have a tangible moment to hear the gospel clearly given and have an opportunity to respond.

Mission Academy Live is a peer to peer evangelism tool from HOPE Revolution, the youth expression of HOPE. This is a partnership including:



Mission Academy Live

Leader's pack



www.hopetogether.org.uk/malive



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We're so excited that you have decided to do Mission Academy Live with your young people. As followers of Jesus, Jesus calls us to 'Go and make disciples'. This is his great commission to us as part of the Mission of God. We get to play a part in the greatest love story known to all humankind, that God the Father sends his Son Jesus, and Jesus in turns sends us.

As youth agencies and churches united together under HOPE Revolution, we are serious about empowering young people to share their faith. Through 10 innovative, video-based sessions, Mission Academy Live, encourages young people to be intentional in mission, and importantly to be obedient to the call and command of Christ to 'Go'. This contemporary video series will empower young people to go and make disciples, together, mobilising a new generation of young Christians to reach out to their peers in today's context.

Before you begin, there are a few things that we think would help you run the sessions to their full potential.



Frequency of sessions

The sessions have been designed to be flexible to be delivered in the context of your group's needs. For instance, although the videos refer to doing Mission Academy Live monthly over a year, you can run the sessions fortnightly or even weekly.

The benefit of monthly sessions is that it gives more time for the young people to try sharing their faith with their friends. With six friends to talk to, weekly sessions only provide a very limited time. For those choosing to do the sessions weekly we suggest challenging the young people to pick two or three of their six friends each week, and for those doing it fortnightly, perhaps three or four. This helps avoid an unrealistic pressure of trying to speak to all six. However, for those doing the sessions monthly as modelled, we would encourage the young people to look at how they can share their faith with all six friends.





Frequency of sessions

The sessions are flexible. Use them in the order that best suits the context of your group. However, we do suggest doing the first two sessions on 'Why Evangelism' and 'Peer to Peer' first as this helps underpin why we share our faith, and introduces the idea of sharing with six friends, a concept which is pivotal to the remaining session challenges.

First two sessions

- Session 1: **Why Evangelism?**
- Session 2: **Peer to Peer**

Remaining sessions

- Session 3: **Prayer**
- Session 4: **Power**
- Session 5: **Gospel**
- Session 6: **Testimony**
- Session 7: **Evangelism Style**
- Session 8: **Words**
- Session 9: **Actions**
- Session 10: **Decision**

Before you start each main session

This Mission Academy Small group is the place for support, prayer and accountability throughout Mission Academy Live. At the outset of each session, (with the exception of the first session), we suggest allowing up to 25 minutes for the young people to develop accountable relationships. It's important within this time to consider how feedback and prayer can take place.

Feedback

Each young person feeds back how faith-sharing with their six friends has gone. Here are some questions that could help:

- What did you do to share faith with your six friends?
- How did your friends seem to respond?
- How did you feel when you shared your faith?
- What impact has it had on your relationship?
- What would you do differently if you were to do it again?
- What lessons have you learnt about sharing your faith with your friends?

Prayer

After giving time for feedback, give time for the young people to pray together in pairs, small groups or as a whole group depending on your context. This is an opportunity to:

- Pray for each other in the light of what has been shared
- Pray for their friends as they continue to share faith with them
- Pray for God's leading as they continue to identify ways to reach out to their friends

How could you challenge your young people to pray daily for their six friends throughout Mission Academy Live? Perhaps they could be encouraged to meet up between sessions to pray, or to set up a WhatsApp group together so they can be sharing how their challenges are going and praying regularly for one another.

Following Each Main Session - The Challenge

We suggest that as part of the concluding discussion, where possible, you encourage the young people to prayerfully identify what they will actually do to reach their six friends off the back of the session content. They can then share this with the group. There will of course need to be freedom and flexibility as the young people pray and think further about their ideas, but this will help get their accountability journey started. When identifying challenges, we would encourage you to help the young people to set challenges that are:

- S – specific** What are they actually going to do? It's not enough for your young people to simply say that they will talk about Jesus with their friends. How and when are they going to do that?
- M – measurable** How will they know when the challenge has been completed? What are the steps along the way?
- A - action-based** The whole purpose of Mission Academy Live is to encourage young people to be active in sharing faith. Challenges must involve doing something, not simply praying and thinking about it!
- R – realistic** The young people will probably not see all six of their friends become Christians in the coming month, so this cannot be the mark of success! Challenges must be realistic and expectations managed. It's hugely important to celebrate the journey of faith, and the steps that young people have made towards Jesus, rather than simply celebrating the moment someone might come to faith! (You might like to use the Engle scale to help your group think about this)
- T - time-bound** Remember this is only a four-week challenge (less if you're doing MA Live more frequently) so the challenge should not be too complicated. It is important that the challenge is completed before the next time that you meet.



Challenges

Please find below our suggested challenges following each session, to help young people go on an accountable journey of sharing faith with their friends. These challenges support what is mentioned by the hosts at the end of each session. Additionally you may wish to add or adapt the challenge or challenges to better suit your group.

Why Evangelism?

This session explores our call to evangelism and what this means. What is the 'good news' we must share, and why do we share it?

Challenge: Before you next meet, use every opportunity to ensure that your friends, classmates, and people you know and spend time with, know that you are a follower of Jesus. Multiply those who know you are a Christian. Be engaged and responsive to any discussion that this creates.

Challenges

Peer to Peer

This session introduces the importance of what it means to be a great friend, listening and engaging well and committing to ongoing and long-term, faith-sharing relationships. It is in this session that we introduce the idea of picking six friends to share faith with over the remainder of Mission Academy Live.

Note: This idea of sharing with six friends is based on the fact that amongst young people who had already had a conversation with a Christian, but decided to remain a non-Christian, one in six is happy to have a conversation about faith, wanted to know more about Jesus and wanted to have a spiritual experience (Talking Jesus youth research, 2017). This meant that statistically, if young people share faith with six of their friends, one of them would be interested in finding out more.

However, that also means that five of the six might not be interested. It is important to manage expectations in the group and help support the young people as they grapple with that.

Challenge: Take some time to pray about which six of your friends you should try to share faith with. You may think of friends that you would not naturally consider. This might be God prompting you to choose them.

Note: The same research that found that one in six wants to know more, also found that amongst 11-18-year-olds, 45% don't know anyone who is an active Christian. For that reason, you may want to encourage your young people to think of at least one or two people who don't know they are a Christian, and commit to share their faith with them.

Once they have chosen their six friends, they should share their names with the group and start praying for those six to come to know Jesus. It is important that the young people prayerfully discern which friends to choose. It is worth making space for this at the conclusion of this session but also allow them to carry on thinking and praying about it, feeding back their final six at the beginning of the next session.

Challenges

Prayer

This session talks about the importance of prayer in evangelism, starting with praying for our friends to know Jesus through to using prayer as a way of sharing faith.

Challenge: Commit to praying daily for each of your six friends, and to pray together as a group. Pray that God would reveal himself to each of your six friends and that he would use you to share faith with them creatively.

Think of a time when God has answered one of your prayers and share it with at least one of your six friends.

Offer to pray with each of your six friends about something that is going on in their life and check with them how things are going. If they do not accept your offer ask them if they would be happy for you to pray for them in your own time.

Power

In this session we explore the role of the Holy Spirit in evangelism, and how God creates opportunities for us to share our faith.

Challenge: Ask God to open doors to share faith with each of your friends. Seek direction from God and pray for the confidence to take the opportunities when they appear. What might God be saying? Remember to ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit to be a confident witness.

Dare to go after the impossible, praying for something only God can do through the power of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps pray for healing, for a prophetic word, or for a specific miracle.



Challenges

Gospel

In this session we explore God's story of forgiveness and salvation and how we are able to share this gospel message.

Challenge: Ask as many of your six friends as you can if you can practice sharing the good news of the gospel story with them. Ask them for feedback'

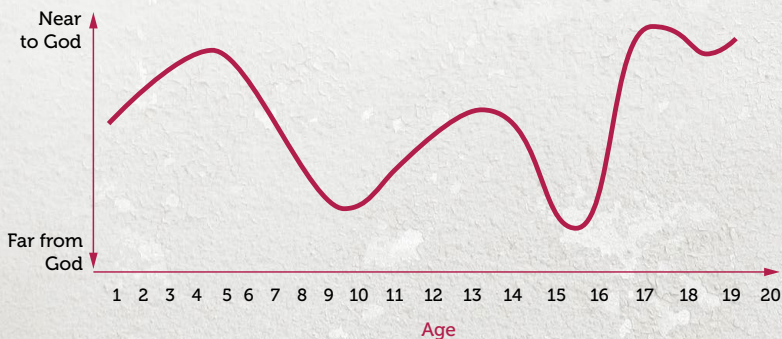
Note: you might want to enable the young people to practise this in their group

Testimony

This session helps the young people to explore their own story and helps them articulate and share the impact that following Jesus makes in their lives.

Challenge: Share your testimony with your group and with as many of your six friends as possible. This could include sharing something exciting God has done recently.

Note: It may be helpful for the young people to reflect on their own story before sharing it with the group. An easy way to do that is to create a simple sheet, mapping how far or close to God they felt as they got older. An example of this can be seen below.



Challenges

Evangelism Style

This session, based on Fusion's Mission Styles, helps young people to know and understand their style of evangelism, as well as that of their peers, celebrating our differences as we share God's love.

Challenge: Complete the Fusion Mission Styles quiz, available at www.missionstyles.org. Work out what style you are and think about what style your six friends are. You might be able to understand this better by having a direct conversation with them.

Share your faith with as many of your six friends as possible using the mission style that is most appropriate for each of your six friends. You may want to talk to others in your group about their own mission style and how they would like to have faith shared with them.

Note: As a youth leader you can set up a group so that you can keep track of everyone's results and help the young people compare. You do this by going to www.missionstyles.org and selecting 'take mission styles as a group'. Once you have registered and completed the test yourself, scroll to the bottom of the page and select 'create new groups'. Select a name for the group and then submit. The site will then give you a unique URL for your young people to follow.

Words

In this session we look at apologetics, the importance of Scripture, and what to do when faced with tough questions.

Note: Pick a news story and ask your six friends – where is God in this?

Note: you may want to help the group to select a news story together and talk together about where God is in it. This will help the young people to think through questions or objections that might be raised, as well as acting as a good trial run.